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Subject: Clips – Friday, November 25, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Childhood friends in Bamberg are proud of Haley's rise
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=JH5hz8RL
SC State Wire

The people who grew up with South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said they are going to miss her when she moves to New York City to be the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, but they are proud to see how far she has come. Haley grew up in Bamberg County and went to high school at Orangeburg Preparatory Schools. On Wednesday, she accepted President-elect Donald Trump's request to serve as an ambassador as long as the U.S. Senate approves. "I hate that we're going to lose her in South Carolina, but I do see her looking out for America the same way. She'll also look out for us the best way she can - and as often as she can. She never forgets where she comes from," said Renee Jeffcoat, who went to school with Haley in Bamberg. Jeffcoat, who is a special education teacher in Bamberg, has stayed close to Haley, even after Haley moved to Lexington, became a state representative and later governor for six years. Jeffcoat is currently a committee member for Haley's nonprofit organization, The Original Six Foundation.

Associated Press: Trump chooses racial conciliator in UN pick Nikki Haley
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=T33ov1Ce
Seanna Adcox

Gov. Nikki Haley has developed a national reputation as a racial conciliator who led the charge to bring down the Confederate flag at the Statehouse and guided South Carolina through one of its darkest moments, the massacre at a black church. Now the 44-year-old American-born daughter of Indian immigrants is about to take her role as the state's healer-in-chief to a world stage, as U.N. ambassador. On Wednesday, Haley became the first woman and first minority chosen by President-elect Donald Trump for his Cabinet. If the Senate confirms her, she could find herself in the awkward position of being the international voice for an administration that has belittled the United Nations, promised to build a wall along the Mexican border and endeared itself to the alt-right movement, even though Trump has repudiated such groups.

Washington Post: In a career filled with political diplomacy, U.N. is a natural step for Nikki Haley
https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/in-a-career-filled-with-political-diplomacy-un-is-a-natural-step-for-nikki-haley/2016/11/23/b9e2e810-b1cb-11e6-8616-52b15787add0_story.html
Robert Costa

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley's journey to the United Nations has struck members of both parties as unlikely: the appointment of a Republican with limited foreign policy experience to a Cabinet-level post. But through the prism of a career bursting with political diplomacy and ambition, it is a natural next step. Haley, 44, who President-elect Donald Trump announced Wednesday as his nominee for U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, has long shuttled between her party's mainstream and its conservative base, maintaining ties to each wing even as she resists being labeled as "tea party" or "establishment." And the daughter of Indian immigrants has consistently asserted herself as a voice for both the Republican future and its past traditions. These contradictory signals and blended alliances have made her an ascendant force as well as occasionally inscrutable. She is at once a favorite of the business elite and Mitt Romney and a populist-sounding, Sarah Palin-endorsed

Southern executive.

Reuters: Celebrations in India with Haley tapped for U.N.

<http://www.reuters.com/video/2016/11/24/celebrations-in-india-with-haley-tapped?videoid=370549839>

Nikki Haley's family in India cheer her appointment as UN envoy. Deborah Lutterbeck reports.

Times of India: Delhi hails Donald Trump's pick for UN envoy

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Delhi-hails-Donald-Trumps-pick-for-UN-envoy/articleshow/55610401.cms>

A spokesperson for the ministry of external affairs said India "recognises her (Haley) as a very strong and committed advocate of close India-US ties. We warmly welcome her appointment as PR to UN." Haley met PM Narendra Modi on his first visit to the US in 2014, and reciprocated with a visit to India later the same year. As a woman and a second generation Indian immigrant, Haley is expected to bring much needed diversity to the Trump team. India has also begun its outreach to the President-elect, with foreign secretary S Jaishankar visiting US last week to meet with senior members of the Trump transition team. PM Modi has also made it a point to engage extensively with the Indian diaspora, cutting across political divides.

Hindustan Times: Nikki Haley's kin in native Punjab cheer as Trump picks her as US envoy to UN

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/in-punjab-nikki-haley-s-relatives-cheer-as-donald-trump-picks-her-as-us-envoy-to-un/story-jvYbts7VulvviBvMxOxquK.html>

Elated after President-elect Donald Trump named South Carolina's Indian-American governor Nikki Haley as the US ambassador to the United Nations on Wednesday, her extended family in Punjab says the development has not only elevated her political status but also made India proud. Busy receiving congratulatory calls and visitors at his house in Verka near Amritsar on Thursday, 70-year-old Kanwaljit Singh Randhawa, who is Nikki's cousin, said: "It's a great achievement (for Nikki), and it has made the entire nation proud. We had never imagined she will bring so much name and fame to the family." Nikki's father and Randhawa's paternal uncle Ajit Singh Randhawa, a professor in agriculture, moved to Canada for pursuing PhD in 1964 before shifting to the US. The family originally hails from Pandori Ran Singh village in Tarn Taran, 23 km from Amritsar, said Randhawa, a retired lecturer. "Nikki, 44, was born in the US and named Nimrata," he said.

Times and Democrat: Haley: Bamberg to first female governor

http://thetandd.com/news/government-and-politics/haley-bamberg-to-first-female-governor/article_c6edac5b-4476-5dc3-ae59-9969e9b7523e.html

Nikki Haley has made a name for herself in politics since leaving her hometown of Bamberg. Elected to represent District 87 in the S.C. House in 2004, in May she announced her candidacy in the June 2010 Republican primary for governor. But Haley, 38, says she hasn't outgrown her roots or the values she learned growing up in the small, rural town. Haley, who is assistant director of the Lexington Medical Center Foundation, now lives in Lexington with her husband, Michael, a full-time federal technician with the S.C. National Guard, and their two children, Rena, 11, and Nalin, 8. She began doing the accounting for her parents' Bamberg clothing business, Exotica, when she was just 13. They – Dr. Ajit Randhawa and Raj Randhawa – entrusted her with that responsibility because they didn't want her to know limitations, she says. "They didn't want me to know limitation of age, they didn't want me to know limitation of gender, and they didn't want me to know limitation of being Indian," said Haley, whose parents are Indian Punjabi Sikh immigrants from Amritsar. "They said whatever you do, be great at it and make sure that people remember you."

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley's nomination for U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. 'an endorsement of her skills'

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/gov-nikki-haley-s-nomination-for-u-s-ambassador-to/article_08320e86-b18d-11e6-aaf9-5fefa30eeb86.html

Emma Dumain and Andy Shain

When Nikki Haley appeared on national television to deliver the Republican Party's State of the Union rebuttal in January, political observers outside the GOP's innermost orbit had little to say about the South Carolina governor. They knew she oversaw the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the Statehouse grounds after the mass shooting at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. They knew she was a woman of Indian heritage, a rare commodity in a party struggling to expand its base. Nearly a year later, members of both political parties are about to learn a lot more about her. On Wednesday, Haley accepted the nomination by President-elect Donald Trump to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, a position that will require her to represent America's interests in the international community and navigate complicated relationships with other foreign leaders. She will now become the subject of significant public scrutiny. Reporters and pundits will analyze her selection, while confirmation hearings in the U.S. Senate will shine a bright light on what she brings to the table - and what she doesn't, namely a lack of foreign policy experience.

The State: S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley's legacy will include responses to shootings, natural disasters
<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article116790603.html>

Cassie Cope

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley rose from a political newcomer in her first term as governor to dominating national headlines for her handling of state tragedies. The announcement Wednesday that Haley will be nominated for U.N. ambassador by President-elect Donald Trump means Haley's S.C. legacy is drawing to a close — for now, at least. Haley, a Bamberg native and the daughter of Indian immigrants, was a state representative in 2010 when she beat out more well-known Republicans in that year's gubernatorial primary. That fall, she was elected the state's first female and minority governor. Haley, 44, has been recognized for her compassionate handling of state tragedies — signing a bill requiring police officers to wear body cameras after a white North Charleston officer was charged with fatally shooting a black motorist, and successfully pushing to remove the Confederate flag from the State House grounds after the shootings at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston.

The State: McMaster would bring different style to SC governor's mansion

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article116824988.html>

Cynthia Roldan, Sammy Fretwell, and Cassie Cope

Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster is in line to become governor by early next year – and if that happens, he would bring a notably different style as the state's top elected leader. A veteran of South Carolina politics since the early 1980s, the former attorney general is well known for a friendly, easygoing demeanor that both critics and supporters say likely would help him in dealing with the state Legislature on highly charged issues, such as a new roads bill. McMaster, the country's first statewide officeholder to endorse President-elect Donald Trump, has long been interested in becoming governor. Trump's appointment of Gov. Nikki Haley as United Nations ambassador paves the way for that. "He'll be a terrific governor," said former Republican Attorney General Charlie Condon. "He is a consensus builder, while remaining true to his principles – which are conservative." Haley has been widely praised on an array of fronts, ranging from economic development to her handling of Hurricane Matthew and the Confederate flag, which she pushed successfully to remove from the capitol grounds.

Morning News: Haley's departure could leave Leatherman with tough choice

http://www.scnw.com/news/local/article_eacf389a-b1ce-11e6-89f6-7f691e99670c.html

Joshua Lloyd

News of Gov. Nikki Haley's likely appointment by President-elect Donald Trump as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nation leaves South Carolina's political structure in a uncertain situation. With Haley out as governor, Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster – a staunch conservative and avid Trump surrogate during the campaign process – will be the state's next governor. That would mean Sen. President Pro Tempore Hugh K. Leatherman Sr., a Florence Republican, technically would be next in

line for the lieutenant governor spot, relinquishing his chairmanship of the powerful Senate Finance Committee and other key panel positions. There's been speculation that Leatherman might choose to step down as Senate president pro tempore to avoid taking the No. 2 spot in state government. That's a position that holds less influence in legislative actions. Attempts to reach Leatherman and his spokespeople on Wednesday were unsuccessful. Andy Brack, editor and publisher of the Statehouse Report, a South Carolina politics watchdog publication, said it's unlikely that Leatherman would take the lieutenant governor's spot.

General Assembly News:

Greenville News: Upstate Outdoors: State legislators band together to protect rights of sportsmen
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/sports/2016/11/24/upstate-outdoors-state-legislators-band-together-protect-rights-sportsmen/94339414/>

The South Carolina Legislature, which comprises all of the members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, has the option to participate in one or more of only five officially recognized caucuses in the state - those being the Republican, Democrat, Black, Woman's and Sportsman's caucuses. A caucus is a like-minded group of legislators banding together to promote and advocate the rights of the group they represent. Since being formed in 2005, the South Carolina Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus has been one of the largest in the legislature. During its inception year, the Sportsman's Caucus was made up of 124 house representatives and 46 senators. The state caucus is part of a larger assembly of the National Assembly of Sportman's Caucuses. NASC founding member Mike Pitts served as president from 2010 to 2012. The caucus is currently chaired by representatives Phillip Lowe, Russell Ott and Senator Chip Campson. In the state, the Sportsman's caucus has been fundamental in enacting legislation including include a right to hunt and fish, interstate wildlife violators compact, and outdoor sporting goods tax holiday bill as well as recent legislation overhauling the state's freshwater fishing regulations and enacting more conservation-oriented big-game laws.

SC Agency News:

Post and Courier: Prison literacy program aims to empower
http://www.postandcourier.com/news/prison-literacy-program-aims-to-empower/article_6961f5b0-a862-11e6-b763-8f4f6546bf40.html

Adam Parker

When she moved back home to Charleston a couple years ago, Emilie Hancock searched for a literacy program serving incarcerated teens. In Charlotte, where she previously lived, there were several such programs that received strong support from the city, its residents and federal agencies. She volunteered for two years as a book club facilitator for jailed youth. But there was nothing like that in the Holy City. In June, Hancock attended a screening of the documentary "First Degree" at the Charleston County Public Library. The film tells the story of a successful college program at the maximum-security Sing Sing Correctional Facility in New York. It motivated Hancock to take action. She started a GoFundMe campaign to raise \$900, a modest sum that would be sufficient for buying the books she needed. She figured she'd have, on average, five book club members a month. With support from librarian Megan Summers, Nancy Kreml in Columbia and Lynette Johnson at the Charleston County juvenile detention center, she started Books Unbound and got to work.

WACH: Behind the Bars: Phones in SC prisons putting public at risk
<http://wach.com/news/local/behind-the-bars-phones-in-sc-prisons-putting-public-at-risk>

Brian McConchie

State prison officials say contraband is a significant problem at every prison in South Carolina. Miles of razor wire and high walls outside those facilities isn't enough to stop those items from getting inside. Things like drugs, tobacco, alcohol, weapons and cell phones are constantly finding their way behind the bars. "This is a serious matter. Our people's lives are at stake," said SC Corrections

director Bryan Stirling. "This is just a war that we have ongoing that the Department of corrections has with contraband coming in." Stirling and teams of corrections officers work every day to keep the bad stuff on the outside. But, despite their best efforts, contraband items are still winding up inside. Inmates are going to great lengths to get those things in relying on people on the outside to use drones to drop it in or slingshots to shoot items over the walls. Items are even smuggled in by staff in exchange for cash.

The State: Scientists checking gator meat for contamination

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article116911783.html>

Sammy Fretwell

Scientists who recently found soaring chemical levels in the blood of South Carolina alligators are trying to determine whether gator meat that hunters consume contains the same potentially harmful contaminants. Researchers with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Department of Commerce are analyzing alligator flesh to see whether the meat is tainted by perfluoroalkyl acids, a group of chemicals of increasing health concern. These acids once were used as ingredients in water repellent surfaces, frying pan coatings, plastics and other products, but they are being phased out as researchers learn more about the potential toxic effects on people. "One of the reasons to do this study is to look at 'Is this actually in the meat people would eat?'" said Jessica Reiner, a Commerce Department scientist in Charleston.

SC Political News:

Associated Press: SC electors besieged by requests not to cast votes for Trump

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=g7132NLa

Meg Kinnard

South Carolina's nine electors are bound by state law to back Donald Trump for president when they meet next month. But that's not stopping people from flooding the electors' inboxes with requests they throw their votes behind Hillary Clinton instead. State GOP Chairman Matt Moore says he's received a thousand emails in recent days from people asking him not to cast his electoral vote for the president-elect. He says the requests are "utterly ridiculous." Trump has 290 Electoral College votes to Clinton's 232, with Michigan still undecided. It takes 270 votes in the Electoral College to win the presidency. Clinton is on pace to win the popular vote by at least 1 million ballots. South Carolina law requires electors to cast their votes for the candidate who won the state's balloting.

Wildfires Across Southeast:

Associated Press: Dry weather rapidly spreads across South Carolina

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

SC State Wire

The area of South Carolina experiencing unusually dry conditions is rapidly increasing, now including parts of the state that received over a foot of rain less than two months ago from Hurricane Matthew. The U.S. Drought Monitor map released this week shows three-quarters of South Carolina is unusually dry - all but the northeast corner of South Carolina. Last week, the monitor had dry conditions in less than half of the state. The worst conditions are in the northwest corner of South Carolina. Oconee, Pickens and Anderson counties are almost all in exceptional drought - the highest level on the map. Six more counties are in extreme drought. Authorities say the dry weather has greatly increase wildfire danger. The Pinnacle Mountain fire in Pickens County has burned 11 square miles.

Independent Mail: Pinnacle Mountain fire continues to consume acreage

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/11/24/pinnacle-mountain-fire-continues-consume-acreage/94399702/>

The fire that has consumed land around Pinnacle Mountain for the last two weeks was still going

strong as of Thursday evening. As darkness neared, the fire encompassed 7,300 acres and remained about 40 percent contained, according to Russell Hubright, a spokesman for the South Carolina Forestry Commission. Officials had hoped for rainfall overnight Wednesday to help slow down the fire. But less than a 10th of an inch of rain fell in area where the wildfire continues to burn. Firefighters continued to work on containing the blaze along the North Carolina-South Carolina border. "There has been a switch in humidity that has helped some," Hubright said. "Even though the fire is still mostly not contained, it is not behaving as erratically as it once was." Officials are now eyeing a weather system that they hope could bring some rain to the area Tuesday or Wednesday.

Greenville News: Thanksgiving with the Pinnacle Mountain fire

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/11/23/pinnacle-mountain-fire-moves-toward-nc-state-line/94363908/>

Anna Lee

The S.C. Forestry Commission firefighter from Adams Run — a little town about 20 miles south of Charleston — arrived in Pickens County Saturday as one of the 240 crew members who are fighting to contain the two-week-old wildfire brewing on Pinnacle Mountain. The fire had spread to 7,282 acres and was 40 percent contained Wednesday night, the Forestry Commission said. Most of the growth is coming from a segment of wildfire that escaped a containment line in the northern perimeter late Saturday. "A vast majority of the efforts are focusing on where the fire jumped across the Saluda River and into Greenville County," said Brad Bramlett, spokesman for the Forestry Commission. Bramlett said crews plan to burn several hundred acres ahead of the fire Thursday in a burnout operation similar to the one last week. Firefighters torched two semi circles around Table Rock Mountain and Pinnacle Mountain to remove fuel and protect 280 homes that were in the fire's path.

Herald-Journal: Air quality alert issued for Carolina wildfires smoke

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20161123/air-quality-alert-issued-for-carolina-wildfires-smoke?rssfeed=true>

Chris Lavender

Smoke from wildfires in the Carolinas is continuing to blanket some parts of Spartanburg County. The smoke was especially thick on Tuesday and Wednesday in Landrum. Patty Otto, owner of The Hare and Hound, said her restaurant has remained open despite the smoky conditions outdoors. Otto said smoky conditions have persisted in the area since the wildfires in Pickens County and Lake Lure, N. C., started earlier this month. Conditions improved Wednesday, but the haze still lingered. The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control has issued a code orange air quality alert for northern Greenville and northern Pickens County through midnight Thursday. DHEC recommends that individuals with respiratory health issues limit time spent outdoors to avoid the smoke. Gov. Nikki Haley declared a state of emergency for Greenville and Pickens counties through Dec. 7 due to the Pinnacle Mountain wildfire.

The Herald: Burning ban back on for Lancaster County, fire officials say

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article116769078.html>

David Thackham

Lancaster County fire rescue officials have issued a countywide ban on outdoor burning. The ban was enacted Wednesday afternoon as a result of the continuing dry conditions, low humidity and potential high wind. Fire officials worry the conditions can quickly turn small fires into uncontrollable blazes. The ban is "for burning of any materials with the exception of recreational burning/campfires," according to a release Wednesday. The South Carolina Forestry Commission had lifted a statewide burning ban for several counties including Lancaster County, but local officials decided to reinstate the ban in the interest of public safety. York and Chester counties remain under the statewide burning ban, which was issued last weekend. Fire officials and law enforcement will fine anyone who intentionally starts a fire during the ban, according to Lancaster Fire Rescue. Residents are asked to delay burning until the conditions are more favorable and the ban is lifted.

Hurricane Matthew Recovery:

Post and Courier: Christmas tree sales expected to be merry despite drought, hurricane
http://www.postandcourier.com/business/christmas-tree-sales-expected-to-be-merry-despite-drought-hurricane/article_4b85a7ac-a5ca-11e6-b7d2-cfd0c5cb78e1.html

Warren L. Wise

Neither a drought nor hurricane is expected to erode Christmas tree sales this year. Rains across South Carolina earlier in the year helped spur tree growth, and Hurricane Matthew's impact on some trees along the coast will be replaced by trees imported from North Carolina. Sales this year for the more than \$1 billion Christmas tree industry are expected to be jolly, based on early indications, according to national, state and local industry officials. "We are hearing from growers everywhere that the interest and demand in trees is very strong this year," said Tim O'Connor, executive director of the National Christmas Tree Association. "Growers are loading orders for trees, and they are very excited about the season." Last year, sales of farm-grown Christmas trees soared 27 percent over 2014 to \$1.32 billion, based on the association's annual consumer survey. Nearly 26 million trees sold at a mean average price of \$51. At the same time, sales of artificial trees plummeted 28.2 percent last year to \$854 million. Nearly 12.5 million fake trees sold at an average mean price of \$69.

Post and Courier: Thanksgiving blessing: Lowcountry volunteers help after Hurricane Matthew
http://www.postandcourier.com/news/thanksgiving-blessing-lowcountry-volunteers-help-after-hurricane-matthew/article_7fc57690-b18d-11e6-a7c1-4738eb5742ac.html

Bo Petersen

The largest live oak trunk in the yard snapped, dropped, smashed through Sarah Burnell's porch, cracked into her roof and came crashing through the ceiling in the living room where she stood. That was Hurricane Matthew a little more than a month ago. This week she was in the kitchen cooking collards and a big turkey for her Thanksgiving, a gathering of more than 50 brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She spread a block of butter on the turkey, sprinkled salt, seasoned salt and pepper. Her roof is repaired. Dry wall is up on the living room wall and the paneling will be finished soon. Work is under way on the porch outside and it will be screened, a nice addition when the mosquitoes return next spring. At 78 years old, retired from help work at a resort and restaurant, she couldn't have done this on her own.

Dylann Roof Case:

Post and Courier: Judge: Dylann Roof is competent to stand trial for hate crimes
http://www.postandcourier.com/church_shooting/judge-dylann-roof-is-competent-to-stand-trial/article_d47293b2-b17e-11e6-8aef-971aa53436af.html

Jennifer Berry Hawes

A federal judge ruled Friday that Emanuel AME Church shooter Dylann Roof is mentally competent to face his looming death penalty trial, which had been scheduled to begin two weeks ago. Jury selection will begin Monday. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel's ruling followed a closed-door competency hearing that stretched through two full days while attorneys discussed a new psychiatric evaluation of Roof. Gergel ordered that evaluation two weeks ago after defense attorneys raised new questions about the self-avowed white supremacist's mental state. Gergel banned the public from the competency hearing despite pleas last week from many of the nine shooting victims' families and the survivors who wanted to observe the proceedings. Several media outlets, including The Post and Courier, also objected to the closure.

Opinion/Editorial:

New York Times: No Experience, No Problem

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/24/opinion/no-experience-no-problem.html?_r=0

The Editorial Board

President-elect Donald Trump's transition has been a circus, to say the least, with a colorful and eclectic crowd of job seekers of varying ideological hues and levels of experience ascending to the 26th floor of Trump Tower to audition for some of the most consequential jobs in the country. The man who spent years saying "you're fired" is now saying "you're hired" to all sorts of people, though it's not at all clear whether his choices result from a carefully thought-out strategy or are being made on the fly. The latest winners in the Trump job fair are Gov. Nikki Haley, Betsy DeVos and, by all accounts, Ben Carson, who is likely to be named soon. Anyone seeking a clear policy or ideological pattern here will be disappointed. Ms. Haley, Mr. Trump's choice to be ambassador to the United Nations, is a popular South Carolina governor with a winning manner and zero foreign policy experience. Mr. Carson, who is expected to lead the Department of Housing and Urban Development, is a famed neurosurgeon who was demolished by Mr. Trump in the Republican primaries and whose only experience with housing appears to be that he is a homeowner. Ms. DeVos, the prospective education secretary, is a wealthy Republican donor who leads the advocacy group American Federation for Children, but who spent a considerable amount of time on Wednesday insisting that she does not support Common Core, which Mr. Trump bashed on the campaign trail.

New York Post: Trump taps two tough ladies in a sign of change to come

<http://nypost.com/2016/11/24/trump-taps-two-tough-ladies-in-a-sign-of-change-to-come/>

Editorial Board

President-elect Donald Trump just tapped two smart, tough women to help lead his administration: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, as his US ambassador to the United Nations, and Betsy DeVos, as his education secretary. Both are excellent picks. DeVos has been fighting for education reform for decades, demanding that every parent be able to choose a school that can help each child achieve his or her potential. This is a pick that the teachers unions — who usually expect to have the Education Department in their pocket, even under Republican presidents — already hate. Not least because she's effective: DeVos won rave reviews (from Republicans) as head of the Michigan GOP, and as an activist and philanthropist has helped foster dramatic pro-kid education reform in multiple states. Guess what, New York City charter schools? Come January, you're going to have a potent friend in Washington. By picking Haley, meanwhile, the president-elect proves yet again he's willing to work with his former critics within the GOP. She had tough words for him during the primaries — saying, for example, that he was "everything a governor doesn't want in a president."

Post and Courier: Hicks column: Haley's gonna take our problems to the United Nations

http://www.postandcourier.com/columnists/hicks-column-haley-s-gonna-take-our-problems-to-the/article_8a24d70e-b1e0-11e6-b2ec-5f14c1973ed8.html

Brian Hicks

So long, Gov. Haley. We wish you well. This week, President-elect Donald Trump offered Nikki Haley the job of U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and, to no one's surprise, she accepted. She will be leaving Columbia early next year for Washington. Most people in South Carolina figured she was headed to D.C. one day. But no one could have guessed it would be quite like this, joining the cabinet of a man she spent much of the past year criticizing. Bless his heart. You can call this cold political calculus, which is what people were doing on social media by early Wednesday. Since she first won the governor's office in 2010, her critics have claimed she was all ambition and no substance, with her sights set on the national stage. That may have been a fair knock in the early days, but what politician isn't ambitious? Even her detractors must admit she has grown into the job pretty well. Haley has proven a most talented and mostly pragmatic politician, doing as much with the governor's office as the law allows. She handled the shooting at Emanuel AME, floods, a hurricane, a Department of Revenue hacking, and more floods as well as anyone probably could.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Army commanders serve soldiers holiday feast on Thanksgiving

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ymXTcJ3O

SC State Wire

Fort Jackson commander Maj. Gen. Pete Johnson and his wife Sheila are serving a Thanksgiving feast to soldiers in basic training. The two-star general and his wife arrived at the Army training installation in June. On the Thanksgiving holiday, the couple is helped serve more than 2,600 pounds of turkey, 2,300 pounds of ham and 1,000 pies the staff has prepared for soldiers at the post over the holiday weekend. It is an Army tradition for the military officers and non-commissioned officers to take over the chow line and serve their soldiers on such holidays. Fort Jackson, located outside Columbia, South Carolina, is the Army's largest training installation. It trains more than half of all male soldiers and more than 60 percent of female soldiers.

Associated Press: Federal agency questions firing of transportation executive

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=rHHIs8AY

SC State Wire

The federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission says the former CEO of the Coast Regional Transportation Authority in Conway was fired, in part, because he was black and because of his age. The Sun News of Myrtle Beach reported (<http://bit.ly/2gosWlr>) documents it obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request shows Myers Rollins was fired improperly in 2014. Rollins filed a complaint with the federal agency after the Coast board fired him two years ago. Coast RTA spokeswoman Michelle Cantey says the agency is consulting its attorney. Cantey could not say whether the transportation agency will try to negotiate a settlement with Rollins. He says he is talking with the transportation board. The federal document says several board members expressed bias against Rollins' race and his age, 63 at the time.

Associated Press: SC bicyclist killed riding in middle of highway in NC

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=3Tkp3RyF

SC State Wire

Authorities say a South Carolina man riding a bicycle in the middle of a four-lane highway has been struck and killed in Gaston County. Troopers told media outlets that 47-year-old Jhoney Westberry of Lancaster, South Carolina, was thrown from his bicycle on U.S. Highway 321 and pronounced dead at the scene just north of the South Carolina-North Carolina state line. Authorities say Westberry was wearing dark clothing and riding in the middle of the highway when he was hit around 7 p.m. Wednesday. Troopers say they are investigating, but don't expect to charge the driver who hit Westberry.

Associated Press: Man wanted in South Carolina killing caught in Tennessee

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=M3nVAz7z

SC State Wire

Authorities say the suspect wanted in the killing of a South Carolina man who testified recently in a federal drug trial has been arrested in Tennessee. Anderson County deputies said in a news release that federal marshals found Bruce Bell in Knoxville, Tennessee, early Thursday and took him into custody. Authorities say Bell shot and killed Walter Lee last week at his auto-detailing business in Anderson. Lee was among 21 people indicted in March 2015 after a five-year investigation found \$1.5 million and 220 pounds of cocaine. Lee testified against two others in the case. Authorities say they are trying to determine if Lee's testimony led to his death. It wasn't known if Bell had a lawyer or when an extradition hearing might be held.

Local News:

Associated Press: Police search for suspect in fatal hit-and-run

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

SC State Wire

Authorities are searching for the driver responsible for a fatal hit-and-run in Summerville. The

Summerville Police Department tells local news organizations that 23-year-old Brett Farmer was struck by a vehicle near Azalea Square Shopping Center early Thursday. Farmer was then transported to a hospital, where he later died. Police spokesman Nick Santanna says the driver responsible for the incident left the scene. Officers do not have a description of the vehicle or the suspect, but say the vehicle involved should have front-end damage. Anyone with additional information is asked to contact authorities.

Associated Press: Savannah man faces charges in crash that killed news anchor

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=IHMWz4eC

SC State Wire

A 31-year-old Savannah man faces felony charges in Sunday's head-on crash that killed WTOC-TV news anchor Don Logana. The Savannah Morning News reports (<http://bit.ly/2fWLZ5I>) the South Carolina Highway Patrol has charged Cleveland Coleman with one count of DUI involving death and two counts of DUI with great bodily injury. Lance Cpl. Matt Southern says Coleman was arrested Tuesday as he was released from Memorial University Medical Center, where he'd been treated after the accident near the South Carolina side of Talmadge Bridge. Coleman appeared in Chatham County court Wednesday, where he opted to fight extradition. Superior Court Judge Louisa Abbot says that decision will trigger a governor's warrant from South Carolina. "South Carolina wants you back to face these charges," Abbot told Coleman in court. Coleman will stay in Chatham County until the extradition hearing. It's unclear whether he has an attorney.

Associated Press: 17-year-old shot and killed at Bluffton park

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

SC State Wire

Beaufort County deputies say a 17-year-old had been shot to death in a park in Bluffton. Authorities told media outlets that Shawntrey Nelson was wounded near the basketball courts at University Park in Bluffton around 4:45 p.m. Wednesday. He died a short time later at the hospital. Investigators are interviewing witnesses, but have not publicly identified a suspect or given a motive for the shooting.

Associated Press: Police investigate 3 drive-by shootings at home in 2 days

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=NBEjPu0s

SC State Wire

Authorities say three drive-by shootings in two days at a home in Bennettsville are likely retaliation for the killing of a teenager back in March. Bennettsville Police Lt. Larry Turner told media outlets that two of the shootings took place less than 30 minutes apart Tuesday night and six shootings have been reported since July at the house where the suspect in the killing lives. No one has been injured. Investigators say five people were arrested and charged with the Monday shooting after police stopped their car and found a gun. Turner says investigators continue to look for other suspects.

Associated Press: Lander professor lets student bring her infant to math class

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8v4dWFzY

SC State Wire

When Sarah Thompson transferred to Lander University from the University of South Carolina a few months ago, she was 8 months pregnant, and shortly after she started her only class at the school, she gave birth to her son, Isaiah. Thompson reached out to Lander University math professor Josie Ryan letting her know why she was out of class, which Ryan, knowing the newborn needed to be around his mother, told her to bring to class. "She's breastfeeding, and babies have to eat like every two hours, and I wanted her to have every opportunity to ask every question she might need to ask," Ryan said. "The math class she's taking is an intense class and you have to ask for help -- it's too difficult to do without help -- and I knew that if she didn't bring the baby, she'd have to go home and feed the baby, and then it would be that much harder to get back in time for office hours."

Independent Mail: Milliken plans upgrades at Anderson County plants

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/11/23/milliken-plans-upgrades-anderson-county-plants/94277212/>

Nikie Mayo

Milliken & Company plans to invest at least \$2.5 million to upgrade equipment at three plants in Anderson County. Headquartered in Spartanburg, the textile and chemical research company employs nearly 600 people in Anderson County, according to county economic development officials. The company plans upgrades at its Cushman knitting plant in Williamston, its Gerrish-Milliken weaving plant in Pendleton and its finishing plant, also in Pendleton. The upgrades will include refurbishing existing machines and purchasing new equipment to increase productivity at the plants, according to documents from the Anderson County Economic Development Department. Courtney Edwards, a corporate spokeswoman for Milliken, said Wednesday that the company is performing the upgrades as part of its ordinary course of business and that "no big changes" are expected at the Anderson County plants.

Palmetto Business Daily: Adger Solar to invest \$200 million in two Clarendon County projects
<http://palmettobusinessdaily.com/stories/511047916-adger-solar-to-invest-200-million-in-two-clarendon-county-projects>

Adger Solar plans to invest \$200 million for two solar projects in Clarendon County, creating at least five new jobs. Adger Solar is a clean energy development company that creates utility-scale, solar-electric generating facilities. It has projects underway in six different South Carolina counties. "Adger Solar has been developing these projects for nearly two years, and we're very excited to have the strong support of Clarendon County as we move into the next phase of development," Adger Solar principal Bill Moore said. These low-profile solar PV (photovoltaic) projects will complement the county's strong agricultural base and will become important contributors of jobs, tax revenue and clean power to the local community. "The first of the two new 72 megawatt solar farms should be operational by the end of 2018. Both projects, once complete, will generate enough electricity to supply 25,000 homes annually.

NOTE: "Adger Solar's investment in Clarendon is a real reason to celebrate because it shows that South Carolina is a place where companies in every industry can thrive," Gov. Nikki Haley said. "This \$200 million investment shows that Adger Solar is serious about its commitment to our state and our people, and we look forward to continuing this partnership for many years to come."

President-elect Trump News:

Associated Press: The Latest: Trump aide notes opposition to Romney in Cabinet
<http://bigstory.ap.org/df237887b0834aa28825b57f62cf768f>

A top adviser to President-elect Donald Trump has gone on Twitter to note opposition among some of his supporters to selection of former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney as secretary of state. In a pair of posts on her verified Twitter account @kellyannePolls on Thursday, Trump spokeswoman Kellyanne Conway seemed to be stating an argument against the placement of Romney in Trump's Cabinet. Romney vehemently opposed Trump's nomination early in the campaign, assailing the billionaire as a "phony." In one tweet, Conway notes that she has been "receiving a deluge of social media & private concerns re: Romney Some Trump loyalists warn against Romney as sec of state." In another, she makes references to former secretaries of state Henry Kissinger and George Schultz, both Cabinet secretaries in Republican administrations, as men who "flew around the world less, counseled POTUS (president of the United States) close to home more. And were loyal. Good checklist."

Associated Press: Trump says he's trying to save jobs in US
<http://bigstory.ap.org/b1ef860c0ecc44c29b2bef61e7f852bc>

President-elect Donald Trump didn't take off all of Thanksgiving Day while enjoying a long holiday weekend with his family at his Mar-a-Lago estate, saying he was working to keep the makers of Carrier air conditioners from relocating from Indianapolis to Mexico. Meanwhile, his transition team

was stepping up its effort to raise money for inaugural festivities and Trump offered a holiday prayer for a politically divided nation, even as a controversy swirled around his consideration of onetime fierce critic Mitt Romney for his Cabinet. After Thanksgiving Day, Trump and his transition team are expected to turn their attention back to building his administration. Two possible appointments loom: retired neurosurgeon and former presidential candidate Ben Carson as secretary of housing and urban development and billionaire investor Wilbur Ross Jr. as commerce secretary. But a top aide was thinking aloud about this on Thursday, seeming to highlight opposition among some Trump supporters to Romney's selection as secretary of state.

Associated Press: Trump's stock in oil pipeline company raises concern

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a6c6591086f24d45a3f0b5d48f2a8271>

President-elect Donald Trump holds stock in the company building the disputed Dakota Access oil pipeline, and pipeline opponents warn that Trump's investments could affect any decision he makes on the \$3.8 billion project as president. Trump's 2016 federal disclosure forms show he owned between \$15,000 and \$50,000 in stock in Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners. That's down from between \$500,000 and \$1 million a year earlier. Trump also owns between \$100,000 and \$250,000 in Phillips 66, which has a one-quarter share of Dakota Access. While Trump's stake in the pipeline company is modest compared with his other assets, ethics experts say it's among dozens of potential conflicts that could be resolved by placing his investments in a blind trust, a step Trump has resisted. The Obama administration said this month it wants more study and tribal input before deciding whether to allow the partially built pipeline to cross under a Missouri River reservoir in North Dakota.

Associated Press: Melania Trump is set to be a long-distance first lady

<http://bigstory.ap.org/3390bcbe535d4d3591a9266a2ea5dd69>

It will be one of many unusual things about a Donald Trump administration: a long-distance first lady. Trump will move into the White House after the Jan. 20 inauguration. Breaking with tradition, Melania Trump and 10-year-old son Barron plan to remain in New York City until at least the end of the school year. While the decision sets Melania Trump apart from other first ladies — both Michelle Obama and Hillary Clinton took on the move with school-age children in tow — it seems in character. The former model and naturalized U.S. citizen from Slovenia was an elusive figure in the campaign and had no political experience before her husband's stunningly successful outsider campaign. "We're in a time when all the molds are being broken," said Katherine Jellison, head of the history department at Ohio University and an authority on first ladies. "That may be the case where we have a redefining of a role that, after all, isn't in the Constitution." Trump spokesman Jason Miller cited "sensitivity" about pulling Barron from school midyear. In an interview with US Weekly earlier this year, Melania Trump said: "Barron is the priority for now and he needs me at this age. He needs a parent at home, and I like to keep it as normal as possible."

National News:

Associated Press: Shoppers hunt for deals, hit the shops for entertainment

<http://bigstory.ap.org/1f16b95cc3774a77b0ce5fa3343cf100>

Shoppers were on the hunt for deals and were shopping for entertainment Friday as stores opened for what is still one of the busiest days of the year, even as the start of the holiday season edges ever earlier. Julie Singewald's Black Friday started at 4 a.m. at a Twin Cities outlet mall. By 6 a.m., she and her two teenage daughters made it to the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota. Singewald said she was merely the vehicle — "and sometimes the credit card" — as her daughters hunted for deals and worked on their shopping lists. Increasingly, the 44-year-old is doing more of her shopping online. "I'm a point-and-click person," she said. "If it were up to me, I would be in my pajamas and on my computer at home." Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, used to launch the holiday season, but the competition to grab customers first is keen. Stores like Macy's, Walmart, Target and more were open Thursday evening in what they hope will be a new holiday tradition as they try to fight off competition from Amazon.

World News:

Associated Press: Death toll in Iraq bombing claimed by IS rises to 73

<http://bigstory.ap.org/af8c51d501e640a79839071362cd4e02>

The death toll from a car bombing south of Baghdad claimed by the Islamic State group rose to 73 on Friday, including about 40 Iranian pilgrims, as Iraqi forces continued to inch closer to the center of the northern city of Mosul in street-to-street fighting east of the Tigris River. Iraqi police and hospital officials said 65 other people were wounded in the Thursday night attack at a gas station on a major highway near the city of Hilla, about 95 kilometers (60 miles) south of the Iraqi capital. It was the deadliest IS attack in Iraq since July, when a car bomb killed about 300 in a commercial district in Baghdad. IS claimed the attack in a brief statement on its Amaq media arm, saying it was a suicide truck bomb. Earlier, Iraqi officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media, had put the death toll at 56. The attack appears to have targeted a bus with Iranian pilgrims heading home after a major Shiite religious observance in the holy city of Karbala.

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