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Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, October 26, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: The billion-dollar battle over clean air

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/the-billion-dollar-battle-over-clean-air/article_548d6b2c-96d5-11e6-88e7-4340d8faced8.html

Doug Pardue and Tony Bartelme

South Carolina electricity customers could save as much as \$1 billion a year thanks to the Obama administration's Clean Air Plan and steps here to shift from coal toward nuclear power. But that savings could go up in smoke if S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson and Gov. Nikki Haley have their way. Wilson and Haley are part of a coalition of utilities, coal companies and 27 states challenging the Obama plan in federal court. It's a titanic legal battle happening amid the global threat of a rapidly changing climate, a fight that pits the fossil fuel industry against an equally hefty alliance of environmental groups, public health advocates and 18 other states. The impact of this court drama will surge through the nation's electric grids and ratepayers' wallets. In South Carolina, billions of dollars hang in the balance, a Post and Courier analysis found.

NOTE: "This flawed plan demonstrates yet again the EPA's disregard for the rule of law," Attorney General Alan Wilson said after the Supreme Court order. "I am hopeful the federal courts will eventually strike down this unconstitutional overreach." Gov. Haley also has spoken out against the Clean Power Plan.

Morning News: Domestic violence review teams look for ways tackle problems in Pee Dee

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_91eb5598-9b0c-11e6-bd35-67485147e507.html

Jessica Imbimbo

The first Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee Workshop was held on Oct. 17 and 18 to help county and state officials identify trends in domestic violence deaths and improve prevention and intervention methods. The third, fourth, and twelfth judicial court circuits' fatality review teams all attended the two-day workshop hosted by the South Carolina Commission on Prosecution Coordination. Each of South Carolina's 16 court circuits has established its own domestic violence fatality review committee consisting of law enforcement officials, prosecutors and victim advocates among others. The domestic violence fatality review teams were created as part of a law signed by Gov. Nikki Haley in March aimed at decreasing the number of people killed by domestic violence in the state. Prior to the passing of that legislation, South Carolina was one of just nine states that did not have domestic violence fatality review committees.

WRDW: Gov. Haley to hold press conference updating on Matthew recovery efforts

<http://www.wrdw.com/content/news/Gov-Haley-to-hold-press-conference-updating-on-Matthew-recovery-efforts-398649781.html>

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley will hold a press conference at 10 a.m. on Wednesday to give an update on the recovery efforts after Hurricane Matthew. Gov. Haley is expected to announce the expansion of the One SC Fund to help those impacted. Preliminary numbers from one of the worst hit

places, Hilton Head, show that one in five buildings were damaged, and nearly 400 buildings there had major damage. The One SC funding program was established to help South Carolinians recover from natural disasters. It was first used during the historic flooding that devastated the state in October 2015.

Hurricane Matthew:

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

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

Tim Smith

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

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

The State: 'It's going to take an even bigger miracle to ... make Nichols back whole again'

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article110449992.html>

Avery G. Wilks

The burgundy carpet inside Dwight Dimery's three-bedroom home in Nichols still oozes mucky water when you step on it. Storm debris, ruined clothes and waterlogged furniture are strewn throughout the house, where floodwater recently reached as high as the countertops. The mold left growing after Hurricane Matthew is strong enough to make your eyes water. And yet, the 58-year-old truck driver is here with a rake and a mop, hoping to clean out what he can – most of his belongings are headed to the landfill – while pondering his next move. Dimery hopes the Federal Emergency Management Agency will come through with its maximum grant — \$33,300 — though applicants historically get a fraction of that, if anything. But even that likely will not be enough to repair a ruined home with \$79,000 left on its mortgage. "It's going to be a right good financial hit." Dimery could use a miracle.

Post and Courier: Charleston, Berkeley residents approved for FEMA assistance following Hurricane Matthew

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/charleston-berkeley-residents-approved-for-fema-assistance-following-hurricane-matthew/article_fed8abc0-9af7-11e6-9a08-c7439bac5c4f.html

Derek Asberry

Residents in Charleston and Berkeley counties who suffered significant damages to their property during Hurricane Matthew can apply for individual assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Gov. Nikki Haley's office reported Tuesday that the two counties join 22 others

that have been approved. Dorchester County was approved last week. The federal program will provide money for temporary rental assistance, home repairs, low-cost loans and other needs.

Post and Courier: Hurricane Matthew disaster recovery centers open in Dorchester and Williamsburg counties

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/hurricane-matthew-disaster-recovery-centers-open-in-dorchester-and-williamsburg/article_28a58552-9ae1-11e6-8db4-aff9afcdb4bc.html

Gregory Yee

State and federal officials have set up disaster recovery centers in Dorchester and Williamsburg counties for residents impacted by Hurricane Matthew. The S.C. Emergency Management Division, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Small Business Administration and other agencies will be at the centers to help residents with aid applications. The Dorchester County center is located at Miles Road Baptist Church, 819 Miles Road in Summerville. It is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday. The Williamsburg County center is located at the Williamsburg Recreation Center, 2084 Thurgood Marshall Highway in Kingstree. The center will be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday. If possible, register with FEMA before visiting a recovery center by visiting DisasterAssistance.gov or calling the FEMA helpline [800-621-3362](tel:800-621-3362). Phone lines are open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.

Island Packet: What you need to know about private road pick-up in Beaufort County, on Hilton Head

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article110341482.html>

Kelly Meyerhofer

Beaufort County committed to the clean-up of private roads Monday night, but the looming question of when pickup begins is still out of its hands. County council declared a county state of emergency in a 10-1 vote. The proclamation should help the county make its case to Federal Emergency Management Agency, deputy county administrator Josh Gruber said. The county will not remove debris until a decision comes from the FEMA. And even then, Gruber warned, cleanup is "... not going to happen overnight." Another big unknown is who will pay the county's contractor for the work. The contract for public roads alone is just shy of \$10 million, Gruber said, but a discussion on who will pick up the tab for private road cleanup hasn't even begun. Here's what we do know...

Sun News: Working on their own storm recovery, Horry County officers look to community for help

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article110392522.html>

Emily Weaver

Law enforcement officers have been "working around the clock" throughout Horry County in the days since Hurricane Matthew hit and flooding ensued. But limited manpower and the need for officers to have time to deal with their own recoveries after the storm have stretched already strained resources. "I've got to send my folks home to replenish and fix their own damage. We've had great help from the state, but they've got to go back to their lives, too," said Horry County Police Chief Joe Hill. Officers are looking to their community partners to be their eyes and ears and alert them to suspicious activity as flood waters recede and the threat of looting grows. Officers have been staked at checkpoints in flooded communities to limit access to residents, but police forces will not be able to man checkpoints indefinitely.

Sun News: Hurricane Matthew damages pile up, literally

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article110337052.html>

Audrey Hudson

The wreckage of Hurricane Matthew across Horry County is vast, and officials say they will be cleaning up the mess and making repairs for several months. Nearly 1,000 roads were damaged, 199 county roads have been closed and dozens of bridges have been impacted, Public Works Director David Gilreath told the Infrastructure and Regulations Committee of the county council Tuesday. No cost estimate has been set, but officials say they are carefully documenting the damage and will apply to FEMA for reimbursement. Upwards of 700 damaged homes will also be relying on FEMA or private insurance to make repairs. Along the county-controlled coastline in Garden City, fencing was destroyed and beaches severely damaged.

Morning News: Nichols woman relies on faith to weather the flood recovery

http://www.scnow.com/news/hurricane_matthew/article_ac040b74-9b0b-11e6-ba25-e794ba1dc625.html

Joshua Lloyd

"Most people lost a house. I lost a home; the place where I raised my kids and built my life. Now it's gone and I'm too old to start over." Patricia Coleman has lived in the Nichols community of Marion County for over 40 years, but floodwaters have led her and her husband to seek refuge in their local church fellowship hall for the past two weeks. Floodwaters brought on by Hurricane Matthew destroyed their home. "God was good to us and allowed us to get out when we did," she said. "The flood could have happened in the middle of the night and we would have never made it out." Coleman said rain had been falling for hours as Hurricane Matthew rolled through the Pee Dee, and the lake about a quarter mile behind her house had risen some but nothing out of the ordinary. "I looked out the back window and I could see some water but it wasn't unusual," she said. "About 30 minutes later I looked again and it had risen up to the back porch. That's about five feet high. It was knee high in the front yard before we could ever make it to the car." Coleman, an elderly woman who walks with a cane, said Nichols is in the worst condition she's ever seen.

Morning News: Nichols: The town that lost everything

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_0e65d420-9a47-11e6-9024-07ee0fd8cbbd.html

Joshua Lloyd

Some parts of Nichols are still under water, and no businesses are open after massive flooding, spurred by Hurricane Matthew, devastated the small, rural Pee Dee town this month. South Carolina House Speaker Jay Lucas toured the town Monday with Mayor Lawson Battle to see the destruction first-hand. Of the town's 260 homes, 236 either were completely destroyed or severely damaged in addition to nearly 300 vehicles and more than 20 businesses. "It's shocking," Lucas said. "It's not every day that you see a town that's been laid to waste. I've never seen anything like this. It's been 16 days, and some homes still have water in them." Nichols has no water, no sewer, no police or fire protection right now. As of Monday, Battle said the town is seeking aid from any agency that can offer it, and he primarily is working to keep citizens from losing hope – especially the hundreds of people who remain in shelters and churches with no home to return to.

Moultrie News: SCE&G completes restoration efforts after Hurricane Matthew

http://www.moultrienews.com/news/business/sce-g-completes-restoration-efforts-after-hurricane-matthew/article_b11d262a-9635-11e6-8b99-bfc34dff3352.html

South Carolina Electric & Gas has completed restoration to customers impacted by Hurricane Matthew. On Saturday, Oct. 8, Matthew made landfall southeast of McClellanville as a Category 1 hurricane with 75 mile per hour winds and heavy rain. More than 290,000 outages were reported at the peak of the storm, which occurred at 2 p.m. Oct. 8. Hardest hit by the high winds were SCE&G customers in the coastal counties of Charleston, Beaufort, Dorchester and Colleton as well as

Richland County in the Midlands. SCE&G crews worked day and night until service was restored to all customers who lost power during the storm. More than 2,000 employees and 1,000 off-system crew members, some from as far away as Ohio, Oklahoma, Mississippi and Kentucky, helped with storm restoration efforts, including many investor-owned utilities and off-system and on-system contract crews.

NOTE: As part of its commitment to serving the people of South Carolina, SCE&G is also helping its neighbors through charitable donations. Last week, SCE&G announced a \$200,000 donation to Gov. Nikki Haley's One SC Fund to provide relief to South Carolinians affected by last year's flood and by Hurricane Matthew.

NOTE: "When you look at the donations of a company like SCE&G that's thinking past just getting the power back on, but actually thinking about getting people back into safe homes, and when you look at what neighbors are doing to help each other, whether they know each other or not, this is one South Carolina," Haley said during the Oct. 17 press conference.

WOLO: Trio Wanted for Allegedly Stealing \$10K Worth of Tools, Supplies to Help Disaster Relief Victims

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/2016/10/25/trio-wanted-for-allegedly-stealing-10k-worth-of-tools-supplies-to-help-disaster-relief-victims/>

Kimberlei Davis

Deputies with the Richland County Sheriff's Department are looking for three suspects who they say stole \$10,000 worth of tools and supplies to help disaster relief victims. On October 8, on the 2700 Block of Shop Road, the trio stole a 1997 white 20 foot enclosed Hallmark trailer that contained the tools and supplies from the South Beltline – Gills Creek Community Relief Foundation, authorities say. Sheriff Leon Lott said the suspects cut the lock to the organization's gate to gain entry onto the property and fled the location in a white pickup truck.

WMBF: Conway-area businesses cleaning up the mess left by flooding

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33480628/conway-area-businesses-cleaning-up-the-mess-left-by-flooding>

Amy Lipman

Rivertown Fitness on Main Street is cleaning up after flood damage, working to reopen to gym members. "We got hit by the flood last year when we moved in," said Jonathon Sharpe, who owns RPT Sports, an athletic training business within Rivertown Fitness. "It wasn't as bad as this year, but then a year later here it comes again and this one was pretty bad." The gym took on 16 inches of water during Hurricane Matthew, then another eight inches several days later from Crab Tree Swamp, which stuck around for a week and a half. "A week and a half of just the water sitting in here is kind of what caused the problem and why it's taking so long to dry everything out," Sharpe said of the indoor turf, which he worked to dry out with fans Tuesday. Sharpe once played in the NFL, but he said cleanup since the flood has been tough work. He's had to move heavy gym equipment across the building to clean it, rip out walls and scrub floors.

WMBF: Over 1 million pounds of storm debris collected in Hartsville

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33479788/over-1-million-pounds-of-storm-debris-collected-in-hartsville>

Brad Dickerson

Crews with the city of Hartsville have collected over 1.1 million pounds of debris from storm-related issues in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. According to a press release from the city of Hartsville, approximately 1,107,140 pounds of debris had been picked up as of Friday, Oct. 21. "At this time,

yard debris removal is the focus of the city's efforts," the release stated. "Other items such as furniture will be picked up at a later time." City officials added that representatives with the Federal Emergency Management Agency have been in the area for damage assessments and collecting information related to damages. However, residents and business owners are urged to be careful who they give important personal information to. FEMA representatives have badges and are easily identifiable, the release stated. Anyone claiming to assist FEMA or be with the agency should be reported to the proper authorities.

WMBF: Disaster recovery center opens in Florence County

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33464229/disaster-recovery-center-opens-in-florence-county>

Brad Dickerson

The Florence County Disaster Recovery Center opened its' doors Tuesday afternoon to help those residents still recovering from Hurricane Matthew. It is located at the R.O.B. community building and will remain open until the need is no longer there. There are Federal Emergency Management Agency representatives on standby ready and willing to answer any questions people may have. FEMA manage, Joann Cook recommends people register before coming to the center in order to expedite the process. Individuals can check the status of their application, schedule an inspector to come to their house and find out every detail about eligibility. Cook encourages all flood victims to apply with the Small Business Association for low interest loans on homes or businesses. An SBA employee said not to wait for an insurance settlement and just apply with FEMA first. If it turns out a loan is needed, then they will receive a referral.

WPDE: Food pantries, hurricane victims struggle to feed families after disaster

<http://wpde.com/news/local/food-pantries-hurricane-victims-struggle-to-feed-families-after-storm>

Liz Cooper

Many families impacted by the massive flooding during Hurricane Matthew aren't getting disaster food assistance, D-SNAP, and some are left wondering how to stock their pantries. Currently, officials say additional food assistance will only be for those who were already registered for food stamps or SNAP. That's left many wondering why more people aren't eligible for temporary assistance. According to the USDA, the problem is with the state of South Carolina. A spokesperson with USDA said in a statement Tuesday afternoon, "FNS (Food and Nutrition Services) has not received a D-SNAP request from the state of South Carolina for any of the counties with declarations of individual assistance which is a prerequisite for a D-SNAP. It is the State's decision whether or not to request a D-SNAP in the wake of disaster."

Michael Slager Case:

Post and Courier: Judge vacates decision to seal filings in Michael Slager case, will take up other concerns

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/judge-vacates-decision-to-seal-filings-in-michael-slager-case/article_cdb11f58-9af9-11e6-a277-6f3612410807.html

Andrew Knapp

A judge on Tuesday vacated his order to seal future filings in Michael Slager's murder case after The Post and Courier raised concerns about the move. Circuit Judge Clifton Newman made the demand of attorneys last week, when he also ejected most members of the public from a portion of a hearing when prosecutors were slated to testify. Citing constitutional provisions for open court proceedings and records, an attorney for the newspaper on Monday proposed to Newman that he vacate the order to seal the documents and his decision to close the proceeding. The judge on Tuesday said he

decided to vacate the records sealing "upon consideration of the applicable First Amendment and related rights and giving fair consideration to the constitutional rights of the parties." He also set a hearing for noon Friday to address other concerns about openness of the proceedings.

General Assembly News:

The State: Fixing SC's pension system will take more money, lawmakers told

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article110351687.html>

Cassie Cope

There is no way to fix South Carolina's retirement system for state workers without more money flowing into the plan, a pension expert told lawmakers Tuesday. More money will be needed because the S.C. pension plan has been "grossly underfunded" for years, said Anthony Randazzo, managing director of the libertarian Reason Foundation's Pension Integrity Project. Too little money going into the pension system has resulted in roughly \$20 billion in unfunded liabilities. That is the difference between the amount the pension fund has to pay for the retirement benefits of state and local government workers, including teachers, and the amount it has promised to pay current employees and retirees. In an effort to close that gap, lawmakers are looking at whether to spend more taxpayer money or take more money from the paychecks of government workers. Lawmakers also could close the pension plan to new employees and require they take part in a defined contribution plan — like a 401k investment plan.

The State: SC's pension debt is \$40 billion, lawmakers told

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article110351687.html>

Cassie Cope

South Carolina's unfunded pension debt could be nearly twice as large as estimated — \$40 billion. View the database of state employee salaries That debt has been estimated at \$20 billion. But that assumed a 7.5 percent return on the pension fund's investments. If the state were to apply a more realistic market value rate of return — 4 percent — to those investments, the retirement system's unfunded liabilities would grow to almost \$40 billion, said Anthony Randazzo, managing director of the libertarian Reason Foundation's Pension Integrity Project. Randazzo told S.C. lawmakers Tuesday the pension fund has been "grossly underfunded" for years and will need to be shored up with more money. Where that money will come from — state workers or taxpayers — has yet to be decided.

Post and Courier: 401k-type plan a possible pension alternative for state employees

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/k-type-plan-a-possible-pension-alternative-for-state-employees/article_8baa1ada-9ab1-11e6-8081-33200409cc1b.html

Gavin Jackson

Experts told lawmakers Tuesday that South Carolina is well-positioned to transition away from its troubled pension plan to a 401k-type retirement plan, despite failed attempts in other states and worries from state employee advocates. Rep. Bill Herbkersman, R-Bluffton, co-chair of the Joint Committee on Pension Systems Review, said closing the current pension plan to new employees and offering an alternative could be one way to combat the growing \$20 billion pension shortfall. "It will be a starting point and is something we're considering right now," Herbkersman said. The state currently offers a defined contribution plan, with cost-sharing, as an option to the pension plan. The plan requires employees to exert more responsibility over their investments and contributions but are free from rate increases that have jumped to 8.66 percent. Greg Mennis, director of the Public Sector Retirement Systems Project with the Pew Charitable Trusts, called the state's defined contribution

plan "robust" with around 14 percent of new employees selecting the plan.

Associated Press: USC agrees to reduce fees to build \$50M football facility

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=VYBHj85G

Seanna Adcox

A legislative panel that reviews public borrowing advanced the project a day after the Commission on Higher Education set stipulations. One requires USC to reduce athletic fees charged to students from South Carolina by \$1 million annually for 10 years, starting in 2017. The university also agreed to raise an additional \$14 million to cut the debt in a decade. If fundraising falls short, the money must come from Under Armour and media contracts, both signed earlier this year. The 105,000-square-foot facility - to include a gym, offices and players' lounges - will otherwise be funded with student athletic fees, ticket revenue and \$6 million in already-pledged private donations. It's expected to open in December 2018. In its proposal, the university says the facility's location next to football practice fields means players will no longer have to cross Bluff Road to go from the stadiums' locker rooms to practice. Legislators say they recognize it's about being competitive in football recruiting.

Independent Mail: In Anderson area races, two unopposed lawmakers spend most campaign cash

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/10/25/2-unopposed-lawmakers-spend-most-campaign-cash/92729452/>

Kirk Brown

Two legislators who face no opposition in the Nov. 8 election have spent more campaign cash in the past three months than any other candidates in Anderson County, according to state records. State Sen. Mike Gambrell reported \$19,146 in campaign expenditures since July 1, according to his most recent state disclosure. His largest expenditure was \$15,657 for consulting services from the Columbia-based Homeyer Strategy Group. Gambrell, a Republican from Honea Path, gave up his seat in the South Carolina House of Representatives after winning a May 17 special election to serve the final months of the late Sen. Billy O'Dell's term. He defeated Williamston Town Councilman Rockey Burgess in the June GOP primary and faces no opposition on the Nov. 8 ballot for a full four-year term in state Senate District 4.

Independent Mail: Candidates face off at forum in Anderson

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/10/25/candidates-face-off-forum-anderson/92729222/>

Kirk Brown

Five candidates running for three seats in the state House of Representatives sparred Tuesday over how to fix South Carolina's crumbling roads. Rep. Jonathon Hill, a Republican from Townville, said he did not support a plan approved earlier this year that calls for using bonds to finance road repairs. "Borrowing more money is not the right option," said Hill during a candidate forum at Wilson Cavalry Baptist Church in Anderson. Hill's opponent, Townville resident Barbara Jo Mullis, said she supports increasing the state's 16-cent per gallon gas tax. South Carolina's gas tax is among the lowest in the nation and it has remained unchanged since 1987. "I know that you don't want to hear that but I am a Democrat," Mullis said. "An extra dollar in a fill up will prevent you from needing that front-end alignment." Rep. Joshua Putnam, a Republican from Piedmont, said South Carolina needs to reduce the size of its state highway system, which is the nation's fourth largest. His opponent, Easley Democrat Anna Brown, did not attend the forum.

Post and Courier: Former Lt. Gov. Burnet Maybank Jr. dies at age 92

<http://www.postandcourier.com/news/obituaries/former-lt-gov-burnet-maybank-jr-dies-at->

[age/article_b75a51b2-9b07-11e6-baa3-ffca41116498.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/columnists/interstate-is-at-a-standstill-kind-of-like-the-rest/article_b75a51b2-9b07-11e6-baa3-ffca41116498.html)

Clint Thomas

Burnet Rhett Maybank Jr., of Charleston, an Army veteran, former S.C. lieutenant governor, retired attorney, General Assembly member, Charleston County Council member and widower of Marion Mitchell Maybank, died Tuesday. He was 92. Maybank was born in Charleston, May 2, 1924, to the late S.C. Senator and Governor, Burnet Maybank Sr. He enrolled at The Citadel in 1941, but dropped out to serve in the U.S. Army Air Force as a B-17 bomber pilot during World War II. After the war, he graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1950 with bachelor degrees in science and law. While practicing law in Greenville, he was elected to his first public office as a member of the House of Representatives in 1952. He was reelected in 1954 and 1956. While part of the house, he served on the Judiciary Committee and other special committees. Deciding it was time to go statewide, he ran and won in the 1958 election to serve as lieutenant governor from 1959-1961. He was elected as a democrat but later switched to the Republican Party.

SC Agency News:

Post and Courier : Interstate 526 is at a standstill, kind of like the rest of the Lowcountry

http://www.postandcourier.com/columnists/interstate-is-at-a-standstill-kind-of-like-the-rest/article_95029468-99f8-11e6-b7c5-c79d6cf2a22f.html

Brian Hicks

It's time to face facts: The state isn't willingly going to finish the Interstate 526 loop. Not for several years, and perhaps not in this generation. Why? Charleston County Councilman Herb Sass sums it up eloquently. He told reporter Diane Knich, "I feel like the goal line keeps being moved." He's absolutely right. A lot of powerful people – many of them usually enemies – are all working to stop 526. And they are not only moving the goal line; they're changing the rules of the game. Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman says he's not on board with the latest 526 plan. Charleston officials thought he was. Did they misunderstand, or did Leatherman change his mind? Some say the senator got mad after he heard those Nix 526 tapes of Charleston County Chairman Elliott Summey calling him a "tyrant." As if Summey hasn't said worse things in open meetings. For weeks Summey and Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg were convinced they had majority support on the State Infrastructure Bank board for 526. But Chairman Vince Graham, who opposes the road, kept putting off the meeting. Hmm. It's hard to win when the other side controls the game board.

NOTE: But Leatherman, the league and Graham are on the same side here, as is Gov. Nikki Haley – who appointed Graham (a Conservation League alumnus). Haley doesn't like 526, or Leatherman. Together, and with a little help from jealous Upstate politicians, they've got much more juice than folks down here.

Post and Courier : I-526 funding feud persists as discussion of Charleston rail project devolves into personal affronts

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/i--funding-feud-persists-as-discussion-of-charleston-rail/article_d932f4fe-9acd-11e6-877d-2312bcf00ff5.html

David Wren

The normally staid discussion of property acquisitions for a rail yard at the former Navy base in North Charleston took a combative turn Tuesday as state lawmakers used the opportunity to take potshots at area officials over an unrelated project — the completion of Interstate 526. Saying he's afraid Charleston area politicians will use funding for I-526 as a way to hold up the rail project, state Sen. Hugh Leatherman — chairman of the Legislature's Joint Bond Review Committee — pushed a plan that would let Palmetto Railways proceed with the property acquisitions it needs without a normally

required letter of approval from Charleston County. The committee ultimately approved the land acquisitions and the waiver during an exchange in which unnamed Charleston area leaders were described as "characters" who are loud and litigious and whose ideas are "garbage." County Council Chairman Elliott Summey said the need for such a waiver is surprising because no one has asked the county for its support.

SC Political News:

Independent Mail: Anderson County has shortage of poll workers

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/10/25/anderson-county-has-shortage-poll-workers/92738902/>

Nikie Mayo

With the November general election less than two weeks away, Anderson County once again is facing a serious shortage of poll workers. Katy Smith, the county's elections director, announced the shortage late Tuesday afternoon in a news release. Smith said there is a particular shortage of poll workers in Piedmont, Williamston, Powdersville and Easley. The precincts affected include Brushy Creek, Williamston Mill, Pelzer, West Pelzer, Powdersville, Hunt Meadows, Mount Airy and others, Smith said. This is not the first time Anderson County has had a shortage of poll workers. In the South Carolina Republican primary in February, a shortage of poll workers and some problems with equipment caused long lines at Anderson County's busiest precincts.

Herald-Journal: County growth swells voter rolls at precincts

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161025/county-growth-swells-voter-rolls-at-precincts?rssfeed=true>

Chris Lavender

More than half of the precincts in Spartanburg County have more registered voters per precinct than the state recommends. State Elections Commission spokesman Chris Whitmire said state law suggests 1,500 registered voters per precinct. More than 45 precincts in Spartanburg County exceed that guideline. "Our county is not unique in this respect," said Henry Laye, Spartanburg County Elections and Voter Registration director. "Our board discussed this ... issue at our October board meeting and have identified several of our larger precincts for potential splitting next year." Among the precincts that exceed the recommended limit are West View Elementary School precinct, with 4,196 registered voters; Anderson Mill Elementary School precinct, with 4,104; Lake Bowen Baptist precinct, with 3,817; Friendship Baptist Church, with 3,688; and Boiling Springs 9th, with 3,681. Some efforts have been made to reduce the number of registered voters in some precincts. "We created a new precinct this year, River Ridge Elementary, by moving voters out of Reidville Fire Station Precinct, as that had become too crowded," Laye said. "It takes General Assembly approval to create new precincts."

Aiken Standard: Absentee voting up statewide; S.C. officials monitoring security

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20161025/161029748/absentee-voting-up-statewide-sc-officials-monitoring-security->

Maayan Schechter

Though the number of absentee ballots cast so far in Aiken County is slightly less than usual, the director of the Aiken County's Registration and Elections Office anticipates the county will have more than 15,000 residents vote absentee, higher than in 2012. So far, 4,600 people have voted absentee in-person, with 3,298 voting absentee by mail, fax or email, according to Executive Director Cynthia Holland. Holland added 9,426 people have requested absentee applications, though many have not yet sent them in. "It's slightly less (than it was years ago), but we still have two weeks to go; a lot of

voters wait until the last minute," Holland said. "In 2012, there were 15,000 absentee ballots. I think we will meet that or get a little higher." Absentee voting at the Aiken County Registration and Elections Office in the Aiken County Government Center will take place through Nov. 7, a day before the general election.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press : First elk sighting in South Carolina since 1700s

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=pd5VDe8T

SC State Wire

A wild elk has been spotted roaming the woodlands of South Carolina for the first time in more than 200 years. News outlets report that wildlife biologists are warning Upstate residents and tourists to stay away from a young bull elk that was seen in several places in Pickens County over the weekend. In response to social media posts showing people feeding the animal, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission biologist Justin McVey warned the public that the animal can cause serious injuries. The animals once were native to the Lowcountry but were wiped out in the Carolinas in the 1700s. The species was reintroduced to North Carolina in 2001 and officials say it's likely the young male was pushed out of mountain territory across the state border by older males.

Greenville News: In Pickens County, first elk sighting in state for centuries

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2016/10/25/pickens-county-first-elk-sighting-state-centuries/92718798/>

Ron Barnett

For the first time since the Upstate was Cherokee territory, a wild elk has been seen roaming the woodlands of South Carolina. Northern Pickens County is abuzz with sightings of the bull elk, whose wanderings are being traced on social media. It's not the species that once inhabited this area but more likely one that found himself ousted by the dominant males of a herd of Rocky Mountain elk that have been re-established in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, said noted outdoorsman and Pickens County resident Dennis Chastain. "This is a historic moment that some of us knew would eventually come," Chastain said. "This is the first wild elk to roam the woods and wild places in South Carolina since they disappeared in the early 1700's."

Post and Courier: Stakeholders react to spikes in Obamacare rates

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/stakeholders-react-to-spikes-in-obamacare-rates/article_08d54ff2-9abc-11e6-a347-a39416c0f5ce.html

Derrek Asberry

North Charleston resident David Montgomery said he's not too worried about the upcoming price increase on the health insurance plan he's purchasing through the Affordable Care Act. A report released Monday by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services shows that Obamacare customers across the country, on average, will face a 25 percent increase next year. Affordable Care Act premiums in South Carolina will increase even more – by 29 percent – while other states will fare much worse. Arizona customers, for example, will face an average 116 percent increase. Average rates in North Carolina will increase by 40 percent and in Tennessee, they will increase by an average 63 percent. But these spikes aren't what they appear to be, according to federal officials. Once federal discounts kick in, about 70 percent of shoppers will be able to purchase a plan for \$75 or less per month. "It's still a bargain," Montgomery said. "I agree with adjusting and working (the law) out until we get it right. But it's still a good program that addresses a problem that had never been addressed before."

Post and Courier : Google Express launches in South Carolina as fight for e-commerce heats up
http://www.postandcourier.com/business/google-express-launches-in-south-carolina-as-fight-for-e/article_b2dc98ec-9abd-11e6-9d51-f7df0559b719.html

Thad Moore

Google's answer to Amazon Prime is rolling out in South Carolina as the technology giant jockey for a role in the future of quick-delivery e-commerce. Google Express is available across the state starting Tuesday, offering two-day shipping from a handful of retailers like Costco and Whole Foods. The rollout is part of an expansion across much of the Southeast and Northwest, as the service gets closer to covering the continental U.S. The service is largely similar to Amazon Prime, which charges a \$99-a-year membership in return for free two-day delivery from its network of warehouses across the country. Google Express likewise charges \$95 a year, or at least \$5 an order. Unlike Amazon, however, Google's customers shop with individual retailers, who handle their own shipping. In South Carolina, customers will have 11 retailers to choose from, like Kohl's, PetSmart and Walgreens.

Associated Press: Attorney gets prison time after stashing \$234K from sorority
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=YQIvuMfO

SC State Wire

A South Carolina lawyer has been given a six-month prison sentence after stashing hundreds of thousands of dollars in a shoebox as part of a scam involving a \$14 million sorority house at the University of Alabama. News outlets report that 40-year-old Jennifer Elizabeth Meehan of Sandy Springs, South Carolina, was also fined \$50,000 and sentenced to 18 months of home confinement Tuesday for submitting about \$375,000 in false invoices for the Gamma Phi Beta sorority house in Tuscaloosa. Meehan, who must forfeit her law license, said she intended to use the money for a scholarship fund, not on herself. Prosecutors say that claim is hard to believe. Meehan was a member of the sorority while attending Alabama and volunteered to help furnish its new house from 2013 to 2015.

Local News:

The State: Columbia man pleads guilty to sex trafficking three girls in the Lowcountry
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article110394082.html>

Cynthia Roldan

A Columbia man admitted in federal court he trafficked three girls under 18 and to his role in a sex trafficking ring that spawned a 26-count indictment. Da-Shun Shukur Curry, 23, pleaded guilty in Charleston to conspiracy to commit sex trafficking, a federal crime that carries a penalty of up to life in prison, according to a Tuesday news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office. The agency said sentencing will be scheduled at a later date. Curry admitted to driving three girls to the North Charleston area, where they were prostituted, the release said. Two of the girls were trafficked between March and April 2014, according to the indictment filed in January. The third was trafficked between December 2013 and June 2014. All three minors are identified in the indictment only by their initials. Overall, at least 11 girls were forced into prostitution since 2011, according to the indictment that charged eight men, including Curry, of conspiracy. Each faced additional individual charges, totaling 26 counts.

Associated Press: Resident finds body in wooded area outside of Columbia
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=9YJzcyy7
SC State Wire

Authorities say a body has been found in a wooded area outside of Columbia. The Richland County Sheriff's Department said a local resident found the body of a male Tuesday evening in Irmo. Lt. Curtis Wilson says investigators believe the body had been there for some time. He says it's too early to say if foul play is involved in the death. No other details were immediately available.

Greenville News: Man with knife shot by Greenville County deputy, SLED investigates

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2016/10/25/ems-called-after-shots-fired-greenville-county-chase/92741494/>

Anna Lee

A man was shot by a sheriff's deputy Tuesday after authorities say he pulled a knife during a pursuit that began at an addiction recovery center in Greenville. Sheriff's Office spokesman Ryan Flood said deputies were called to The Turning Point of South Carolina, 24 Bruce Road, Tuesday afternoon in a search for a subject with active warrants. When deputies arrived at the facility, Flood said they noticed a black male "immediately flee from their presence." Flood said deputies ran the man's name through the National Crime Information Center and found that he was wanted out of Jasper County. He said the man wasn't the subject deputies were originally looking for. Deputies located the man a short time later, but he jumped a fence and took off running through the woods, according to Flood. A foot pursuit followed. As deputies closed in near the wood line next to Bruce Road, the man pulled out a knife "in a threatening manner and raised it up in an attack position," Flood said in a release Tuesday night.

Post and Courier: Person wearing clown mask, holding knife threatens Charleston Southern University student

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/person-wearing-clown-mask-holding-knife-threatens-charleston-southern-university/article_2f955bd0-9b27-11e6-9fe6-1baddc6fa2c5.html

Gregory Yee

Charleston Southern University issued a campus alert late Tuesday after a person wearing a clown mask reportedly threatened a student with a knife. The alert, known as a BUC Alert, was sent just after 10 p.m. When contacted, Campus Security Department personnel declined to comment. The person was spotted near the Atlantic Palms Apartments, which are located near the university, according to the alert. "Tonight, one of our students was walking her dog and a person wearing a dark hoodie and a clown mask, armed with a knife, came towards her in a threatening manner," the alert said. "She was able to run to an apartment to escape the person who chased after her."

Greenville News: Police investigate confrontation in Greenville involving parents, bus driver

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/10/25/police-investigate-confrontation-involving-parents-bus-driver/92734486/>

Anna Lee

The Greenville Police Department is investigating a confrontation between students, parents and a Greenville County school district bus driver. Officers were first called to Shemwood Lane on Oct. 11 in response to a school bus being blocked in by parents on its route through Shemwood Crossing Apartments, according to police reports. Police spokesman Gilberto Franco said three parents boarded the bus after several students and other parents complained about the driver "grabbing" their children and refusing to let them off the bus. He said one of the parents "verbally assaulted" the driver before taking a student off the bus. Officers interviewed the driver, who said he decided not to allow any children off the bus for their own safety. The driver told police he made the decision when one parent, described as a black male wearing a green shirt, pushed his way onto the bus and took one of the students without showing the pick up number corresponding to the child. Franco said the school

district provided video of the incident as part of the investigation. Investigators who watched the video said "it did not appear at any point that the bus driver touched the student," a report said.

Sun News: School Board approves \$2.5 million for new school work

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article110341587.html>

Christian Boschult

The Horry County school board on Monday approved \$2.5 million in change orders for improvement to land at the new Socastee middle school site. The district paid the appraised market value for the site — \$1.9 million — despite knowing about the problems with the soil. The district's appraisal did not take into account the poor quality of the soil, said District 1 board member Holly Heniford. Heniford said the board should be more diligent in working their contracts for poor-quality land in the future. "It's my understanding that there was nothing in the contract that would allow us to renegotiate the funding if the soil quality was poor," said Heniford. She said that if the district uses a comparable piece of land to calculate a market value, the quality of soil in the comparable piece of land should be taken into consideration. "Since we're buying the dirt, it should be the same quality of land because it'll increase your instruction costs," she said.

The Herald: Rock Hill schools back off optional, off-campus Bible study

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/education/article110260362.html>

Jennifer Becknell

The Rock Hill school board Monday backed off a proposal for students to opt for Bible study during the school day after a survey of parents found many do not support the idea. Board member Walter Brown, who had pushed for the proposal last spring, asked Monday that the issue be removed from the board's agenda, and members unanimously agreed. A second and final vote had been scheduled on the policy. The issue was debated last spring, but was tabled in May so the district could survey School Improvement Council members for their views on the proposal. "There has been a lot of confusion and misinformation," Brown said after the meeting. A survey of SIC councils, which are made up of parents and school staff members at each school, found 77 percent were not in favor of off-campus religious instruction during the school day, according to a district memo. The survey also found 80 percent were not in favor of students being excused from an elective class to receive religious instruction.

The State: Richland pennies paving more than 100 roads over the next year

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article110415347.html>

Sarah Ellis

Richland County's transportation penny sales tax program is putting \$5.6 million toward more than 100 road repaving projects in the coming year. Lane Construction has received the county's contract for the work and is expected to finish the projects in November 2017. The roads included in the package of work are mostly in residential areas, and many are dead-ends. A list of the roads can be found online here.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: Trump touts hotel as Pence heads to Utah in waning days

<http://bigstory.ap.org/bdb17c3257bb461f8d8a5c59a4087f96>

Donald Trump is taking a break from campaigning Wednesday to formally open his new hotel in Washington, while dispatching his running mate to play political defense in Utah — which hasn't backed a Democrat for president in 52 years. The odd travel schedule a dozen days before the Nov. 8

election illustrates a Republican ticket pulled in two directions while Democrat Hillary Clinton surges. Trump's priority Wednesday is clear: His personal brand and business, while Indiana Gov. Mike Pence tries to boost the ticket where no Republican should have to."I don't really believe the polls, but this looks like a tight race," said Trump supporter Susan Donaldson, 55, who worried at a Tuesday afternoon rally in Sanford, Florida, that the GOP nominee may be spreading himself too thin. "Can he be taking time out like that?" Trump will visit North Carolina for two campaign rallies on Wednesday afternoon, after spending the morning attending a ribbon cutting at the new \$212 million hotel that bears his name at Washington's Old Post Office Pavilion, not far from the White House.

Associated Press: The Trump-Clinton Twitter war: Bludgeon vs. stiletto

<http://bigstory.ap.org/93dfa60c1752413f8db218460fdeba5d>

Back in June, when Donald Trump slammed President Barack Obama's endorsement of Hillary Clinton on Twitter, the Democrat's campaign was quick to tweet back a chilly three-word response: "Delete your account ."It was a telling exchange, and not just because it set the stage for what has become the country's first nationwide Twitter election. It also highlighted the striking, and very different, ways both presidential hopefuls have used the service to hone their messages, hurl accusations at one another and speak directly to voters — in effect, bypassing traditional media while also relying on it to amplify their retorts. So entrenched has Twitter become in the 2016 election that it can be difficult to remember just how new it is in this context. Four years ago, candidates Obama and Mitt Romney were just testing the waters with social media. This year, it's a major source of information — political and otherwise — for a huge number of Americans. In a Pew Research Center poll last January, 44 percent of adults said they had learned about the election in the previous week from social media, more than cited print newspapers.

Associated Press : New Clinton ads lay out closing arguments for campaign

<http://bigstory.ap.org/fec62c0b1d8e4f3595abec0961d8b9e2>

Hillary Clinton is out with two new ads in the final days of the presidential race. A campaign official says the ads are part of a final series laying out a closing argument for the Democratic presidential nominee's campaign. One ad features Clinton discussing her plans to help children and families if she's elected president. The second ad is narrated by actor Morgan Freeman and contrasts Clinton and Republican Donald Trump. Freeman says: "Our children are looking to us. What example will we set?" The campaign says the ads will air in Florida, Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio and Pennsylvania and on national cable.

Associated Press: Trump's infrequent remarks on abortion draw strong reactions

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a312b607a0674f09afdc786fc15bbb72>

Only rarely has Donald Trump broached the topic of abortion during his presidential campaign. Twice, when he has done so, there has been stormy reaction. Back in March, in an interview with MSNBC, Trump said women should face "some sort of punishment" if they had an abortion in the event the practice was outlawed. Anti-abortion leaders swiftly repudiated him, and he soon backtracked, saying doctors should be punished, but not the women getting abortions. Last week, in the third and final presidential debate, Trump ignited another firestorm as he sought to undercut Hillary Clinton, his Democratic opponent, for her strong support for abortion rights. "Based on what she's saying ... you can take the baby and rip the baby out of the womb on the ninth month on the final day," Trump said.

World News:

Associated Press: Venezuela braces for anti-government protests amid crisis

<http://bigstory.ap.org/e3449637cb4e4f189fd14ca33a535c63>

Venezuela's standoff deepened after congress voted to open a political trial against President Nicolas Maduro for breaking the constitutional order and opposition leaders called for mass protests on Wednesday to drive the unpopular socialist leader from office. Tuesday's vote by the opposition-led legislature is unlikely to have any legal effect as Maduro still controls other branches of government, including the military and Supreme Court, which has already declared the National Assembly illegitimate. But it raised tensions even further following last week's suspension of an opposition push to hold a referendum to try to recall Maduro. Opposition legislators argued that Venezuela's leader has effectively abandoned the presidency by neglecting his job and several lawmakers questioned whether he was a dual Colombian national and therefore ineligible to hold Venezuela's highest office. It's an old, unproven claim widely seen as a stretch but one that analysts say is a reaction to the government's own trampling of the constitution in scrapping the recall that offered the best hope of peacefully resolving Venezuela's political and economic crisis. "If Maduro has dual nationality, he has no constitutional right to govern Venezuela," said Juan Miguel Matheus, an opposition lawmaker.

Associated Press : Pakistan city shuts down, mourns 61 killed at police academy

<http://bigstory.ap.org/9223eef1cc4447bc8235fd6a39be466a>

Pakistan's city of Quetta was completely shut down Wednesday following a militant rampage at a police academy the day before while families buried 60 police cadets and an army officer killed in the attack — one of the deadliest targeting Pakistani security forces in recent years. The brazen assault in which unarmed cadets and police trainees — many of whom were asleep in their dorms when the attack started — jumped from windows and rooftops, fleeing for their lives, saw troops battle the attackers for four hours before the siege was over. The academy houses about 700 cadets, nearly all in their early 20s. Local Quetta hospitals were treating 123 wounded from the attack. In conflicting claims, an Islamic State affiliate and a Taliban splinter group both said they were behind the attack in Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan province.

Associated Press : Iraqi forces evacuate 1,000 civilians from Mosul front lines

<http://bigstory.ap.org/cc38f5af7d724735b296f1477804e6b8>

Iraqi special forces have moved more than 1,000 people from villages near the front lines of the battle to retake the Islamic State-held city of Mosul and surrounding areas, where the U.N. says militants have committed a number of atrocities in recent days, officials said Wednesday. Special forces Maj. Gen. Haider Fadhil said residents of Tob Zawa and other villages were taken to a camp in the nearby Khazer region for their safety. The International Organization for Migration says around 9,000 people have been displaced since the operation to retake Mosul began on Oct. 17. The special forces were undertaking cleanup operations in areas retaken from the militants to the east of the city, where troops uncovered a vast tunnel network used by IS to shuttle fighters and supplies by motorcycle, Maj. Salam al-Obeidi said. Iraqi forces have been pushing toward Mosul from several directions since the launch of the wide-scale offensive, which involves more than 25,000 Iraqi soldiers, Kurdish forces, Sunni tribal fighters and state-sanctioned Shiite militiamen. It is expected to take week, if not months, to drive IS from its last urban bastion in the country.

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