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To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Thursday, November 17, 2016

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

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

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

Isaac Bailey

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

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

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

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

David Wright

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

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

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

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

Eliza Collins

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

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

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

Matthew Stevens

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Katherine Faulders

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

NOTE: Among those who visited or were expected to head to Trump Tower today: Sen. Jeff

Sessions, R-Ala., a contender for attorney general; South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, a possible secretary of state; and former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

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

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

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

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

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

Reina Flores

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Schuyler Kropf and Andy Shain

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

matters at home, her resume includes next to no experience in national security or foreign affairs, indicating the job may be a tough sell to the American people.

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

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

Jane Moon Dial

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

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

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

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

Cassie Cope

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

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

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

Amanda Coyne

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

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

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

[considered-secretary-state/94017162/](http://www.wistv.com/story/33737162/considered-secretary-state/94017162/)

Amanda Coyne

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

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

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

Maayan Schechter and Christina Cleveland

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

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

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

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

Jeremy Turnage

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

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

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

Jeremy Turnage

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

Response to President Barack Obama's final State of the Union address in January 2016.

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

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

Jeremy Turnage

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

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

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

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

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

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

Brian McConchie

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

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

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

Carla Field

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

SC Political News:

Greenville News: Reports: Gowdy in the running for U.S. attorney general

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/17/reports-gowdy-running-us-attorney-general/94032428/>

Amanda Coyne

Twenty years ago, U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy was a federal prosecutor sharing a desk in a windowless basement office. Today, he could be under consideration for the position of U.S. attorney general. Gowdy, who currently represents most of Greenville and Spartanburg counties in the U.S. House of Representatives, is on President-elect Donald Trump's short list for the country's top prosecutor, according to multiple reports. Others thought to be under consideration include Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi and Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, a former S.C. attorney general, has said he is also being considered for the position. Gowdy is currently focused on his work in the House, said press secretary Amanda Gonzalez. The Republican caucus, of which Gowdy is a member, will soon begin doling out committee chairmanships and assignments for the coming legislative session. The Spartanburg Republican was just re-elected to his fourth term in Congress.

President-elect Trump News:

Associated Press: Trump reassuring the world he's focusing on foreign policy

<http://bigstory.ap.org/32e478b5a0b24cbda9e1bfd8f0ff7e49>

Donald Trump sought to reassure nervous leaders around the globe with his most public foray into foreign policy since the election, welcoming Japan's prime minister to Trump Tower on Thursday. On Capitol Hill, his incoming vice president aimed to project unity at home. Trump planned a face-to-face meeting late Thursday with Shinzo Abe, his first with a world leader since last week's vote, after consulting with former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and sitting down with South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, a potential contender to lead the State Department. In Washington, Vice President-elect Mike Pence huddled with Republican leaders in Congress. He then met with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Sen. Chuck Schumer, the newly elected leader of the Senate Democrats, seeking to convey respect as Democrats prepare for Republican rule of both chambers and the White House for the first time in a decade. "We look forward to finding ways that we can find common ground and move the country forward," Pence said outside Schumer's Senate office.

Associated Press: Trump ally Sessions could face tough Senate confirmation

<http://bigstory.ap.org/543a3c7c9f4d4caba7ac23de36a0d49f>

As one of President-elect Donald Trump's closest and most consistent allies, Sen. Jeff Sessions is a likely pick for a top post in his administration. But when Sessions faced Senate confirmation for a job

30 years ago, it didn't go well. Nominated for a federal judgeship in 1986, Sessions, R-Ala., was dogged by racist comments he was accused of making while serving as U.S. attorney in Alabama. He was said to have called a black assistant U.S. attorney "boy" and the NAACP "un-American" and "communist-inspired." Sessions was the first senator to back Trump during the campaign and is an architect of Trump's immigration, counterterrorism and trade policies. His name has been floated for attorney general and secretary of defense. The Trump transition team released a statement Thursday saying the president-elect is "unbelievably impressed" with Sessions, citing his work as a U.S. attorney and state attorney general in Alabama. But confirmation for the four-term lawmaker, even in a Republican-controlled chamber, is not guaranteed.

Associated Press: In Trump's transition, the jockeying for jobs goes public

<http://bigstory.ap.org/75136729b1a04416ad23c543a67b2663>

Want a top job in Washington? Saying less is usually the way to get more. But contenders — and wannabe contenders — for spots in President-elect Donald Trump's administration are upending that tradition. They're touting their qualifications in public appearances and chatting openly about their interactions with Trump's team. They're handicapping their rivals. Some of those who appear to be under the most serious consideration are conspicuously strolling by the pack of journalists gathered in the Trump Tower lobby on their way to meetings with the president-elect and his team. Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani set the tone. After declaring that he wouldn't serve as attorney general, Giuliani was asked whether there were better choices for secretary of state than some of names being bandied about. "Maybe me," Giuliani said with a grin. Shortly after, a senior Trump official confirmed Giuliani was indeed under consideration to become the nation's top diplomat.

Associated Press: Justice Alito rallies conservatives in tribute to Scalia

<http://bigstory.ap.org/84d639f3176348a38104e99d3d6b8e6b>

Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito issued a rallying cry to conservatives Thursday amid newfound strength following Donald Trump's election. Alito told the Federalist Society conference of conservative lawyers, judges and legal thinkers that religious freedom and gun rights are among "constitutional fault lines," important issues at stake in the federal courts. The conference of 1,800 of conservatism's leading lights took on a new air of importance with Trump's victory, and included a list of judges the president-elect has named as candidates to fill the vacancy created by the death last February of Justice Antonin Scalia. In his remarks, Alito didn't mention the election or the vacancy, rather using the platform to pay tribute to Scalia, a longtime colleague and conservative ally in high court battles on hot-button social and political issues. He said Scalia, a hero to many of the group's 40,000 members, is sorely missed on the court. "We are left to ask ourselves WWSD," what would Scalia do, Alito said. The lettering is a play on the phrase "WWJD," for what would Jesus do.

Associated Press: Obama, nudging Trump, says he must 'stand up' to Russia

<http://bigstory.ap.org/4ba8108cf1bd4638869fd2e3d4498d46>

President Barack Obama prodded Donald Trump on Thursday to take a tougher approach toward Russia, urging the president-elect to "stand up" to Moscow when it violates global norms. The Kremlin accused Obama of trying to lock in bad relations before Trump takes office. In Europe for his last time as president, Obama said he doesn't expect Trump to mirror his own strategy on Russia, and hopes his successor will work constructively with the superpower where appropriate. Yet he insisted the U.S. mustn't gloss over deep disagreements over Syria, Ukraine and basic democratic values. "My hope is that he does not simply take a realpolitik approach," Obama said, using a German term for a foreign policy driven by expediency. He said he hopes the businessman won't cut deals with Russia if it hurts other countries or "just do whatever is convenient at the time."

Associated Press: US Jews grapple with election-year eruption of anti-Semitism

<http://bigstory.ap.org/5112ea35da794d12a9895b2ca0f1a8bb>

American Jews gathered Thursday to wrestle with how they should confront an election-year surge in anti-Semitism, a level of bias not seen in the U.S. for decades. At a national meeting of the Anti-

Defamation League, the Jewish civil rights group, about 1,000 people listened to talks expressing shock at the hatred expressed during the presidential campaign and questioned what they thought was a high-level of acceptance by other Americans."I'm struggling right now in this American moment," said Yehuda Kurtzer, president of the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America, an education and research organization, in his talk at the event. "I wonder whether I have been — and I think the answer is probably yes — a little bit naive."During this past year, anti-Semitic imagery proliferated on social media, Jewish journalists were targeted and longstanding anti-Jewish conspiracy theories got a fresh airing. Much of the bias originated with the alt-right, or alternative right, a loose group espousing a provocative and reactionary strain of conservatism. It's often associated with far right efforts to preserve "white identity," oppose multiculturalism and defend "Western values."

Associated Press: Kaine says he's not going to run for president in 2020

<http://bigstory.ap.org/9ae80fed114d427b90a5d9a3c342e9d8>

Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine says he'll seek re-election in 2018 but is ruling out a presidential bid in 2020. The former Democratic vice presidential nominee said in an interview with The Associated Press on Thursday that his place is in the Senate and his decision not to run in 2020 is final."Period. Full stop," Kaine said. With a heightened national profile after campaigning across the country for more than three months as Hillary Clinton's running mate, Kaine could have chosen to pursue his own White House ambitions or tried and play a leading role charting a reeling Democratic Party's direction in the Donald Trump era. But the first-term senator and former governor said he belongs in the upper chamber, where he will be part of a Democratic minority whose ability to filibuster will be "the only emergency brake there is" on Trump and the GOP-controlled Congress. Kaine has already been a vocal critic of Trump's appointment of Steve Bannon as a senior advisor. Kaine said Bannon's ties to white nationalism and anti-Semitism disqualify him from a senior role in the White House.

SC Delegation News:

Associated Press: Rep. Sanford asks Feds: reconsider REAL ID denial for state

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=7qLn5eb1

SC State Wire

Rep. Mark Sanford is asking the Department of Homeland Security for another extension so South Carolina can comply with tighter standards for state driver's licenses. The South Carolina Republican said Wednesday he's joined representatives of four other states asking Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson to reverse his stand on no more extensions. In 2008, Sanford, as governor, led a movement against the ID. He argues it is an unfunded mandate and threatens personal privacy. If states aren't compliant with the REAL ID act by Jan. 20, residents won't be able to enter a federal building or military base. On Jan. 22, 2018, the Transportation Security Administration won't accept non-compliant identification at airports. Congress approved the move in 2005 to tighten identifications following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

McClatchy DC: S. Carolina needs more time before driver's licenses become obsolete as federal ID

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/national/article115248408.html>

Matthew Schofield

If U.S. Rep Mark Sanford fails with the second pass at convincing Homeland Security to grant South Carolinians an extension, folks hoping to jet off for holidays after January 2018 should either bring a passport, or be prepared for disappointment. The Congressman and former governor sent a letter Wednesday to Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson asking him to push back a looming deadline for when the state must comply with the "REAL ID Act of 2005." He's suggested the state needs more time, and has asked the state be granted until Oct. 10, 2017. The law generally goes into effect about a year after being imposed. "I've never been a fan of this national program," Sanford said Wednesday evening. "I fought it as a governor. My dream is more towards changing the law rather than extension."

Post and Courier: Clyburn to seek reelection to Assistant Leader position

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/clyburn-to-seek-reelection-to-assistant-leader-position/article_4fcb8948-ac74-11e6-925a-dbb0a481da6a.html

Emma Dumain

U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn is asking his colleagues to give him a fourth term as Assistant Democratic Leader - the third most senior position in his party's leadership structure in the U.S. House. The South Carolinian is in no real danger of losing his leadership seat or facing a competitive challenger - or any challenger at that. Indeed, his bid to retain his posting in the 115th Congress was expected and came as no surprise. The formal announcement was a customary gesture. Still, Clyburn's letter Wednesday evening to lawmakers comes as Democrats are reeling from a demoralizing Election Night just eight days ago, when their candidate lost the presidency in a stunning defeat and their party was doomed to the minority for at least another two years.

Wildfires Across Southeast:

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

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

SC State Wire

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

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

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

SC State Wire

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

Associated Press: Southern wildfires have threatened communities on edge

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=sx4b372j

Jeff Martin

Thick smoke has settled over a wide area of the southern Appalachians, where dozens of uncontrolled wildfires are burning through decades of leaf litter and people breathe in tiny bits of the forest with every gulp of air. It's a constant reminder of the threat to many small mountain communities, where relentless drought and now persistent fires and smoke have people under duress. "A lot of the ladies just went to tears and said this happens in other places, it doesn't happen here," pastor Scott Cates said as townspeople donated water, cough drops and other supplies for the firefighters at the Liberty Baptist Church in Tiger, Georgia. Here, these fires don't sleep. They burn through the night, through the now-desiccated tinder of deciduous forests accustomed to wet, humid

summers and autumns.

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

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

Michael Burns

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

Greenville News: Evacuations planned as health issues rise from 'historic fire'

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/south-carolina/2016/11/16/evacuations-planned-health-issues-rise-historic-fire/93979670/>

Liv Osby

Firefighters will take aggressive measures on Thursday to bring the Pinnacle Mountain wildfire under control by burning more than 2,000 acres ahead of the fire, officials said Wednesday. Local fire departments are going door-to-door to evacuate about 70 families who live in the affected area close to the burnout operation. The evacuation affects the area north of State 11 from Back Park Road to South Saluda Road and north to Table Rock Reservoir, according to Russell Hubright, spokesman for the SC Forestry Commission. Fire officials are concerned about a cold front moving into the Upstate that will bring high winds and lower humidity, he said. The burnout affects both sides of Table Rock and will extend north to the Table Rock Reservoir, south to the Pinnacle Lake area, and east to the Table Rock State Park boundary near High Low Gap. The burnout also will significantly increase the amount of smoke in the air, Hubright said. The smoke on Wednesday forced state health officials to declare another air quality alert, while the prospect for rain to ease the situation remained grim.

Independent Mail: Pickens emergency declaration will help pay fire-fighting costs

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/11/16/state-emergency-likely-pickens/93954456/>

Mike Eads

The Pickens County Council declared a state of emergency today, one week after a major forest fire broke out on Pinnacle Mountain. County Attorney Ken Roper said the council members met after the Twelve Mile Recreation Park groundbreaking ceremony at Cateechee Beach this morning. The declaration is necessary to qualify the county for state and federal disaster relief funds. It will also give County Administrator Gerald Wilson wide leeway in managing the county's fire response and cleanup. "That's the big motivation for it," said Roper. "It will give the administrator some authority to free up money" from other county funds to cover fire-related expenses. County Emergency Management Director Denise Kwiatek said after the council vote that the declaration would allow Pickens County to bring in more local, state and federal agencies for help. The state of emergency would also allow Wilson to mandate an evacuation, unlike the voluntary one issued Saturday.

Herald-Journal: Firefighters plan burnout to slow Pinnacle fire

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161116/firefighters-plan-burnout-to-slow-pinnacle-fire?rssfeed=true>

Bob Montgomery

Nearly six dozen families in northern Pickens County have been asked to leave their homes while firefighters conduct a large-scale burnout operation Thursday to stop the spread of a growing wildfire.

So far there have been no injuries or damaged structures resulting from the 3,283-acre wildfire that was started last week by an errant campfire, S.C. Forestry Commission spokesman Russell Hubright said Wednesday.

Thursday's burnout will cover about 2,000 acres and "will put a tremendous amount of additional smoke in the air in northern Pickens County," Hubright said. "Motorists traveling in the area are urged to use caution and avoid SC 11, and people with respiratory conditions are encouraged to stay indoors," he said. An area north of SC 11 that is close to the burnout operation, from Back Park Road to South Saluda Road and north to Table Rock Reservoir, will be evacuated Thursday. Residents are being told to prepare to be away from their homes for 72 hours, according to Pickens County Emergency Management.

Herald-Journal: Massive wildfire burnout underway around Table Rock

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

Bob Montgomery

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

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

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

Cynthia Roldan

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

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

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

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

The State: Code red: Runners, pets, children, asthmatics need to avoid smoke outside

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article115239118.html>

Cynthia Roldan

The air quality of more than half of South Carolina's counties was declared unhealthy Wednesday by the state's health agency. Just six days after the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control warned of possible side effects related to the wildfires burning throughout several Southeastern states, the agency issued a "Code Red" air quality alert for 25 counties, including Richland and Lexington. Melissa Overman, assistant state epidemiologist, warned against children spending too much time outdoors, since they take in more air than adults. Kids who are suffering from the air's pollutants might complain of tightness in their chests or irritated eyes and throats. Overman said healthy athletes should consider limiting their time outside as well. She also suggested not taking pets for a jog. Plus, those with respiratory illnesses, such as asthma and bronchitis, who live in the areas that will remain under code red on Thursday should remain indoors as much as possible, she said.

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

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

Thomas Gardiner

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

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

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

Maayan Schechter

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

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

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

Elizabeth Townsend

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

Hurricane Matthew Recovery:

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

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

Avery G. Wilks

Some of the poorest survivors of the historic October 2015 storm could get a brand new home for Christmas. Before the new year begins, state disaster recovery officials expect to begin giving out the first of the free, 860-square-foot mobile homes to S.C. residents who need them. Officials plan to eventually deliver 600 or more homes to low- and moderate-income families still homeless or living in housing damaged by the storm, which dropped more than two feet of rain on parts of South Carolina. "These people have been in need for a long time," S.C. Disaster Recovery Office spokeswoman Beth Parks said. "For more than a year, they've been in these horrible situations and can't get out on their own." Federal recovery dollars will pay for the \$60,000 mobile homes, which state officials prefer to call "manufactured homes."

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

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

Bret McCormick

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

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

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

Wade Livingston

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

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

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

Teresa Moss

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

Island Packet: Hurricane Matthew debris clogs Beaufort County waterways. Who will clean it up?

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article115147438.html>

Lucas High

More than a month after Hurricane Matthew's winds and waves sunk boats and destroyed docks and marinas, questions remain as to who is responsible for cleaning up debris in local waterways and

marshland areas. While Beaufort County is partnering with local municipalities and state agencies on efforts to remove storm debris from roadways, that's not yet the case for debris in the water. "For marine debris, we are not as far along in the removal process as we are with debris along the roads," county stormwater manager Eric Larson said earlier this week. "We are working with state agencies trying to determine who is going to take the lead on this." In the days following Hurricane Matthew, crews with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources "removed debris from the navigable channel (of local waterways) and set it aside in the marsh."

Morning News: City of Florence updates Hurricane Matthew recovery efforts

http://www.scnw.com/news/local/article_d93fbaa0-ac7e-11e6-847f-ebf417b7986c.html

Joshua Lloyd

Florence officials said Wednesday that the city is taking strides in an effort called "Next Phase Florence" to clean up the large amounts of debris left last month after Hurricane Matthew. Officials said about 275 loads of debris, totaling more than 2,200 cubic yards of waste, have been picked up by city crew s.

Serial Killer Todd Kohlhepp:

Herald-Journal: Kohlhepp real estate record never prompted action

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161116/kohlhepp-real-estate-record-never-prompted-action?rssfeed=true>

Bob Montgomery

Todd Kohlhepp, a registered sex offender and felon, bought and sold real estate for 10 years without ever drawing the attention of state regulators. It wasn't until he was arrested and charged with the kidnapping of missing Anderson woman Kala Brown, who was found alive in a container on his property, that Kohlhepp ever faced any kind of disciplinary action from the S.C. Real Estate Commission. The commission, which oversees and regulates licensing for agents and brokers, temporarily suspended Kohlhepp's real estate license on Nov. 4, stating "the public safety and welfare imperatively requires emergency action." Kohlhepp's seemingly clean real estate record appears to be one more area in which the man charged in the deaths of four people and suspected in three others flew beneath the radar of authorities. Since 2009, Kohlhepp was the owner and broker in charge of TKA Real Estate, which is now closed. Before that, he worked as a sales associate for Weichert Realtors.

Michael Slagger Case:

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

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

SC State Wire

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

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

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

Bruce Smith

Former South Carolina patrolman Michael Slager wrestled with Walter Scott on the ground and was

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

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

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

Andrew Knapp

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

Dylann Roof Case:

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

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

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

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

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

Jeffrey Collins

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

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

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

John Monk

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

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

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

Jennifer Berry Hawes

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

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: 1 South Carolina county in exceptional drought

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

SC State Wire

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

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

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

Thomas Gardiner

In the midst of a nationwide fight against heroin and opioid addiction that fills American cemeteries every day, South Carolina added to its list of outlawed substances. At last week's South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control meeting, a new synthetic drug was voted to be added to the list of Schedule I substances. The substance is named U-47700 and is commonly referred to as "Pink" or "Pinky." According to multiple reports, Pinky was one of the drugs found in

Prince's system when he died from an overdose earlier this year. A number of deaths in South Carolina have been attributed to the substance, with about 50 confirmed deaths nationwide since June.

Local News:

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

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/million-verdict-upheld-in-berkeley-county-jail-wrongful-death-lawsuit/article_ddc9b2-ad1b-11e6-8490-6b1ddf3f053e.html

Gregory Yee

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

Aiken Standard: Hearing scheduled in lawsuit over 2014 traffic stop

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

Maayan Schechter

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

Sun News: Georgia man charged with murder in slaying of missing Myrtle Beach man

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article115471948.html>

Emily Weaver

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

The State: Man stabbed multiple times near high school, police report

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article115436058.html>

Jane Moon Dial

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

Police also reported it as an isolated incident.

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

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

John McDermott

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

National News:

Associated Press: After Muslim backlash, lawmaker drops change to no-mask law

<http://bigstory.ap.org/431558e909164f3fb8e54fc03f2d9793>

Advocates accused a Georgia lawmaker of targeting Muslim women with proposed changes to a 1951 state law passed to unmask the Ku Klux Klan, creating a backlash that prompted the Republican legislator to quickly discard the idea. State Rep. Jason Spencer came under fire from the American Civil Liberties Union and Muslim advocacy groups who called his proposal a veiled attempt to ban Muslim women from wearing scarves and other religious headgear that covers their faces in public — just as the law has prohibited Klan members from wearing masks during rallies and marches on public property. "It is a naked and despicable attempt to exploit the current wave of anti-Muslim sentiment by targeting Muslim women," Heather Weaver, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union in Washington, said Thursday. Spencer said the bill he introduced for next year's session of the Georgia Legislature would simply be "adding clarity" to a law passed decades ago to safeguard against what he called "threats from masked terrorists." And he insisted he wasn't targeting any specific group.

Associated Press: Appeals court blocks 'Making a Murderer' inmate's release

<http://bigstory.ap.org/bd9bb909ba1e4e8fa566c8e2af3ac9a6>

A Wisconsin prison inmate whose case was featured in the Netflix series "Making a Murderer" will stay behind bars while state attorneys appeal a decision overturning his conviction, a panel of federal appellate judges ruled Thursday. Brendan Dassey's release from prison appeared imminent right up until the three-judge panel from the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago issued its decision. Television crews and reporters were staking out the prison in Portage where Dassey is being held, waiting for him to walk out at any minute, when the ruling came down around midday. "We are disappointed more than words can say," Dassey's attorneys, Steve Drizin and Laura Nirider, said in a statement posted online shortly after the ruling was released. "The fight goes on." Dassey, now 27, was sentenced to life in prison in 2007 in the death of photographer Teresa Halbach two years earlier. He confessed to detectives that he helped his uncle, Steven Avery, rape and kill Halbach in the Avery family's salvage yard in Manitowoc County. Avery was sentenced to life in prison in a separate proceeding.

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