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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Monday, November 14, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: Schools chief should be a cabinet post, Haley urges lawmakers

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article114716428.html>

Cassie Cope

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley and schools chief Molly Spearman are encouraging lawmakers to make the state's top education post an appointed position. In a letter to legislators, Haley and Spearman urged the General Assembly to pass a resolution allowing the governor to appoint the superintendent of education. Voters would make the final decision through a referendum. South Carolina is one of 13 states where the education superintendent is elected. "Instead of moving the state forward with a common vision for education priorities, this divided leadership structure can result in ... a lack of coordination and fragmented accountability for failures in our pre-K-12 education system," the two Republicans wrote. State Sen. Chip Campsen, R-Charleston and state Rep. Greg Delleney, R-Chester, will pre-file a bill to make the post a cabinet position next month.

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley asks lawmakers to make education superintendent a cabinet position

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/gov-haley-asks-lawmakers-to-make-education-superintendent-a-cabinet/article_874bf8ec-aaa5-11e6-8ac1-73b96549fac2.html

Gavin Jackson

Gov. Nikki Haley and S.C. Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman called on lawmakers Monday to support upcoming bills that would make the top education job part of the governor's cabinet instead of being popularly elected. Haley's letter is a move to get a jump on one of her top remaining priorities in her final two years in office. The proposal will ask voters in 2018 to move the superintendent from elected office to a gubernatorial appointment in 2023. It is similar to other pushes rejected by lawmakers during the past two decades. "Instead of moving the state forward with a common vision for education priorities, this divided leadership structure can result in incompatible positions, a lack of coordination and fragmented accountability for failures in our Pre K-12 education system," her letter to lawmakers says.

Post and Courier: 2018 race for governor loses one hopeful while others still in the mix

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/race-for-governor-loses-one-hopeful-while-others-still-in/article_5dbf4e8c-aa8e-11e6-a869-af502382f816.html

Schuyler Kropf

South Carolina's 2018 governor's race saw its first casualty Monday but otherwise the field of those interested remained intact after last week's news that popular Republican U.S. Sen. Tim Scott and congressman Trey Gowdy are considering running as a ticket. Former federal judge Billy Wilkins, one of at least eight Republicans mulling bids, confirmed he will not be a candidate when the real politicking begins next year. "I plan to continue to be active in the political life of South Carolina, but not as a candidate for public office," Wilkins, a retired federal judge from Greenville, told The Post and Courier. Wilkins is the former 4th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals chief judge. He said Monday he was unaware of the possible Scott-Gowdy hook-up. Otherwise there were no losses in the field of probables Monday.

NOTE: Scott vies with Gov. Nikki Haley as the state's most popular Republican. He is the first black

Republican elected to represent South Carolina in the Senate since Reconstruction. Gowdy built name recognition after leading the Benghazi investigation panel, Winthrop University political scientist Scott Huffmon said.

NOTE: The pair's decision on a run is expected by year's end. South Carolina voters will elect a governor and lieutenant governor on the same ticket for the first time in 2018. Haley is not eligible for a third consecutive term.

Upstate Business Journal: Wilkins won't run for governor in 2018

<http://upstatebusinessjournal.com/news/wilkins-wont-run-governor-2018/>

David Dykes

Billy Wilkins, a Greenville attorney and former chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, said he won't run for governor in 2018. Wilkins, 74, told the Greenville Journal in August he was seriously considering a Republican bid, but had not made a final decision. In a statement, Wilkins said he plans to continue working in the private sector. "Shortly after Labor Day, friends from around the state began to call urging me to run for governor even though the race is not until 2018," Wilkins said. "I have served in public office for over 33 years – as Solicitor, as a federal judge, and as chair of a federal agency. Since retiring from public office, I have been practicing law for the past eight years and have decided to continue working in the private sector. "I plan to continue to be active in the political life of South Carolina, but not as a candidate for public office."

NOTE: Filing for the governor's race won't begin until 2018. If he had run, Wilkins would have joined what likely will be a crowded field to succeed Gov. Nikki Haley, a Republican.

Island Packet: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to begin 4-year Jasper Ocean Terminal study

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/business/article114641278.html>

Lucas High

Federal regulators are starting the reviews needed to jump-start construction of the long-awaited Jasper Ocean Terminal. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will begin a study — known as an Environmental Impact Statement — to "assess the potential social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed construction and operation" of the port, according to corps documents. The study is expected to take four years to complete. The study is a critical step in the process of building the \$4.5 billion port on 1,500 acres in Jasper County, near the Tybee National Wildlife Refuge at the mouth of the Savannah River, officials with the joint Georgia-South Carolina venture overseeing the project have said. Specifically, the "detailed analysis" will look at issues such as air, noise and light pollution; fish and wildlife; transportation infrastructure; and impacts on the floodplain, the corps documents say.

NOTE: The port is expected to be operational by around 2025. But in a visit to Ridgeland earlier this year, Gov. Nikki Haley challenged regulators and the terminal board to work as quickly as possible. "We need this done yesterday," she said.

General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Lawmakers to vet candidates for opening S.C. Supreme Court seat

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/lawmakers-to-vet-candidates-for-opening-s-c-supreme-court/article_75b4015a-aa0b-11e6-9cce-8fb8faad667b.html

Maya T. Prabhu

Seven candidates vying for the state Supreme Court seat opening up by retiring Chief Justice Costa Pleicones will begin the vetting process Monday. A panel of lawmakers from the state Senate and House will hold public hearings for all open judge seats, with vetting of Supreme Court hopefuls scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. Monday. First Circuit Judge Diane Schafer Goodstein of Summerville and Administrative Law Court Judge Ralph King Anderson III of Columbia are among the seven candidates who threw their names into the ring. In February, Anderson was one of three finalists for the seat left vacant by former Chief Justice Jean Toal, but he withdrew from consideration less than an hour before lawmakers began voting. Legislators ultimately elected Justice John Few.

Island Packet: Cigarette tax increase considered to save SC's failing pension fund

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/politics-government/article114691803.html>

Lucas High

Could a tax hike on cigarettes help South Carolina lawmakers save the state's employee pension fund? Rep. Bill Herbkersman, a Bluffton developer and co-chairman of the state's Joint Committee on Pension Systems Review, says it certainly might help. "Nothing is off the table," Herbkersman said Monday in reference to ideas that could give the pension fund — which is facing a \$20 billion shortfall — a quick cash infusion. "We are formulating a couple plans" to tackle the unfunded liabilities, including bumping taxes on items such as tobacco products, he said. The unfunded liability is the difference between what the state must shell out to pay for retiree benefits and the dollar amount held in the pension fund.

SC Agency News:

The State: SC officials working to define roles between roads agency, bank

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article114745193.html>

Cassie Cope

S.C. transportation officials met Monday to begin defining the roles of the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank and Department of Transportation in picking bank projects. The Infrastructure Bank has been criticized for picking road projects based on politics, not statewide need. However, lawmakers changed state law this year to allow the Transportation Department to approve or reject the Infrastructure Bank's projects. But a specific process was not outlined. "The process for passing judgment on potential projects still needs to be resolved between the (Transportation Department) and Infrastructure Bank," said Transportation Department chief Christy Hall. The Infrastructure Bank has made progress toward prioritizing projects, said chairman Vince Graham of Charleston, citing a package of interstate-widening projects the bank board will consider next month.

Post and Courier: DHEC approves Awendaw park mining permit, neighbors appeal

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/dhec-approves-awendaw-park-mining-permit-neighbors-appeal/article_b302b092-a81c-11e6-bcf9-0fa4b3480442.html

Diane Knich

Charleston County Council Chairman Elliott Summey has received a permit from the state's Department of Health and Environmental Control to mine dirt to create a park in Awendaw, but neighbors have appealed the decision. Under the permit, Summey is allowed to disturb 82 of the property's 290 acres to mine dirt and build a lake, which will be the park's central feature. But Summey said he's not going to resume work until the matter is resolved. "We're doing nothing," Summey said. "We're waiting on DHEC." The plan for a park on Doar Road has been in the works since 2009. That's when Summey joined the majority of County Council to approve \$5.2 million in Greenbelt money to purchase the property. Then, in 2014, Summey's company Jackson Development placed the low bid to build the town park. He signed a contract that gives him the right to mine and sell dirt in exchange for developing a lake, trails, open grassy areas and unpaved parking lots, and supplying potable water.

Greenville News: AARP study recommends changes in handling SC vulnerable adults

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/13/aarp-study-recommends-changes-handling-sc-vulnerable-adults/93635746/>

Tim Smith

The state's unit for protecting vulnerable adults has seen a 63 percent increase in clients in the past five years with no increase in funding and a reduction in the number of caseworkers since 2001, according to an AARP study that is recommending increased training, better data collection and more funding for the state Department of Social Services. According to the study, 60 percent of the substantiated claims made to the DSS Adult Protective Services unit were for self-neglect, while 30

percent alleged neglect by a caregiver. The study grew out of recommendations last year by the Institute of Medicine and Public Health and was conducted with the aid of the Nelson Riley Mullins & Scarborough law firm's pro bono program. Sen. Thomas Alexander, whose Senate budget subcommittee oversees DSS, said he had not yet read the study but hoped DSS would ask for additional resources in light of the study's findings.

SC Political News:

The State: SC Democratic leader Harrison considering a bid for party chair

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article114651093.html>

Avery G. Wilks

S.C. Democratic Party chair Jaime Harrison is thinking hard about running for the highest position in his party. The 40-year-old Orangeburg native and Yale University graduate wrote on social media over the weekend that he was considering a bid for the chairmanship of the Democratic National Committee. "I'm blown away by the tons of calls, emails and texts urging me to run for DNC Chair ... praying about it," Harrison posted to Twitter. "I'll decide soon!" Harrison has been touted for months as a potential candidate to lead the DNC, which coordinates the party's strategy and promotes its platform. In October, the website Politico listed Harrison as being among three front-runners for the job. But the field is growing. U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison, D-Minn., has support from the party's progressive wing. Former DNC chair Howard Dean also has said he would be interested in the job.

Post and Courier: Jaime Harrison mulls run for DNC chairman

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/jaime-harrison-mulls-run-for-dnc-chairman/article_50890026-aa95-11e6-9b34-978901f0470d.html

Emma Dumain

S.C. Democratic Party Chairman Jaime Harrison could be readying a bid to run the Democratic National Committee. "I'm blown away by the tons of calls, emails, and texts urging me to run for DNC Chair," Harrison tweeted Friday evening. "Praying about it. I'll decide soon!" The 40-year-old political operative is the first black chairman to lead the state party. He previously told The Post and Courier the opportunity to lead the DNC was something he wouldn't rule out of hand. Harrison's name has been on the short list for some time, starting from when it appeared Hillary Clinton would win the White House and she would be in the position to appoint the next DNC chair. Some of the odds were in his favor. He works out of the Columbia office of the Podesta Group, a political consulting and lobbying firm founded by John Podesta, Clinton's campaign chairman. Harrison is also a former senior aide to U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn of South Carolina, the third ranking House Democrat, who had the Clinton camp's ear on everything from campaign strategy to vice presidential picks.

The State: SC Democrats mull next move after big losses on Election Day

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article114448438.html>

Democratic S.C. congressional candidates now are picking up the pieces after being routed Tuesday. Longtime U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn of Columbia easily won re-election Tuesday, the only Democrat to win a congressional race. Other Democratic congressional candidates lost by more than predicted, crushed by an unexpected wave of Donald Trump support. "It was disappointing but kind of consistent with what I saw as I got around the district," said Democrat Fran Person, who ran against U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-Indian Land, in the 5th District. "A whole lot of hard-working folks out there kind of feel disenfranchised by the system." Person, a former aide to Democratic Vice President Joe Biden, was seen as the Democrat's most legitimate challenger this year to a Republican incumbent. But he lost by more than 20 percentage points Tuesday. "The top of the ticket always really dictates what happens on the bottom half," S.C. Democratic Party chair Jaime Harrison said. "If you're able to get more Republicans out in the contest, odds are Republicans are going to do much better."

The State: Columbia church holds post-election 'healing' service

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article114655858.html>

Bristow Marchant

To soothe whatever bitter feelings might be left over from the election, a Columbia church is hosting a "service of healing" to bring people back together. Reformation Lutheran Church will hold the service at 6 p.m. Monday to address "increasing anxiety among a broad spectrum of community groups who felt singled out during this long and divisive campaign cycle," according to a statement from the church. In an email, Pastor Tim Bupp said the church particularly wants "minority groups targeted by (President-Elect Donald) Trump during this campaign" to "feel safe and supported." "Community is woven together through relationships. This election has torn terribly at it," Bupp said. "Now, through faith and love, we must start mending the tapestry of our community." The service will feature Lutheran and other religious leaders as well as law enforcement officers. Reformation Lutheran Church is located at 1118 Union St., Columbia.

The State: Pro-Trump rally planned for Saturday at SC State House

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article114734028.html>

Bristow Marchant

In response to protests since the presidential election, local supporters of Donald Trump plan to hold their own rally this weekend. A pro-Trump rally is scheduled for 3 p.m. Saturday at the S.C. State House, and a Facebook page has been set up to encourage the public to attend. The State House was the site of a Friday rally by anti-Trump protesters, who oppose the New York billionaire's Electoral College victory. While Trump supporters may have cause to gloat after his come-from-behind victory, pro-Trump organizer Amanda Triguero said she doesn't want Saturday's rally to be an "in your face" event. Instead, she hopes it will cool off tensions. "I saw people at these anti-Trump rallies saying, 'Anybody who voted for Trump is a racist,' and how they're afraid somebody's going to shoot them," said Triguero, a small business owner who went back to school to become a legal aide. "We're just normal people who want change. And he's change, I pray for the better."

President-elect Trump News:

Associated Press: Vouching for Trump, Obama says US will maintain alliances

<http://bigstory.ap.org/562b9ae3e2c54e99a56575b94f387ac6>

Vouching for the successor he never imagined having, President Barack Obama on Monday sought to reassure an anxious nation and world that Donald Trump would maintain America's alliances and its status as the "indispensable nation." He credited the president-elect for tapping into American voters' anxiety and enthusiasm. "Do I have concerns?" Obama added. "Absolutely." Speaking at a White House news conference before a three-nation trip that was supposed to be his grand valedictory tour, Obama pointedly refused to criticize Trump, who only a week ago Obama said was "woefully unprepared for the job" and couldn't "handle the nuclear codes." Instead, Obama did his best to soothe the pangs of uncertainty at home and abroad after a divisive campaign that included charges of racism, sexism and other offensive rhetoric, and questions from Trump about the validity of the United States' security relationships in Europe and Asia.

Associated Press: Trump starting to sound like Obama on immigration

<http://bigstory.ap.org/251f1f09f7f5430993d7447233a74e38>

President-elect Donald Trump is starting to sound an awful lot like President Barack Obama on immigration. In his first postelection interview, Trump said he will focus on deporting criminal immigrants and not everyone living in the United States illegally. Two million or 3 million people could be immediate targets for deportation under this approach, Trump said, providing a likely inflated figure. And that "big, beautiful wall" at the Mexican border? Trump said he may be amenable to a fence along some parts of the roughly 2,000-mile border. The softened stance contrasts sharply with Trump's campaign rhetoric. As a candidate, he called for everyone living in the country illegally to return to their home countries and for Mexico to pay billions of dollars for the wall.

Associated Press: Trump considering woman, openly gay man for leadership posts

<http://bigstory.ap.org/2641d7d0c0164a06afdd5e23674af339>

His nascent administration already under attack, President-elect Donald Trump was considering Monday whether to inject new diversity into the GOP by recommending a woman to lead the Republican Party and an openly gay man to represent the United States at the United Nations. The moves, among dozens under consideration from his transition team, follow an intense and extended backlash from Trump's decision on Sunday to appoint Steve Bannon, a man celebrated by the white nationalist movement, to serve as his chief strategist and senior adviser. "After winning the presidency but losing the popular vote, President-elect Trump must try to bring Americans together - not continue to fan the flames of division and bigotry," said House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi. She called Bannon's appointment "an alarming signal" that Trump "remains committed to the hateful and divisive vision that defined his campaign."

Wildfires Across Southeast:

Associated Press: Firefighters make progress on containing Pinnacle blaze

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=20OL6FiM

SC State Wire

Officials say a wildfire burning in the mountains of South Carolina is more under control than in previous days. Mike Bozzo of the S.C. Forestry Commission says the 2,300-acre Pinnacle Mountain fire is now 25 percent contained. Firefighters used bulldozers to construct fire lines Sunday. Sprinkler systems have also been installed along portions of the South Saluda River to help hold the fire in that area. Plans for Monday include extending the fire line and scouting locations on the east side where fire lines can be constructed closer to the fire's edge. On the west side, crews will conduct burnout operations to connect fire lines. About 140 personnel are assigned to the fire.

Associated Press: Evacuations lifted in Pickens County as wildfire is slowed

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8Hmn7JPG

SC State Wire

Authorities have lifted an evacuation order in Pickens County after firefighters were able to stop a wildfire from quickly spreading. The South Carolina Forestry Commission said in a news release that fire breaks built Saturday were keeping the fire on Pinnacle Mountain from spreading closer to homes and businesses in northern Pickens County. Officials say the 3-square mile blaze in Table Rock State Park is spreading much more slowly as wetter weather moves in. Light rain fell for several hours Sunday. Authorities say firefighters will continue building firebreaks to try and contain the fire as drier weather comes back in a few days.

Independent Mail: Pinnacle Mountain may flourish after fire

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

Mike Ellis

Firefighters will be burning an area near Pinnacle Mountain Fire, which is expected to put more smoke in the air in northern Pickens County, but cut down fuel for the fire, according to the S.C. Forestry Commission. There will be light winds today and much of the smoke should stay close to ground, the commission said in a Tuesday afternoon update on the fire. Humidity in the air, cold temperatures overnight and just the smallest bit of rain Sunday has local naturalist Dennis Chastain and firefighters feeling much better about the raging Pinnacle Mountain fire than they were just days ago. "Just one-tenth of an inch of rain," Chastain said. "But it could not have come at a better time. "The fire expanded a bit overnight to reach 2,312 acres, according to the S.C. Forestry Commission.

Independent Mail: Light rain helps slow Pinnacle fire

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/11/13/light-rain-helps-slow-pinnacle-fire/93767070/>

Abe Hardesty

A light, unexpected rain and higher humidity helped slow the pace of the Pinnacle Mountain

fire Sunday in Pickens County. Information from infrared photography showed that another 700 acres had been destroyed in 24 hours — the same amount that burned Friday. The fire has burned 2,100 acres near Table Rock State Park, making it the most damaging fire in the Upstate since 2,856 acres burned in Oconee County in 1978, according to the South Carolina Forestry Commission. The slower rate of advance gave firefighters renewed hope Sunday, even as the southern edge of the fire reached within a half mile of S.C. 11. "The rise in relative humidity probably helps more than the rain," said Chisolm Beckham, a resources unit leader with the Forestry Commission. "When dry leaves are piled as high as they are now, it's like a tinderbox, and the higher humidity slows the burn a little."

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

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

Elizabeth LaFleur

Greenville County Schools is taking extra precautions to protect students from potentially dangerous air. The district has been in touch with South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and the National Weather Service about air quality due to ongoing fires in Pickens County and Western North Carolina, according to Elizabeth Brotherton, Greenville County Schools spokesperson. Principals were advised that students with asthma or other breathing conditions should be allowed to stay indoors instead of going outside for recess, according to Brotherton. GCS also told principals they should honor any parent requests that children stay inside. At least one school in northern Greenville County cancelled recess and outdoor activities because of the thick haze. Schools were advised to take similar precautions for students involved in sports practices after school.

Greenville News: DHEC cautions residents about wildfire smoke

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

Liv Osby

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

Greenville News: Federal funds authorized to battle Pickens County wildfires

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/13/federal-funds-authorized-battle-pickens-county-wildfires/93765754/>

The fire on Pinnacle Mountain continues to burn and has grown to around 2,200 acres in size. Light rain has been falling in the area since about 5 a.m. Sunday, which has assisted with slowing down the fire's path, according to Pickens County Emergency Management. All residents that were evacuated were allowed to return home. Residents should stay tuned for updates in what is still considered a dangerous environment. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency has authorized federal funds to reimburse costs to South Carolina to fight the Pinnacle Mountain fire. This authorization makes FEMA grant funding available to reimburse 75 percent of the eligible firefighting costs for managing, mitigating and controlling the fire. Eligible costs can include labor, equipment and supplies used for fighting the fire and costs for emergency work such as evacuations and sheltering, police barricading and traffic control.

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

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

Zach Fox and Bob Montgomery

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

Herald-Journal: Firefighters continue to battle Party Rock fire in North Carolina

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161113/firefighters-continue-to-battle-party-rock-fire-in-north-carolina?rssfeed=true>

Chris Lavender

More than 3,400 acres have burned in the Party Rock fire near Lake Lure, N.C. as firefighters continue to battle the blaze. N.C. Forest Service spokesman Bill Swartley said Sunday night that the fire was moving slowly on the southern edge and firefighters are keeping a watchful eye as well on the fire's northern edge as it continues to spread. "Fire weather conditions are going to increase," Swartley said. "This fire may continue to spread. There is a front coming on Wednesday blowing from the southwest and another front is coming on Saturday. We don't know if it will have moisture. Before the fronts pass there will be very strong winds and that is a strong concern." Firefighters continue to arrive on scene at the Lake Lure staging area on Sunday afternoon. Swartley said there were nearly 360 firefighters fighting the blaze this week. Smoke billowed into the air from a fire atop a mountain not far from the staging area. Swartley said a soaking rain was needed to help extinguish the fire.

Aiken Standard: Smoke blankets Aiken as nearby wildfires continue to burn

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/smoke-blankets-aiken-as-nearby-wildfires-continue-to-burn/article_42b59b46-a831-11e6-9089-1b93c605a81b.html

Tripp Girardeau

Residents were seeing and smelling smoke all over the Aiken County area Friday, and those with respiratory issues are encouraged to take some precautions. The South Carolina Forestry Commission announced Thursday that a wildfire on Pinnacle Mountain at Table Rock State Park in the Pickens County area has grown from 15 to 250 acres in the past 24 hours, according to a release. Fire Chief Darryl Jones, with the S.C. Carolina Forestry Commission, said smoke from this fire is mixing with smoke from several other fires in surround states, and wind conditions are causing the smoke to spread to areas all over the state.

Hurricane Matthew Recovery:

Associated Press: Family vows to rebuild on Waccamaw River

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Q7IB7NQL

Audrey Hudson

Judy Cooke is determined to hang onto the few family heirlooms she has remaining - now contaminated by mold or damaged by the flood from Hurricane Matthew - to preserve her memories of loved ones. The home on Jackson Bluff Road where she has lived for more than a quarter century and raised her family was likely damaged beyond repair from the flood water and trees that struck her roof. But Cooke has FEMA-backed flood insurance she hopes will help take care of the structure. It's what is left inside that brought Cooke to tears when she surveyed the damage on Saturday. Furniture made from teak wood that her parents bought in Italy and Germany 75 years ago were stacked upon beds and tables - a last minute effort to preserve the antiques as the Waccamaw River quickly rose and lapped at her front porch. But it wasn't high enough to escape the flood waters that settled in her

home for nearly three weeks.

Post and Courier: Hurricane Matthew brings isolated farm damage, limits rebound from trying '15
http://www.postandcourier.com/business/hurricane-matthew-brings-isolated-farm-damage-limits-rebound-from-trying/article_849b3918-a6a5-11e6-8b24-d70e8cd03ecb.html

Thad Moore

A year after floodwaters ruined the peanuts and cotton on his Holly Hill farm, Barry Hutto needed a good year. So did most other South Carolina farmers, after 2015 gutted production with drought and devastating rains. So as Hurricane Matthew took aim at the Lowcountry last month, the threat of heavy rain and strong winds spelled disaster for cash-strapped growers. Crops like cotton, peanuts and soybeans were still in the field in many places, and they were being prepared for harvest - a time when plants are especially vulnerable. But as the storm passed, Hutto was mostly spared. His crops were salvageable, if damaged, and he'd have to pay to have downed trees lifted from his fields, but Matthew wasn't the gut punch it could have been.

Sun News: Roads still closed in Horry, Georgetown counties from Hurricane Matthew damage
<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article114659608.html>

Hurricane Matthew is more than a month removed from the Grand Strand, but its effects can still be felt in Horry County and beyond. Twenty eight roads and four bridges throughout South Carolina are still closed because of the storm, with seven of those roads being in Horry County and one in Georgetown County.

Sun News: Drones patrolling Grand Strand to record dunes, sand data
<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/latest-news/article114677408.html>

Audrey Hudson

That black mass hovering over Grand Strand beaches that sounds like an angry swarm of bees is part of the county's new drone system that is analyzing damage caused by Hurricane Matthew. The drones can be seen about 400 feet in the air on most sunny afternoons during low tide, snapping images from the dunes to the water to calculate erosion and sand loss, says Tim Oliver, chief information officer of Horry County Information Technology and Geographical Information Systems. The drones began working just days before Hurricane Matthew struck in October, and were able to capture data of dunes in Garden City that were later obliterated by the storm.

Island Packet: Hurricane season not over yet: Tropical disturbance brewing in the Caribbean
<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/article114680928.html>

Mandy Matney

The Caribbean could see one more tropical storm before the Atlantic hurricane season comes to an official close, according at the National Hurricane Center. Meteorologists at the National Hurricane Center are monitoring a disturbance in the western Caribbean that has potential to be the next named storm of the season. The tropical disturbance brewing has a 60 percent chance of developing into a tropical storm over the next five days, according to the National Weather Service. According to AccuWeather, the system poses a threat to Jamaica, eastern Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. Haiti, still recovering from Hurricane Matthew devastation, is especially vulnerable to heavy rainfall from this storm, AccuWeather reports.

Island Packet: Hilton Head Plantation to raise fees to cover hurricane costs
<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article114702628.html>

Teresa Moss

Hilton Head Plantation property owner's will be paying an additional \$250 in fees next year to cover the costs of Hurricane Matthew. About \$1.1 million has been budgeted for 2017 to cover the costs of damage from the storm, a release from The Hilton Head Plantation Property Owner's Association said Monday. "HHPPOA has incurred significant costs for the initial clearing of our roads, common property, repairs to the pool, tennis courts, Bluff, leisure paths, fences, buildings, signs, etc.," the

release states. It says the association's "Weather Casualty Fund" will be depleted by the costs. Higher property assessments this year may not even cover the final costs, the release states.

Serial Killer Todd Kohlhepp:

Associated Press: Successful real-estate firm built between grisly crimes

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=dP03Yd7V

Jonathan Drew and Seanna Adcox

As he built a successful real estate firm, Todd Kohlhepp's behavior struck some as odd: watching pornographic videos during work, making macabre jokes in marketing literature and openly discussing that he was a sex offender. But he was also an award-winning agent described as a hard worker and good boss. All the while, authorities say, he was hiding a grisly secret that included seven killings over 13 years. He gunned down four people at a motorcycle shop in 2003 and within the last year killed three more, authorities said. The crimes were uncovered earlier this month when investigators rescued a woman chained up in a 30-foot long storage container on his property. "He was the kind of Type Double A, hair-on-fire kind of guy. ... You felt that if he wanted to take you out, he could take you out easily," said Lawrence Shorts, a mortgage banker who worked on transactions with Kohlhepp.

Greenville News: Kohlhepp driven by anger

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/11/12/driven-anger/93548938/>

Eric Connor

Todd Christopher Kohlhepp has been angry ever since he learned to walk and talk. It's the type of uncontrollable anger that fueled him to destroy classmates' preschool projects, torture pets and lay waste to a neighbor's teenage innocence. Now, authorities say, the 45-year-old real estate agent is a serial killer. It was anger and hurt that motivated her only child to kill four people in a motorcycle store in 2003, and again what drove him late this summer to kill the boyfriend of a woman authorities say Kohlhepp kept bound in chains for two months, his mother says. Two others, a Spartanburg couple, also were killed last December, and authorities say like the boyfriend were buried within a compound that Kohlhepp was carving out of 95 acres in rural Spartanburg County.

Michael Slagger Case:

Associated Press: The Latest: Defense grills key agent in motorist's death

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=C6vfii8K

SC State Wire

The defense has been grilling a key state investigator in the murder trial of a former South Carolina patrolman charged in the death of a black motorist. Michael Slager, who is white, is charged in the shooting death of 50-year-old Walter Scott as Scott fled a traffic stop in April 2015. The shooting was captured on dramatic cellphone video. The defense contends the state investigation was sloppy and attorney Andy Savage spent most of the afternoon cross-examining Angela Peterson, the State Law Enforcement Division case agent. Peterson testified she handled only one murder case before the Scott investigation and did not receive specialized homicide training until several months after the incident. She also said officers who combed the crime scene weren't aware there were missing bullets until they were found days later by investigators for the defense.

Associated Press: Witnesses: Ex-cop's initial account contradicted by video

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

Bruce Smith

The trial of a fired white South Carolina police officer in the shooting death of a black motorist entered a third week Monday with prosecution witnesses testifying the officer's initial account of the shooting differed from dramatic cellphone video seen widely on the internet. Michael Slager, who turned 35 on Monday, faces 30 years to life if convicted of murder in the shooting death of 50-year-old Walter Scott

as Scott ran from an April 2015 traffic stop in North Charleston. The trial is being heard by 11 white and one black juror. Over the weekend, another predominantly white jury deadlocked in another police shooting after a traffic stop. Prosecutors will decide within the next two weeks whether to retry former University of Cincinnati police officer Ray Tensing in the July 2015 shooting of 43-year-old Sam DuBose.

Post and Courier: Witness: Officer showed Scott was 'moving towards him' when he opened fire
http://www.postandcourier.com/news/witness-officer-showed-scott-was-moving-towards-him-when-he/article_7af5f598-aa23-11e6-870b-fb5710222cbb.html

Andrew Knapp

A North Charleston policeman re-enacted how he said Walter Scott came toward him when he opened fire, a private investigator who participated in the role play testified Monday. The witness took the stand on the seventh day of testimony in former patrolman Michael Slager's murder trial. Levi Miles, the investigator for the law firm that once represented Slager, assumed the role of Scott when Slager showed state agents what happened. Miles then re-enacted that re-enactment with a prosecutor in front of a jury on Monday. "We're face to face," Miles said. "I grabbed what would have been the Taser ... and (we are) wrestling over the Taser." "At the point the shots were fired, I was moving towards him."

Dylann Roof Case:

Post and Courier: Judge: Dylann Roof's competency evaluation likely completed Monday
http://www.postandcourier.com/church_shooting/dylann-roof-s-competency-evaluation-likely-completed-monday/article_451cacd2-aa6e-11e6-a265-37cc95e503bd.html

Jennifer Berry Hawes

A federal judge expected that a psychiatric evaluation to determine if accused Emanuel AME Church shooter Dylann Roof is competent to stand trial would be completed Monday, but when the public will learn what it says remains unclear. Roof's defense team wants the public barred from Roof's competency hearing, scheduled for Wednesday to discuss the evaluation's findings. They argue that U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel should close the hearing to protect attorney-client privilege and keep confidential material out of the public eye, which includes more than 500 prospective jurors in the case. Prosecutors disagree. They want the hearing open to the public, contending that the nine victims' loved ones and the shooting survivors have the right to observe proceedings against the self-avowed white supremacist.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: Of course he's my president; that's how our country works

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scoppe/article114657013.html>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

IT WAS THE spring of 2015, way too early for anyone except the political class to be talking about the presidential election, yet that was the topic of conversation at a church social gathering, where one woman had just declared of Hillary Clinton: "Well, if she's elected she won't be my president." Then she looked straight at me, and said, "Will she be your president, Cindi?" I don't usually participate in conversations about federal matters, because I don't believe my knowledge is sufficient to form opinions I can defend, but this one was easy. "Of course so," I said. "Whoever is elected will be my president." The way I felt when Donald Trump won the election last week was far more intense but similar to the feeling of dread and worry I had experienced twice before: when Jim Hodges was elected governor, and when Nikki Haley was first elected governor. I would be exponentially more comfortable with either one of them in the White House than Mr. Trump. But of course Donald Trump will be my president. And I pray that he will be a good president.

Post and Courier: No offshore seismic testing

http://www.postandcourier.com/opinion/editorials/no-offshore-seismic-testing/article_ee1b3278-a03b-11e6-b1db-6f9e7a0dccef.html

Editorial

With the presidency about to change hands and environmental policies in limbo, South Carolina's leaders need to deliver an unequivocal message to the White House: No seismic surveying off our coast. Sounding for oil with sonic booms, which enable undersea mapping, potentially threatens all manner of sea life for miles around. That's why the government of Belize recently suspended a seismic survey that potentially endangered the longest barrier reef in the Northern Hemisphere. Unfortunately, some South Carolina politicians, including Gov. Nikki Haley and elected officials representing inland districts, got caught up in the "drill, baby, drill" rhetoric of a few years ago and have supported offshore drilling. It's time they pay attention to the sobering reality of offshore seismic testing and drilling, and listen to the "no seismic testing" chorus from every community along South Carolina's coast.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Don't expect much from unemployment compensation in South Carolina

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/don-t-expect-much-from-unemployment-compensation-in-south-carolina/article_a3fc648e-a75a-11e6-bf68-7fbe0ec7e16f.html

David Slade

Next year South Carolina employers will pay lower rates, for the third year in a row, to fund unemployment compensation. The state has been digging out of its jobless hole since the recession. That's when it turned out the state hadn't collected enough from businesses to pay claims, and had to borrow nearly \$1 billion from the federal government. That money's been repaid, the fund has built up a surplus, and rates have been repeatedly cut. How? Less unemployment, for starters, but there have also been large cutbacks in the compensation workers can expect if they do become unemployed through no fault of their own. For the many workers who have never collected an unemployment check, it may be reassuring to think that the financial safety net would be there if needed. We've all heard politicians talk about how unemployment checks discourage people from seeking re-employment, so those benefits must be pretty generous, right? Think again.

Post and Courier: S.C. gas prices fall below \$2/gal. again

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/s-c-gas-prices-fall-below-gal-again/article_853f03fe-aa79-11e6-9f1b-a7383833b019.html

Warren L. Wise

A week before the busy Thanksgiving travel holiday, average gas prices across South Carolina have tumbled once again below \$2 a gallon. The average price now stands at \$1.99 a gallon in the Palmetto State after falling 3.4 cents a gallon during the past week, according to gas price service GasBuddy. Motor club AAA puts the price a penny higher. That's about 8 cents higher than one year ago at this time. Nationally, the average price dropped nearly a nickel a gallon to \$2.15, according to GasBuddy. AAA puts the price a penny higher. That's about 1.4 cents per gallon lower than this time last year. "While it's less than a week after the biggest upset in U.S. election history, energy industry experts are already speculating on what steps a Trump Administration might enact first; whether the earliest initiatives might eliminate regulations or perhaps look to increase domestic oil and gas production," said Gregg Laskoski, senior petroleum analyst for GasBuddy.

The State: Wrecks on South Carolina roads kill 8 during weekend

<http://www.thestate.com/news/state/south-carolina/article114677698.html>

Jane Moon Dial

South Carolina Department of Public Safety officials said there were eight road deaths reported during this past weekend. Officials said seven of the deaths occurred on U.S. routes, S.C. roads and secondary roads and one occurred on an interstate. In five of the deaths, officials said a seat belt was not used. Two people who died were wearing seat belts. One person who died was an unhelmeted

motorcyclist. As of Monday, 861 people have died on state highways, compared to 864 highway deaths during the same time period in 2015. Of the 557 motor-vehicle occupants who have died in 2016, 270 were not wearing seat belts. According to DPS, 118 pedestrians have been killed compared to 107 during the same time period in 2015. So far 126 motorcyclists have been killed compared to 129 this time in 2015. Twenty-two bicyclists have died in 2016 compared to 15 this time last year.

Associated Press: Florida man refuses to waive extradition in shooting death

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=2Zd4FFNS

SC State Wire

A Florida man arrested in connection with the shooting death of a man in Massachusetts last week has refused to waive extradition. Prosecutors say 47-year-old Michael Arthur Noguera will be held without bail in South Carolina while Massachusetts officials obtain a special warrant. Bristol County District Attorney's Office Thomas M. Quinn III says the process could take several weeks. Noguera was arraigned in South Carolina Monday. He's been charged in Massachusetts with accessory to murder-after the fact, armed robbery and larceny over \$250 in connection with the death of Daniel Smith. The 35-year-old was found suffering from gunshot wounds by young boys riding their bikes in the woods in Easton, Massachusetts last Tuesday. Smith was a former Easton resident who now lives in Florida. It couldn't be immediately determined if Noguera has a lawyer.

Local News:

Sun News: Robinson sentenced to 40 years for dismembering Angie Pipkin

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article114710883.html>

Emily Weaver

Randy Gale Robinson was sentenced to a total of 40 years for the slaying of Angie Pipkin in 2014. Resident Judge Steven John of the 15th Judicial Circuit sentenced Robinson to 30 years for voluntary manslaughter and 10 years for obstruction of justice in an Horry County courtroom Monday. Robinson will be given credit for the time he has already served since his detention began in March 2014. Pipkin, a 32-year-old mother of two, was reported missing on Jan. 16, 2014. Authorities say Robinson, 49, killed Pipkin at his Sullivan Drive home in the Inlet Estates subdivision off S.C. 707. After her killing, authorities say Robinson dismembered her body and disposed of it in the Great Pee Dee River in Darlington County. Some of Pipkin's remains were found four months later in a Florence County wooded area at a private hunting camp about five miles south of the U.S. 76 bridge over the river. Robinson was arrested in March 2014 and was charged with murder and obstruction of justice. His trial was slated to begin Monday.

Sun News: State files to move Heather Elvis kidnapping trial back to Horry County

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article114687338.html>

The state of South Carolina has filed a request to overturn the change of venue in the Heather Elvis kidnapping trial. According to court documents, the 15th Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office has filed for a change of venue to move the venue from Georgetown County back to Horry County, as reported by WBTW. The trial was moved to Georgetown with a Nov. 9 ruling, and the motion to change it back was filed Nov. 10. Sidney Moorner is accused of kidnapping Elvis, who disappeared in December 2013. Her car and belongings were found at the Peachtree Landing boat ramp. A deadlocked jury earlier this year resulted in a mistrial in the first attempt at a verdict in June.

Associated Press: Feds shut down for-hire church bus involved in fatal crash

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1H5Uo5Fr

Jeffrey Collins

A South Carolina church that owned the bus involved in a collision that killed four people in September was ordered on Monday to stop for-hire operations, federal authorities said. Sandy River Baptist Church failed to make sure its drivers were properly licensed and followed rules about rest,

according to the order from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. The church's bus operations were "reckless, with almost nonexistent management supervision," the agency ruled. The bus owned by the Chester church was carrying the Ramah Jucco Academy football team from Rock Hill to an away game when it crashed Sept. 17 in Hamlet, North Carolina. Four people, including bus driver Brian Kirkpatrick, died after the bus had a flat tire and slammed into a guardrail and bridge support on U.S. Highway 74.

The State: Man found dead outside USC parking garage considered a suicide

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article114743838.html>

John Monk

Authorities said the death of the man who was found Sunday outside a University of South Carolina parking garage isn't seen as foul play, and is considered to be a suicide. "This is considered a suicide, that's what everything points to," said Richland County Coroner Gary Watts, adding the man in his mid 30s wasn't a USC student. Watts said the cause of death was trauma associated from a fall off an upper floor of the parking garage, which is a five-story building. The body was discovered about 12:30 or 1 p.m. outside the parking garage at Blossom and Bull streets, Watts said. The garage is near the city's Maxcy Gregg Park, just west of Five Points. "This is not seen as foul play," said South Carolina Law Enforcement Division spokesman Thom Berry, adding SLED is leading the investigation. Anytime there's a death on campus, even if it doesn't involve a student, SLED takes over the investigation.

Post and Courier: Charleston County deputies released from hospital after fatal altercation with suspect

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/charleston-county-deputies-released-from-hospital-after-fatal-altercation-with/article_55724c38-aa80-11e6-9e93-6b2b67b550bd.html

Angie Jackson

Two Charleston County sheriff's deputies have been released from an area hospital and are recovering at home after an altercation Sunday that resulted in a man's death. The coroner's office has not released the man's identity or how he died. The office has not said when that information would be available. Deputy Robert Bittner and Deputy Levi Reiter were released from Medical University Hospital late Sunday. They suffered head injuries in a fight with the suspect, which authorities said involved them being struck with one of their own batons. Bittner and Reiter are on administrative leave with pay while the State Law Enforcement Division investigates the incident that occurred on U.S. Highway 78 near Pinewood Drive in the Ladson area.

Associated Press: Police: Man who beat deputies with baton dies in custody

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=o607Zxes

SC State Wire

A man who beat two South Carolina sheriff's deputies with their own baton died after he was taken into custody with the help of bystanders, authorities said. The State Law Enforcement Division is investigating the incident, which began Sunday afternoon with a barefoot man blocking traffic as he walked on U.S. Highway 78 near Ladson, Charleston County Sheriff's Maj. Eric Watson said. The man started fighting with Deputies Robert Bittner and Levi Reiter, grabbing one of their batons and beating them both in the head and chest, Watson said. The officers used a Taser, which he said didn't appear to work. Up to 10 people nearby then helped restrain the man, who died a short time later at the hospital. "Deputies were struggling with the individual, so they put down their cellphones and helped," Watson said. The coroner has ordered an autopsy to identify the man and determine how he died. Watson said no gunshots were fired. The deputies both needed stitches and were held at the hospital overnight before being released Monday.

Associated Press: The Latest: Deputies in man's custody death put on leave

<http://bigstory.ap.org/935e6ed3119d412c8ab27bd12275131e>

Authorities have identified the two South Carolina deputies who were beaten with their own baton by a man who later died in custody. Charleston County Sheriff's Office Maj. Eric Watson said in a

statement that both Deputy Robert Bittner and Deputy Levi Reiter have worked for the sheriff's office for 15 years and are on administrative leave. Investigators say Bittner and Reiter were trying to figure out why a man was walking barefoot, blocking traffic Sunday on U.S. Highway 78 in Ladson when the man attacked them with their own baton. Authorities say a Taser didn't stop the man and it took up to 10 bystanders to subdue him. He died a short time later at the hospital. A police report says Bittner and Reiter are white. The identity, race and cause of death of the man have not been released.

Post and Courier: Charleston County jail inmate's death under investigation

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/charleston-county-jail-inmate-s-death-under-investigation/article_9f12bf96-aa9c-11e6-8f19-b38880e655a7.html

Angie Jackson

The State Law Enforcement Division is investigating the death of a female inmate who was found unresponsive in a bathroom at the Cannon Detention Center. The Charleston County Sheriff's Office said a detention deputy making security rounds in the medical ward found the woman unresponsive in a restroom shortly after 4 a.m. Monday. She was pronounced dead at Medical University Hospital. The woman was booked into the jail Oct. 29 on an outstanding bench warrant for disorderly conduct, according to the sheriff's office. An autopsy will be conducted and the coroner's office will release the name of the inmate.

Aiken Standard: Aiken County man at center of federal lawsuit arrested; police, chief seek to dismiss claims made by plaintiff

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/aiken-county-man-at-center-of-federal-lawsuit-arrested-police/article_c629a764-aa71-11e6-8699-27519b890520.html

Maayan Schechter

The Aiken County man suing the City of Aiken and four of its former and current police officers over calls of an unconstitutional roadside search in 2014 was arrested last week on several traffic-related charges. Elijah Pontoon, 40, of Montmorenci, is charged with driving under suspension, littering, defective front light, no rear tag light, failure to stop for blue lights and simple possession of marijuana, according to jail records. Pontoon was arrested Friday by the Aiken County Sheriff's Office. According to a police report, while at a stop sign during patrol in Aiken County, a deputy with the Sheriff's Office saw a white SUV traveling on Main Street that had a right front headlight out, and when the SUV passed the patrol car, the deputy saw that the car's license plate light was not working.

Post and Courier: Justice Ministry requesting federal investigation of North Charleston Police

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/justice-ministry-requesting-federal-investigation-of-north-charleston-police/article_1e790dba-aa86-11e6-931e-b74579ff0d5a.html

Paul Bowers

An interfaith advocacy group is calling for a Department of Justice Civil Rights Division investigation of the North Charleston Police Department to look for "patterns or practices" of racial discrimination. "We've come to recognize that peace cannot happen unless there is justice," said the Rev. Charles Heyward, co-president of the Charleston Area Justice Ministry (CAJM). "And so we call upon our community leaders to pursue justice not just in the courtroom, but also in the policies and practices of our police departments." The group made its announcement Monday morning beside the federal courthouse in downtown Charleston, standing beside a statue of former federal judge J. Waties Waring, a pivotal figure in several civil rights cases. Their announcement comes as former North Charleston police officer Michael Slager faces a murder charge in the shooting of Walter Scott at a routine police stop.

Associated Press: Artists hang black nylons to protest post-Civil War racist

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=vedf4jzj

Jeffrey Collins

A group of artists said it left black nylon stockings resembling human figures hanging from trees

outside a South Carolina university hall to protest that the building is named for a post-Civil War-era racist. The 18 stockings filled with dirt were found Sunday morning outside Tillman Hall, with a sign reading "Tillman's Legacy" taped over the plaque with the building's name, according to a police report from Winthrop University in Rock Hill. A group called the Association of Artists for Change said each stocking represented a lynching victim when "Pitchfork" Ben Tillman was governor from 1890 to 1894 and was intentionally placed after Donald Trump won the presidential election last week because of the climate of racial distrust he has created, according to a statement posted on Twitter. "One should question, why this artwork is offensive and not the building itself?" the group said.

Associated Press: The Latest: Black stockings in trees anti-racism protest

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=BSA0qOcq

SC State Wire

A group of artists says it is responsible for hanging black nylon stockings in a tree on a South Carolina university campus near a hall named for a post-Civil War-era racist. The group called Association for Artists for Change posted a statement on Twitter on Monday asking why the artwork they put up early Sunday is more offensive than the name of Winthrop University's Tillman Hall. The group said the display was meant to provoke change. "Pitchfork" Ben Tillman helped lead a mob that killed four blacks in July 1876 as racist whites pushed to regain control of state government during Reconstruction. He served as South Carolina governor from 1890 to 1894. Eighteen stockings filled with dirt to look abstractly like a human head and body were left hanging on branches and a sign with "Tillman's Legacy" was taped to a plaque. The university called the display "hurtful."

The Herald: Black figures found hanging from tree in vandalism at Winthrop's Tillman Hall

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/crime/article114620828.html>

Tedy Kulmala

Police are investigating vandalism that was found Sunday at Winthrop University's Tillman Hall, and a group has apparently claimed responsibility for the display. The display was found around 4:45 p.m. Sunday in front of Tillman Hall, according to a Winthrop University police report. Officers found "numerous" black stockings that had been hung from a tree by the building, according to the report. The stockings were filled with dirt and mulch, and due to them being wet from the morning rain, police believe that they were placed sometime Saturday night or early Sunday. On the sign with the building's name, someone taped a sign that read "Tillman's Legacy," police said. "The Winthrop University Police investigation of a display near Tillman Hall on Sunday has yielded a claim of responsibility by a group who asserts its action is a protest over the Tillman name on the main administration building," Winthrop spokesman Jeff Perez said in an email Monday afternoon.

Island Packet: ATF's National Response Team poring over Chamber fire scene

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article114648318.html>

Stephen Fastenau

Federal, state and local investigators continue to examine a downtown Beaufort site for clues about the cause of the blaze that destroyed the new Beaufort County Chamber of Commerce building early Saturday morning. Chamber president and CEO Larry Holman plans a news conference at 10 a.m. Tuesday to give a statement and answer questions from news outlets. He said he had not received an update from investigators as of Monday afternoon. The federal team of fire investigators and special agents in Beaufort is an experienced group with varied skills. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives sent about 20 investigators and agents to help determine the cause of the fire and where it began. Known as the National Response Team, they include fire investigators, forensic mapping experts, accelerant-sniffing dogs, engineers and chemists, an ATF news release said.

The State: Church where puppy was burned reacts to crime, offers 'blessing' to help animals

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article114667593.html>

Jane Moon Dial

After officials reported a pit bull puppy was burned and killed in a church parking lot during the weekend, the church is coming together to help honor "God's creatures." Grace United Methodist Church, 410 Harbison Blvd., is planning to hold a "Blessing of the Animals" 4 p.m. Saturday, where church and community members can bring their pets or photos of pets during a prayer service, according to a news release from the S.C. Conference of the United Methodist Church. A love offering will also be collected to benefit the animal rescue Pawmetto Lifeline. The Richland County Sheriff's Department reported an 8-10 week old pit bull puppy was set on fire Saturday and was later put down due to its injuries. A \$2,000 reward is being offered to anyone who calls Crimestoppers at 1 (888) CRIME-SC with information leading to an arrest.

Post and Courier: International African American Museum gets four new board members

http://www.postandcourier.com/charleston_sc/international-african-american-museum-gets-four-new-board-members/article_8a18e0cc-aa9a-11e6-a826-971f64f598f1.html

Robert Behre

Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg and three others have been added to the governing board of the International African American Museum planned for downtown. The new members, who will increase the museum's board to 24, include: Evie Colbert, a Charleston native and wife of comedian and late night host Stephen Colbert; Blackbaud Inc. CEO Michael Gianoni; and Marva Smalls, chief of staff for Viacom Kids and Family Group. Chairman Wilbur Johnson and board members currently are working to raise money to begin work on the museum, with the goal of a fall 2019 opening. Michael Boulware Moore, CEO of the museum, said each new member will bring a diverse perspective and help with fundraising.

Associated Press: Orangeburg K-9 wears body armor in memory of Las Vegas dog

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6ylulq61

SC State Wire

The only K-9 working with the Orangeburg Department of Public Safety now has body armor to protect him from stabbings and bullets. And he's wearing in memory of another K-9 killed in the line of duty in Las Vegas. The Times and Democrat of Orangeburg reports (<http://bit.ly/2fMZrXZ>) a nonprofit donated the body armor for 6-year-old Badger, a Belgian Malinois. Vested Interest in K9s Inc., of East Taunton, Massachusetts, donated the vest, which has a value of about \$2,000. The underside of Badger's vest has the words "In memory of K-9 Nicky, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police, NV." K-9 Nicky was shot March 31, 2016, when a LVMP officer opened fire on a suspect. Nicky, also a Belgian Malinois, had returned to duty after being stabbed during a standoff in February.

The State: USC Foundation spends \$1.1 million on 'defensive' land buy in downtown Columbia

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/education/article114711883.html>

Avery G. Wilks

The University of South Carolina's private fundraising arm has made another "defensive" land buy in downtown Columbia, its director says. The move protects USC students and its downtown Columbia campus from potentially harmful future development, USC Development Foundation director Russ Meekins said. The foundation will pay \$1.1 million to buy a quarter-acre plot at the northwest corner of Main and Greene streets, currently home to the S.C. Bookstore. For now, USC has no plans for the property, Meekins said. But, he added, its owners wanted to sell, and buying it now ensures the next owner will not build a convenience store or apartment tower.

The State: Marcus Lattimore named varsity head coach at Heathwood Hall

<http://www.thestate.com/sports/high-school/prep-football/article114637278.html>

Lou Bezjak

After a successful coaching debut, Marcus Lattimore is getting a promotion. The former South Carolina running back was named the Highlanders' new varsity football coach Monday. He replaces Steve Victory, who was 4-15 in his two seasons as coach. Victory is moving back to Louisiana to be closer to his family. "I'm just over the moon. I'm happy and my family is happy," Lattimore said. "Want

to express my gratitude to (Head of School) Chris Hinchey and (athletic director) Jeff Whalen who believed in me as a young coach with every little experience but understand the game and understand you are only as good as your supporting cast.

The Herald: Sunday beer, wine, liquor sales coming to Chester, Lancaster counties with voters' approval

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article114699438.html>

Andrew Dys

Sales of alcohol on Sundays will begin in Chester and Lancaster counties as soon as state officials can process vote counts and applications after voters overwhelmingly approved Sunday sales. However, it appears likely that the first Sunday will be after Thanksgiving and it might take until December. There is no exact date, state Department of Revenue officials said, but Chester and Lancaster county officials are already sending in election results to get the ball rolling. Voters in both counties approved Sunday sales in referendums Nov. 8. Citing competition from the city of Chester, York County and Charlotte, businesses lobbied hard for the changes to allow Sunday sales. Shane Stuart, Chester County supervisor, said the County Council will formally issue a resolution accepting the referendum vote at its Nov. 21 meeting,

LGBT News:

Associated Press: Trial over LGBT House Bill 2 delayed until late next summer

<http://bigstory.ap.org/62b3188c93c2413883f14499e01a03d1>

A federal trial on the legality of a North Carolina law limiting which restrooms transgender people can use in schools and government buildings has been pushed back until at least late summer. A U.S. magistrate judge granted the delay Monday following a conference call with attorneys for people challenging the law and for North Carolina officials defending what's known as House Bill 2, according to a court filing. The trial was supposed to begin Monday. In September, Magistrate Judge Joi Elizabeth Peake granted a delay until next May because the U.S. Supreme Court was considering whether to hear a Virginia case on transgender restroom access. He extended the delay another 90 days. Attorneys from opposing sides in the North Carolina case wrote Peake last week supporting an even longer delay because the justices have since agreed to take up the Virginia matter. The justices' ultimate ruling could shape the outcome of the House Bill 2 litigation.

National News:

Associated Press: PBS journalist Gwen Ifill dies of cancer

<http://bigstory.ap.org/411d00b54f3d4506ad510c0ac175d50e>

Gwen Ifill, co-anchor of PBS' "NewsHour" with Judy Woodruff and a veteran journalist who moderated two vice presidential debates, died Monday of cancer, the network said. She was 61. A former reporter for The New York Times and The Washington Post, Ifill switched to television in the 1990s and covered politics and Congress for NBC News. She moved to PBS in 1999 as host of "Washington Week" and also worked for the nightly "NewsHour" program. She and Woodruff were named co-anchors in 2013. She moderated vice presidential debates in 2004 and 2008 and authored the book, "The Breakthrough: Politics and Race in the Age of Obama." The president on Monday praised Ifill for informing today's citizens while also inspiring a young generation of journalists. "I always appreciated Gwen's reporting, even when I was on the receiving end of one of her toughest interviews," Obama said.

Associated Press: Georgia man guilty in death of toddler son left in hot SUV

<http://bigstory.ap.org/995520f2f07a4bcb957f9380a9367673>

A Georgia man whose toddler son died in a hot car was found guilty of both malice and felony murder on Monday by a jury tasked with weighing a month of dueling testimony over whether the child's father left him to perish on purpose or made a fatal mistake. Justin Ross Harris, 35, who showed little

emotion as the verdict was read, had been on trial since Oct. 3 in the death of his son, Cooper. The 22-month-old boy died after being left for hours in the back of Harris' SUV on June 18, 2014. Harris said he forgot to drop his son off at day care that morning and drove straight to his job as a web developer for Home Depot, not realizing Cooper was still in his car seat. Soon afterward, investigators found evidence that Harris was having sexual relationships — both online banter and in-person affairs — with numerous women, including a prostitute and a teenager. Prosecutors charged Harris with malice murder, saying he intentionally killed his son in order to escape the responsibilities of family life.

Associated Press: The Latest: Jury 'almost unanimous' starting deliberations

<http://bigstory.ap.org/605e2556e0f24348baa0705772dded6a>

The lead prosecutor in murder trial of a Georgia man convicted of murdering his toddler son after leaving him in the back of a hot SUV says the jury was almost unanimous when their deliberations began. Chuck Boring told reporters Monday that he spoke with some jury members after the verdict and was told they were almost unanimous when they began deliberations, but wanted to take time to review the evidence. A jury on Monday convicted Justin Ross Harris of both malice and felony murder, among other charges, in the 2014 death of his 22-month old son, Cooper. Harris, who moved to Georgia from Alabama in 2012, will be sentenced on Dec. 5. "It wasn't one thing that they said, 'This proves malice,'" Boring said. "It was everything. Jurors seen leaving the courthouse declined to speak with reporters.

Associated Press: Company: Dakota Access pipeline could move oil in early 2017

<http://bigstory.ap.org/af99489549e949bab7ed00334bbe3caa>

The company building the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access oil pipeline said Monday that it expects to finish construction by Dec. 1, except for a small disputed section in North Dakota, and could begin moving crude early next year if the government gives final approval. In an email to The Associated Press, Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners said it would finish the pipeline within 120 days of getting approval for an easement beneath Lake Oahe, a Missouri River reservoir in southern North Dakota. President Barack Obama's administration hasn't announced whether it will support the easement, but ultimate approval seems a near certainty with Donald Trump, a pipeline supporter, set to take office in January. The 1,172-mile pipeline is intended to carry North Dakota oil through South Dakota and Iowa to a shipping point in Illinois. Also Monday, officials locked down the North Dakota Capitol after pipeline opponents gathered there, one day before groups planned more than 200 protests at Army Corps of Engineers offices and other sites across the country.

World News:

Associated Press: The Latest: Soldiers recall firefight in search for Bergdahl

<http://bigstory.ap.org/1b9056c50d5641cea628e5f06be28a48>

A search mission that left two soldiers wounded while trying to find an Army specialist missing in Afghanistan was hastily organized, according to testimony. A pretrial hearing in the case of Army soldier Bowe Bergdahl included testimony Monday about the soldiers who were hurt during a firefight while looking for Bergdahl after he walked away from his post in 2009. Bergdahl is facing charges of desertion and misbehavior before the enemy, his trial now set for spring of 2017. Jonathan Morita, an Army specialist in 2009, was on the search mission. An unexploded rocket-propelled grenade slammed into his rifle and injured his hand. He said Monday that the injury was comparable to having his hand smashed by a hammer. Another soldier in the search suffered a traumatic brain injury after he was shot in the head. Further oral arguments on the prosecutors' motion are planned Tuesday. Bergdahl's attorney Eugene Fidell said the defense would wait until then to argue whether the soldiers' injuries belong in the case.

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