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To:
Date: 1/9/2017 5:14:36 PM
Subject: Afternoon Clips – Monday, January 9, 2017

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: SC Gov. Haley to Clemson coach Dabo Swinney: 'Leave it all on the field'

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article125429574.html>

Cassie Cope

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley plans to text Clemson football coach Dabo Swinney later on Monday night before the Tigers take on Alabama in the national championship game. "I'm just going to tell him: 'Leave it all on the field. Don't have any regrets,'" Haley said in an interview on Monday afternoon around 1 p.m. Haley said Monday she is a proud graduate of the Upstate university. Last year, she traveled to the Orange Bowl for Clemson's first appearance in the College Football Playoff. When Clemson kicks off against Alabama at 8 p.m. Monday, she will be watching from home with her family. "The way they stomped Ohio State was fantastic," Haley said, adding "I could not be more excited. I think this is going to be a great game tonight, and we've got a lot of Tiger fans around the country that are ready to finally see our turn. It's been since 1981 and so I think it's time."

Post and Courier: Nikki Haley to Dabo Swinney ahead of championship game: 'Leave it all on the field'

http://www.postandcourier.com/politics/nikki-haley-to-dabo-swinney-ahead-of-championship-game-leave/article_6b71b638-d6ac-11e6-b118-ab8bcd9dfae2.html

Andy Shain

The state's most-prominent Clemson grad has a message for Tigers head coach Dabo Swinney before Monday's national college football championship game "Leave it all on the field. Don't have any regrets," Gov. Nikki Haley told reporters hours ahead of the 8 p.m. kickoff. Holding a Clemson coffee cup, Haley said she planned to text Swinney before Clemson meets Alabama in Tampa, Fla. "I think they're focused. I think they're humble," she added. The governor is not traveling to the championship game, the Tigers' second straight after losing narrowly to the Crimson Tide last year. Haley will have a busy week in Columbia, including holding her State of the State address on Wednesday and preparing for a Senate confirmation hearing on her nomination as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

Greenville News: Haley to Clemson: Leave it all on the field

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2017/01/09/haley-clemson-leave-all-field/96358868/>

Tim Smith

Gov. Nikki Haley is offering no diplomatic words about Clemson's title game tonight with Alabama. "I am a proud governor and a proud alum," Haley, a Clemson graduate and President-elect Donald Trump's nominee for United Nations Ambassador, said Monday afternoon. "The way they stomped Ohio State was fantastic and I could not be more excited. I think this is going to be a great game tonight." Clemson beat Ohio State 31-0 in the Fiesta Bowl on New Year's Eve to earn a rematch against the top-ranked Alabama team, which beat them in last year's national championship game, 45-40. Haley said Clemson fans around the nation are excited.

WIS: Proud Clemson alum Gov. Nikki Haley hopeful for Clemson victory

<http://www.wistv.com/story/34218765/proud-clemson-alum-gov-nikki-haley-hopeful-for-clemson-victory>

Jeremy Turnage

South Carolina's No. 1 Clemson fan will once again be watching Monday night's National Championship with great interest. Even as she prepares to leave the Governor's Mansion to head to New York City as the new United States ambassador to the United Nations, Gov. Nikki Haley is hopeful her Clemson Tigers will walk away with a title against the Alabama Crimson Tide. "I'm a proud governor. I'm a proud alum," Haley said. "I mean, the idea that they're going back to the National Championship after Ohio State -- amazing blowout -- it's just very exciting." Haley said Clemson's second trip to the title has been good for the state and obviously good for the Tigers. She largely credits coach Dabo Swinney for his efforts in turning the team around in the past several seasons. Clemson faces Alabama in a rematch of last year's National Championship game with kickoff set for 8:17 p.m.

WACH: Go Tigers! Gov. Haley hopeful Clemson brings home national title

<http://wach.com/sports/clemson-tigers/go-tigers-gov-haley-hopeful-clemson-brings-home-national-title>

Matthew Stevens

Governor Nikki Haley will be cheering on her Clemson Tigers Monday night as they go for a national title against Alabama. "I'm so excited, after to see them stomp all over Ohio State it's just fantastic, I'm a proud governor and proud alum," said Haley. The governor said she will be giving head coach Dabo Swinney and the Tigers a special message ahead of the title game. "What I'm going to be telling the coach, because I text every time before a game, is leave it out all on the field, no regrets, go out and show them what you're made of," she said. Haley said she has fond memories of Clemson as that is where she met her husband and got engaged. In what could be Clemson's final game as Haley as governor, she is proud of what they accomplished and hopes they can finish the journey. "We were blessed to have them go to the national championship last year and to go back again this year and see how they persevered and fought through and really earned the right to be there I'm just proud and as a state we should be proud," concluded Haley.

General Assembly News:

The State: Merrill indictment casts pall over opening of SC Legislature

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article125436854.html>

The optimism that typically comes with the start of the S.C. legislative session each January is overshadowed this year by an ongoing investigation into allegations of State House corruption. When the General Assembly reconvenes Tuesday, the top issues will include fixing the state's crumbling roads; funding poor, rural schools; and addressing an underfunded pension system. But the corruption investigation will cast a pall over Tuesday's proceedings, raising a host of other issues, including...

NOTE: Crangle hopes Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster – set to become governor if Republican Nikki Haley is confirmed as U.N. ambassador – will push hard on ethics reform in order to position himself for re-election in 2018.

SC Agency News:

Post and Courier: South Carolina family sues DSS, claims agency placed sexually active children in their home

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/south-carolina-family-sues-dss-claims-agency-placed-sexually-active/article_e27b7810-d678-11e6-8fff-2363a8933843.html

Lauren Sausser

A Midlands couple who separated last year has sued the S.C. Department of Social Services, alleging the agency placed sexually active children in their home in 2012 without disclosing the children's history of abuse. The couple claims those children, in turn, sexually abused their biological children. In the 105-page complaint filed Friday in Charleston County, Corey and Tami Mitchell allege they "endured a nightmare and the breakup of their family due to the actions and inactions" of the state agency. It started in 2012, when the Mitchells agreed to assume custody of four siblings

because they had nowhere else to go, according to the suit. Their mother was deemed unfit because she abused drugs. Their father refused to submit to a drug test. Their maternal grandmother was dead. They had lived for several months with their maternal grandfather but they had been sexually abused in that home by teenagers and young adults, according to allegations made in the complaint.

Greenville News: Lawmakers discuss ideas to improve DDSN

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2017/01/09/lawmakers-discuss-ideas-improve-ddsn/96237036/>

Tim Smith

Some lawmakers favor placing the state Department of Disabilities and Special Needs in the governor's cabinet while others say they want to see more legislative oversight of the state's disabilities agency. A week before the Legislature returns to Columbia to begin a new two-year session, lawmakers interviewed by The Greenville News offered different ideas concerning DDSN but most say they want to see improvements at the agency. "It clearly needs to be different than it is currently," said Sen. Nikki Setzler, leader of Senate Democrats. Last month, Sen. John Scott, a Columbia Democrat, prefiled a bill to move DDSN into the governor's cabinet, saying the move is necessary to improve the care and accountability for the state's vulnerable adults.

NOTE: Asked last month about Scott's bill, Chaney Adams, press secretary for Gov. Nikki Haley, said, "the governor believes more accountability would be a good thing for DDSN."

Island Packet: Oysters year-round: DHEC has good news for shellfish lovers in SC

<http://www.islandpacket.com/sports/recreation/outdoors/article125379744.html>

Mandy Matney

South Carolina oyster lovers, rejoice. We could be shucking and slurping our favorite fresh shellfish year-round. On Thursday, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control approved the summer harvest of mariculture oysters, The Post and Courier reports. Two Beaufort lawmakers are working on the bill for approval by state lawmakers as an effort to boost the shellfish industry and keep oyster-loving tourists and residents of South Carolina happy through the summer months, according to the report. Right now, shellfish harvesting in South Carolina is limited to Sept. 16 through May 15 because of the increased chance of bacterial infection in the summer months. The proposal suggests further training and alternative methods for harvesting to prevent illness, according to the Post and Courier.

SC Delegation News:

Post and Courier: Sen. Tim Scott betting peanuts on Clemson championship game

http://www.postandcourier.com/politics/sen-tim-scott-betting-peanuts-on-clemson-championship-game/article_3a75feca-d68b-11e6-9755-97bb9c2790b5.html

Schuyler Kropf

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott is betting some South Carolina peanuts Monday against an Alabama U.S. senator that Clemson University will win the national college football championship. Scott, R-S.C., has what is being described as a friendly wager with Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., on the College Playoff National Championship between the Clemson Tigers and the University of Alabama Crimson Tide. If Bama wins, Scott will deliver Cromer's Peanuts to Shelby's office. If the Tigers win, Shelby will provide Preister's Pecans to Scott's office. The pair issued a joint statement outlining their positions in a nutshell... "Led by Coach Swinney and Deshaun Watson, Clemson has had another amazing year," Scott said. "The good news – it's about to get even better when they bring the National Championship home to Death Valley. Go Tigers!" "I'm extremely proud of the Crimson Tide's performance this season and look forward to this exciting match-up," Shelby said. "I have no doubt that Coach Saban will have our team prepared and that he will lead the Tide to another National Championship victory."

SC Political News:

The State: SC environmentalists blast Trump cabinet picks

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article125448049.html>

Sammy Fretwell

Protesters rallied Monday in Columbia against three of President-elect Donald Trump's choices to run federal agencies that affect the environment. Environmentalists took aim at Scott Pruitt, Trump's choice to oversee the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Rex Tillerson, the president-elect's pick for Secretary of State; and Rick Perry, who would run the Department of Energy. About 30 people demonstrated and waved signs at the Hampton Street office of U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, one of Trump's' harshest Republican critics, in the hope of swaying the senator not to support Pruitt, Tillerson or Perry. Monday's protest was part of a national day of action at senators' offices across the country, organizers said. Confirmation hearings on Trump's picks begin this week in the U.S. Senate. Christopher Hall, a Sierra Club official in Columbia, said the protests were held at Graham's office because he's more likely to listen to their concerns. Protests were not held at offices for U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, R-SC. "We might not always see eye-to-eye, but we feel he is a little bit more moderate," Hall said of Graham.

Dylann Roof Case:

Associated Press: Wounds re-open as Dylann Roof's sentencing nears

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

Meg Kinnard

In a courtroom a mile from the church slayings, wounds re-opened as nearly two dozen friends and relatives of the nine victims shared cherished memories and opined about a future without a mother, father, sister or brother. They shed tears and their voices shook, but none of them said whether Dylann Roof should face the death penalty or life in prison for gunning down the church members during a Bible study at Emanuel AME. That will be left up to the jury, which will begin its deliberations Tuesday after hearing a closing argument from prosecutors and perhaps Roof. He has represented himself during sentencing, but has not put up any fight for his life. He didn't call any witnesses, present any evidence and so far has not asked for mercy. He did try to limit the amount of heart-wrenching testimony the jurors heard, but with only little success.

Associated Press: The Latest: Hearing on Roof jury instructions concludes

<http://bigstory.ap.org/9da44e5bf8ff434ca5b645a95e8e6010>

Prosecutors and legal advisers for Dylann Roof have concluded their discussion over what instructions jurors will get before beginning their deliberations on his fate. What's known as a charge conference took about two hours on Monday afternoon after the government rested its case. As their final witnesses, prosecutors called relatives of Tywanza Sanders, the youngest of Roof's victims. Roof, acting as his own lawyer, called no witnesses and did no cross-examination. Jurors return to court Tuesday to begin considering if Roof should die for killing nine people as they prayed during a June 2015 Bible study at Emanuel AME Church.

Associated Press: The Latest: Prosecutors rest death penalty case against Roof

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=0hcqP8z2

SC State Wire

Prosecutors have rested their death penalty case against Dylann Roof after four days of testimony. The government called its final witnesses Monday. Three relatives of Tywanza Sanders testified. The 26-year-old Sanders the youngest victim of the June 2015 shootings at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. Father Tyrone Sanders said he missed taking fishing trips and homecoming visits with his son. Felicia Sanders, who survived the attack during a Bible study session, said her son was a creative young man who was dedicated to Emanuel. Roof is representing himself and did not cross-examine any witnesses. He has said he won't call any witnesses, but the judge granted Roof's request for a recess after the government rested its case.

The State: Roof won't testify as prosecution rests. Case likely to go to jury Tuesday

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article125405074.html>

John Monk and Cynthia Roldan

Convicted Charleston church hate crimes killer Dylann Roof said Monday he will offer no witnesses to counter the prosecution's case that he should die by execution. As the jury watched, Roof rose from his table in the front of the courtroom around noon Monday. "The defense rests," Roof told U.S. Judge Richard Gergel, then sat back down. Only minutes before, federal prosecutors had rested their case. Gergel then sent the jury home for the day with instructions to get a good night's sleep. On Tuesday, jurors will begin deliberating Roof's fate. Before deliberations start Tuesday, federal prosecutors will make a closing argument to the jury, summing up the facts about this case they say warrants a decision to give Roof the death penalty.

Post and Courier: Dylann Roof rests case without calling witnesses, offering evidence in hate crimes trial

http://www.postandcourier.com/church_shooting/dylann-roof-rests-case-without-calling-witnesses-offering-evidence-in/article_756f914c-d615-11e6-937d-2f583e2d05fc.html

Glenn SMmith, Jennifer Berry Hawes and Abigail Darlington

With his life on the line, Dylann Roof opted Monday to offer no witnesses or evidence in his defense as a federal jury prepares Tuesday to decide whether he should be put to death for killing nine black worshipers in Charleston. Acting as his own attorney and with none of his family in the courtroom, the 22-year-old white supremacist declined to mount a defense in his hate crimes trial. He rested his case without adding further comment. Closing arguments are scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Tuesday. It's anyone's guess whether Roof will try to convince the 12-member jury to spare his life. He gave only a brief opening statement, insisting that he isn't mentally ill. The same panel – three black jurors, nine white – found Roof guilty last month of 33 offenses related to the June 2015 mass shooting at the South's oldest AME church. They will choose between two options for Roof: the death penalty, or a life prison term without the possibility of parole.

Flood 2015:

Associated Press: 3 Richland Co. bridges open, replace those damaged in flood

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=rP5UYP3K

SC State Wire

State transportation officials say three new bridges have opened in Richland County to replace three that were damaged by the deadly floods of October 2015. Officials say the three bridges opened Monday on S.C. Highway 48, or Bluff Road, over Black Swamp, Cedar Creek and Dry Branch. The bridges were closed April 14, 2016, after an inspection by South Carolina Department of Transportation engineers showed damage from the October 2015 flood. Bridge inspectors found evidence of scour at each of the three bridges. Scour occurs when swift-moving water causes erosion around the bridge supports.

SC Winter Storm News:

Associated Press: Driving dangerous in Upstate South Carolina after storm

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

SC State Wire

Cold weather has followed up the weekend snow storm in South Carolina. The National Weather Service reported that temperatures early Monday ranged from 16 in Cheraw to 30 in Beaufort. A winter weather advisory is in effect in five counties in the northwestern corner of the state. The weather service says driving conditions will be dangerous in Oconee, Pickens, Greenville, Spartanburg and Cherokee counties until moon Monday. Duke Energy reported about 800 customers without electricity early Monday. The biggest problems were in Anderson and Williamsburg counties. Some schools and government offices were opening two hours later than usual on Monday.

Associated Press: The Latest: East waits for thaw; West prepares for flooding

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ny8ou2Fg

SC State Wire

As the East Coast waits to thaw out from a weekend icy mess, another storm is bringing rain and the potential of the worst flooding in more than a decade to the West Coast. At least four deaths have been blamed on the East Coast storm, which dropped more than a foot of snow in southern New England, caused a former governor to fall on his icy driveway in Mississippi and prompted schools in North Carolina to cancel classes Monday. Out West, forecasters are warning of heavy rains in northern California and Nevada through the middle of the week along with an ice storm in Oregon. In the East, the worst, lingering problems were expected in North Carolina where up to 10 inches of snow and sleet fell in places Saturday. The deep freeze followed. Forecasters predict temperatures won't get above freezing in much of the state before Tuesday afternoon, a big problem in a place where officials depend on usually mild weather to melt away the ice and snow on less traveled routes.

South Carolina News:

The State: Schools chief: SC schools need \$95 million to buy 1,000 school buses

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article125463024.html>

Bristow Marchant

S.C. schools Superintendent Molly Spearman Monday asked the Legislature for \$95 million to buy 1,000 new buses. Some school children are riding in buses that are nearly 30 years old, raising concerns about reliability, safety and the cost to taxpayers for the maintenance and fuel needed to keep the aging fleet on the road. The state's plan to phase out older buses is not working, receiving only "episodic" funding, Spearman said Monday, asking for a one-time injection of \$95 million to buy new buses. "I wish it had not come to such a large amount," Spearman said at a press conference in front of the State House, where the Legislature convenes Tuesday. But, for too long, "school buses have gone to the bottom of the list" while setting the state's spending priorities.

Post and Courier: S.C. offers lowest gas prices in nation for 2nd week as fuel costs continue to rise

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/s-c-offers-lowest-gas-prices-in-nation-for-nd/article_f6462bb2-d676-11e6-a770-33dd7491b6da.html

Warren L. Wise

Filling up at the pump continues to cost more, but South Carolina still offers the lowest-price gasoline in the nation for the second week in a row. The price jumped 3.5 cents last week across the Palmetto State to an average of \$2.13 per gallon, according to gas price service GasBuddy and motor club AAA. That's about 41 cents higher than this same time last year. Nationally, the average price rose 2.1 cents per gallon during the past week to \$2.37, about 39 cents above the cost of gasoline one year ago at this time. A gasoline stockpile along with frigid weather on the East Coast and heavy rain on the West Coast should help gasoline prices hold steady this week across the U.S., according to GasBuddy senior petroleum analyst Gregg Laskoski.

Post and Courier: Charleston ports agency announces record cargo totals for 2016

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/charleston-ports-agency-announces-record-cargo-totals-for/article_67b5ccea-d6ad-11e6-b0aa-d36256c87658.html

David Wren

The State Ports Authority on Monday said it handled a record number of cargo containers for a calendar year in 2016. The SPA said 1.996 million cargo boxes moved through the Port of Charleston last year, surpassing the 1.985 million boxes handled in 2005. The number of containers in 2016 was up 1.2 percent over the previous year. Jim Newsome, the SPA's president and CEO, called the record "a significant accomplishment," adding the maritime agency is optimistic about the future because of the number of automobile manufacturing projects in the Southeast and the recovery of emerging markets overseas. BMW's manufacturing plant in Greer is one of the port's top customers, exporting

287,700 vehicles in 2016. The German automaker said Monday its Greer plant produced a record 411,171 vehicles last year.

Local News:

Associated Press: Jewish centers in several states targeted with bomb threats

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=HRW6HdPa

SC State Wire

Bomb threats targeted Jewish community centers in several states, but it wasn't immediately clear whether the threats were linked, authorities said Monday. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives spokeswoman Amanda Hils said in an email that the agency was aware of the threats and its field divisions were ready to assist state and local law enforcement. The Maitland Jewish Community Campus was evacuated Monday for the second time in a week because of a bomb threat. The complex includes a school, community center, a Holocaust museum and the offices of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando. Police said no explosives were found after bomb threats were received at the Miami Beach Jewish Community Center and the Jewish Community Alliance of Jacksonville.

NOTE: Buildings were evacuated and authorities investigated similar threats in Tenafly, New Jersey, and Columbia, South Carolina. In Maryland, threats also were called into Jewish community centers in Baltimore and Rockville.

The State: Bomb threat evacuates Jewish community center; threats reported in 5 states

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article125414469.html>

Teddy Kulmala

A bomb threat Monday morning forced the evacuation of the Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center, according to officials. Richland County deputies responded to the center on Flora Drive around 11:30 a.m. and evacuated the building, said Lt. Curtis Wilson of the Sheriff's Department. Bomb squad officers evacuated and searched the building but found nothing. The center, located at 306 Flora Drive, offers social, recreational, educational and cultural events based on Jewish values, traditions and culture, according to its website. The Tennessean in Nashville reported that threats have been phoned in to Jewish community centers in five states Monday, including four cities in Florida. It's unclear if the threat at Columbia's center is related to the other incidents.

Associated Press: Simpsonville man, woman die from gunshot wounds

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Q7gw2hTO

SC State Wire

Greenville County authorities say a Simpsonville man has been found dead and his wife died later at a hospital from gunshot wounds. Coroner Parks Evans told local media outlets that 87-year-old Joseph Samuel Hall was found sitting in the couple's car in a garage Sunday afternoon. Eighty-five-year-old Mildred Ann Hall was also found in the car. She died Sunday evening at Greenville Memorial Hospital. Sheriff's Master Deputy Drew Pinciario said the couple was found in the car after a family member went to their home to do a welfare check. Autopsies were scheduled for Monday. The investigation is continuing.

Associated Press: Man dies in fire at home in Greer

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

SC State Wire

One man has died after fire burned a home in Greer. Firefighters were called to the home around 12:30 a.m. Monday. Greer fire marshal Scott Keeley said a man was found dead near the bathroom in the home. The victim's name has not been released. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

The State: Got warrants? Surrender and minimize jail time with 'Operation Clean Slate'

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article125412829.html>

Tedy Kulmala

Anyone with outstanding warrants in Richland County can turn themselves in later this month and minimize their chances of going to jail. The Richland County Sheriff's Department and Columbia Police Department on Monday announced "Operation Clean Slate," which allows anyone who's been charged but not yet arrested by either agency to surrender. If they turn themselves in, their chances are better of not going to jail or even have the charges dropped. "We want to start the year off giving everybody an opportunity to have a clean slate going forward in their future so they can start being more productive to the community," Michael Baker, pastor of Greater St. Luke Baptist Church, said at a news conference.

Post and Courier: North Charleston Mayor Keith Summey selects NAACP president Dot Scott for police advisory commission

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/north-charleston-mayor-keith-summey-selects-naACP-president-dot-scott/article_3b3c70d6-d67d-11e6-b225-0b2266d9e93d.html

Diane Knich

North Charleston Mayor Keith Summey has selected NAACP leader Dot Scott, a woman he once publicly referred to as "a nut," as his appointment to the city's new Citizens' Advisory Commission on Community-Police Relations. The commission is being formed now with the final make up of the 25-member group to be revealed at the first City Council meeting in February, city spokesman Ryan Johnson said. Many city residents have said they don't think the commission will be effective because it doesn't include subpoena power. Some have said they will refuse to participate. The plan to form the commission was approved last year by City Council in the wake of the motorist Walter Scott shooting.

President-elect Trump News:

Associated Press: Trump son-in-law Kushner to take senior White House role

<http://bigstory.ap.org/9985ee057bd8493aadb47c4ea615185f>

President-elect Donald Trump's influential son-in-law, Jared Kushner, will join the White House as a senior adviser, according to two people briefed on the decision. He's taking a broad role that could give him sway over both domestic and foreign policy. Kushner, who is married to Trump's daughter Ivanka, is taking the West Wing job despite an anti-nepotism law that bars officials from appointing relatives to government positions. Some aides to Trump have argued that the law does not apply to the White House. Kushner's lawyer has said he would step down as CEO of his family's real estate business if he took a White House position and would divest some of his assets in order to comply with federal ethics laws that apply to government employees. The law requires Kushner to take more significant steps to detangle his business interests than Trump, given that conflict of interest laws largely do not apply to the president.

Associated Press: Trump, McCain weigh in on Meryl Streep's Globes speech

<http://bigstory.ap.org/af7f478958294f8f838dc219a3451a5e>

Meryl Streep's acceptance speech after receiving a lifetime achievement award at the Golden Globes turned out to be the opening volley in a war of words with President-elect Donald Trump. The actress never mentioned Trump by name, but it was clear who her target was in pointedly saying that a performance from the past year that stunned her came from the campaign trail. She noted an incident where "the person asking to sit in the most respected seat in our country" imitated a disabled reporter from The New York Times. "It kind of broke my heart when I saw it," she said. "I still can't get it out of my head, because it wasn't in a movie. It was real life." Streep said that "when the powerful use their position to bully others, we all lose."

Associated Press: Christie emerges empty-handed, his ratings at home dismal

<http://bigstory.ap.org/862f2e8fa7464d9497fba98c431e8475>

As the last of the top jobs in the Trump administration are handed out in Washington, Gov. Chris

Christie is looking increasingly like the guy in "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory" who is told: "You get nothing! You lose! Good day, sir!" With his own failed presidential campaign behind him and his support of Donald Trump unrewarded with a high-level post, Christie instead faces his eighth and final year as governor of New Jersey, where his approval ratings are a dreadful 19 percent. His numbers have been dragged down by resentment over his national ambitions, his embrace of Trump and the George Washington Bridge traffic-jam scandal. On Tuesday, Christie will deliver his annual State of the State Address, during which the 54-year-old Republican will lay out his agenda — and no doubt begin trying to salvage his legacy — to an electorate that would rather see him go.

National News:

Associated Press: Airport shooting suspect makes initial court appearance

<http://bigstory.ap.org/b91167ffa4046599a78189d19fe0c3d>

The Iraq war veteran held in the fatal shooting of five people inside Fort Lauderdale's airport answered questions in a clear voice Monday as he was appointed public defenders and told he could face the death penalty. Esteban Santiago, 26, appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge Alicia Valle, who ordered him held until his next hearings. Shackled in a red jumpsuit in the heavily guarded federal courtroom, Santiago answered mostly yes or no to questions, and told the judge he understands the charges, which include committing violence against people at an international airport resulting in death, and two firearms offenses. She told him the death penalty could apply. "We are telling you the maximum penalty allowed by law so that you understand the seriousness of the charges," the judge said.

World News:

Associated Press: Syria's Assad ready to 'negotiate everything' with rebels

<http://bigstory.ap.org/ae9ba870418e45519eef2c9d78c862e4>

Syrian President Bashar Assad said in remarks published Monday that he was prepared "to negotiate everything" at planned talks later this month in Kazakhstan, seeking to cast himself as a peacemaker after his forces' recapture of Aleppo last month. However, the upcoming talks, brokered by Ankara and Moscow, are still in doubt as Syrian opposition groups have yet to confirm their participation. Syrian activists meanwhile reported what appeared to be a U.S.-led special forces raid on Islamic State militants in eastern Syria. Omar Abou Leila, who runs Deir Ezzor 24, said four helicopters landed in the desert between the IS-held cities of Deir el-Zour and Raqqa on Sunday. Commandos set up checkpoints and intercepted a vehicle carrying several Islamic State militants, killing all of them and flying off with the bodies, he said.

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