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To:
Date: 8/17/2016 8:38:40 AM
Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, August 17, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: SC Republicans criticize Clyburn for road-repair projects

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article96022647.html>

Cassie Cope

S.C. Republicans are criticizing U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-Columbia, for a \$21.5 million list of road-spending projects the longtime congressman is pushing to get approved. The S.C. Department of Transportation has about \$23.5 million in federal money once earmarked for road projects in the congressional district Clyburn represents. Those projects never got off the ground or were completed, freeing up the money for new uses. To qualify, the new project must be within 50 miles of the original project and have a local match of 20 percent of the project budget. Clyburn, who secured most of that money, sent a letter to S.C. Transportation Department chief Christy Hall in July asking that the money be spent on other projects in his district...

NOTE: S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley's office agreed, calling Clyburn's proposal a "perfect example of everything wrong with our roads system and why it so desperately needs reform. The wishes of politicians are more important than the safety of our citizens," said Haley's spokeswoman Chaney Adams. "Under no circumstances should this money be spent on any projects other than those prioritized by the Department of Transportation. Period."

Greenville News: County Council approves resolution to reduce number of mentally ill in jail

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/08/16/county-council-approves-resolution-reduce-number-mentally-ill-jail/88869516/>

Amanda Coyne

Greenville County Council unanimously approved a resolution aimed at reducing the number of mentally ill people in jails Tuesday night. The resolution supports the Stepping Up Initiative, a movement also dedicated to addressing the issue of mental illness behind bars. Paton Blough, a Greenville resident and member of the Stepping Up Initiative, said the resolution will be a tool to hold County Council accountable for improvements in the county's law enforcement and mental healthcare policies. Blough lives with a bipolar disorder and says previous actions, including instituting mental health courts, have helped him and other people with mental illnesses through the criminal justice system to get treatment. "I've been in jail more than half a dozen times and I've been in a mental hospital more than half a dozen times, but I was a lucky one. I went through what is called a mental health court. I was one of the lucky ones," Blough said. "If it wasn't for things like that, that people in this county kept going even when the funding ran out, I would be in jail or dead right now."

NOTE: Blough cited a decline in South Carolina's number of beds in inpatient mental health treatment centers. The state currently has 493 beds in those centers, according to an Aug. 2 PBS report. The state has added 67 beds since Gov. Nikki Haley has been in office, but there were previously as many as 3,500 beds in mental health treatment facilities, Blough said.

WCSC: Anti-domestic violence group seeks change in SC after 11-year-old's death

http://m.live5news.com/live5news/db_349195/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=SLAbd0kl

Shale Remien

It's been four years since 11-year-old Riley Tippett was shot and killed in a domestic violence attack in the Upstate and now Annie Hambrick, her grieving grandmother, wants to see a change in how domestic violence is handled in South Carolina. Investigators say Riley's stepfather took her life, left her mother badly hurt and then turned the gun on himself in 2012. The coroner said Riley was shot four times. The incident rocked a once quiet Oconee County community. Since the incident, Hambrick and others have took to social media to seek change. They formed a Facebook group called "Riley's Hope for Change." The group aims to get the attention of state legislative leaders like Governor Nikki Haley in hopes of reducing domestic violence in South Carolina. "A child and woman becomes a case number and I want to see change," Hambrick said. "Riley didn't get to go to school today. She would've been in the ninth grade. She was killed at 11-years-old.

WDN: Gov. Nikki Haley Accepts Award Recognizing Global Women Leaders

<http://www.wdn.org/news-events-press-center/news/gov-nikki-haley-accepts-award-recognizing-global-women-leaders>

On July 20, the International Republican Institute (IRI) presented Gov. Nikki Haley with WDN "10 for 10" award, in recognition of her leadership as governor of South Carolina. Gov. Haley met with IRI President Amb. Mark Green, Executive Vice President Judy Van Rest, and board member Connie Newman in Cleveland on the margins of the Republican National Convention to receive her award. "South Carolina's story is one of great progress, and we are honored to see the Women's Democracy Network celebrate that story," said Governor Haley. "Women are stepping up as leaders and public servants for the first time in many countries thanks to the Women's Democracy Network, and that's something we can all be proud of." WDN launched "10 for 10" to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of the initiative, launched in 2006 to increase women's political and civic leadership globally. "10 for 10" recognizes 10 remarkable women who have demonstrated determination, passion, and a commitment to building a better world. Earlier this year, the award was presented to Belgian Member of Parliament Miet Smet and Wided Bouchamaoui, the president of a prominent Tunisian trade union and recipient of a Nobel Peace Prize.

SC Political News:

Associated Press: North Charleston mayor cleared of 'pay to play' allegations

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=naeDQ4mD

Seanna Adcox

The State Ethics Commission has dismissed "pay to play" allegations against North Charleston's mayor and chastised the accuser. The dismissal order released Tuesday to The Associated Press clears Keith Summey, the city's mayor since 1994. "We're very pleased it went that way. We knew it would," said Summey, who called his re-election last fall the "nastiest election I've been through." John Singletary, an unsuccessful challenger, alleged companies received no-bid contracts in exchange for campaign donations. While an ethics investigation determined Summey did directly approve a no-bid contract to one company that later gave \$1,000 to the mayor's campaign, there was no evidence he solicited the contribution, according to the order dated Aug. 10. Singletary disputed the commission's findings and accused the agency of not sufficiently reviewing the matter.

Post and Courier: State dismisses ethics complaints against Mayor Summey

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160816/160819535/state-dismisses-ethics-complaints-against->

mayor-summey-

Brenda Rindge

An ethics complaint filed against longtime North Charleston Mayor Keith Summey before last November's election has been dismissed. John Singletary, who ran unsuccessfully against Summey in last year's mayoral race, filed a complaint with the state Ethics Commission on Sept. 11 accusing Summey of violating a state law that prevents contractors who receive no-bid contracts from contributing to election campaigns. The law — known as the state's "pay to play" rule — also forbids officials from soliciting contributions in exchange for the award of a contract. After its review, the commission found Summey did not violate that law — and that the only contribution he received from a company that had won a no-bid city contract was not solicited by the mayor. In the dismissal order, Ethics Commission Chair James Warren wrote that the complaint "lacks probable cause to indicate that (Summey) violated the Ethics Act."

Post and Courier: State budget narrowly misses estimate

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160816/160819537/state-budget-narrowly-misses-estimate>

Gavin Jackson

State budget dollars were smaller than state economists predicted, narrowly missing a 4.6 percent growth target for the past fiscal year, official report. The shortfall will require cuts to several projects approved by the General Assembly. Comptroller General Richard Eckstrom said \$10.3 million that had been assigned to the state Aviation Fund, the Adjutant General's Office and more than half the funding for a pedestrian improvement plan near the Statehouse, will be cut. Missing the annual estimate by 0.3 percent led Eckstrom to call for greater savings. International economic pressures could impact South Carolina in coming years, he added. "As state government generates revenue surpluses, it would be prudent to resist the temptation to 'spend it all' and to instead establish additional reserves for leaner times that appear to be emerging," he said.

Post and Courier : Charleston seeking new members, providing better access to information on boards and commissions

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160816/160819503/charleston-seeking-new-members-providing-better-access-to-information-on-boards-and-commissions>

Diane Knich

The city of Charleston's hotels might be staying mostly full, but its boards and commissioners are riddled with vacancies. As a result, Charleston launched a new webpage Tuesday where residents can learn more about its more than 40 boards and commissions. The page, www.charleston-sc.gov/boards, lists the members, duties and actions of the many voluntary boards, committees and commissions that play an important, if often unseen role in city government. The page also explains how to apply for open positions. The initiative comes as the city grapples with 86 vacancies on those bodies, as well as 113 members who continue to serve even though their terms have expired. "This new system is a huge step forward for transparency, accountability and citizen action here in the city of Charleston," said Mayor John Tecklenburg, "By reinventing and demystifying the boards and commissions process, it opens up a whole area of city government that's been locked away in musty folders and file cabinets for too long, and ensures that more of our citizens will be able to have a real say in their own future, and in the future life of our city."

Greenville News: Lockheed Martin dedicates hangar in ongoing bid to win jet job

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2016/08/16/lockheed-martin-dedicates-hangar-ongoing-bid-win-jet-job/88838960/>

Rudolph Bell

VIPs from business and government, America and overseas, gathered to dedicate a refurbished hangar at Lockheed Martin Corp.'s Greenville complex Tuesday as the defense contractor continued its campaign to supply the U.S. Air Force with a supersonic jet for training fighter pilots. The elaborate ceremony began with the Star Spangled Banner and included remarks by three members of Congress from South Carolina. An engineless version of the T-50A, the jet that Lockheed Martin has proposed supplying to the Air Force, was on display in a corner of the hangar, illuminated from below by red and blue lights. Special guests included Sung Yong Ha, chief executive officer of Korea Aerospace Industries, which developed the T-50 in conjunction with Lockheed Martin and manufactures it at a factory in Sacheon, South Korea. Lockheed Martin has said it would import pieces of the jet from Korea and assemble them in Greenville if it beats three competitors to win the multi-billion-dollar Air Force contract for 350 jets.

NOTE: The members of Congress who spoke were Sen. Lindsey Graham and Reps. Trey Gowdy and Joe Wilson, all Republicans. Gowdy, who represents the Greenville/Spartanburg area, tried his hand at a flight simulator that was on display.

SC Agency News:

Post and Courier: Aetna will stop selling Obamacare plans in South Carolina

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160816/160819562/aetna-will-stop-selling-obamacare-plans-in-south-carolina>

Lauren Sausser

Another health insurance company announced this week it will exit the Obamacare marketplace, a move that leaves South Carolina customers who rely on the federal law for coverage with even fewer options next year. Aetna sells Affordable Care Act plans in 14 South Carolina counties, including Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester. Company officials announced Monday that Aetna will close this line of business in 2017 because it isn't profitable. United Healthcare, which also sells Obamacare plans in some South Carolina counties, made a similar announcement earlier this year. If nothing else changes, this leaves Affordable Care Act customers here with just two options for coverage next year — BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina or its subsidiary, BlueChoice. "Companies have given it their best shot and can't sustain that business model, can't make a profit," said S.C. Department of Insurance Director Ray Farmer. "It does show that the Affordable Care Act has not worked, does not work and cannot work under this structure."

Savannah River Site/MOX News:

Aiken Standard: Nuclear watchdog coalition files suit against Energy Department over liquid waste shipments to Savannah River Site

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160816/160819650/nuclear-watchdog-coalition-files-suit-against-energy-department-over-liquid-waste-shipments-to-savannah-river-site>

Thomas Gardiner

A coalition of nuclear and environmental watchdog organizations filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Energy this week, seeking an injunction into planned shipments of liquid radioactive waste from Canada to the Savannah River Site in Aiken County, South Carolina. According to the coalition press release, the lawsuit charges that the Energy Department and National Nuclear Security Administration failed to provide a thorough public process to fully analyze the hazards of transporting liquid highly radioactive waste as required under the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. Under the act, an environmental impact statement must be prepared and made available for other federal agencies and citizens to review and comment on, including a discussion of alternative

ways to deal with the nuclear waste.

Dylann Roof Case:

Post and Courier: Documents filed to seal evidence in Dylann Roof's federal trial

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160816/160819524/documents-filed-to-seal-evidence-in-dylann-roofs-federal-trial>

Gregory Yee

A judge has approved a motion to seal evidence in the federal criminal trial against accused Emanuel AME Church shooter Dylann Roof, and will hold a closed hearing on other evidence, according to documents filed Tuesday. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel approved a motion to seal the contents of the jury questionnaire. "If these documents were made public before a jury is selected, publicity and speculation regarding the significance of particular aspects of the questionnaire would likely impede the ability to select a fair and impartial jury," Gergel wrote in his approval. In addition, Gergel signed off on a closed hearing Sept. 1 to "discuss whether certain evidence is admissible at trial."

SC After Recent Violence:

Sun News: New county police chief pledges to reduce crime, lift agency morale

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article96074212.html>

Audrey Hudson

Joseph Hill, incoming police chief for Horry County, acknowledges that he has a tough challenge when next month he takes over the department that's battling a high crime rate and increasing drug use in the community, along with morale issues within the police agency. But during his first meeting with the Horry County Council Tuesday night, Hill expressed optimism that he was taking over a united department with dedicated law enforcement officials. Hill says they are eager to get past the S. C. Law Enforcement Division investigation and several lawsuits that have haunted the agency, and heal the department's relationship with the community. "We're going to put this behind us," Hill told reporters after the meeting, where he was formally introduced to the council. "We are going to cooperate with the SLED investigation, it's the only way to do it, that is the way to do it. Once we're clear, we're moving full steam ahead." "Nothing against the media, you print what is out there, and officers have made mistakes in the past, but we're moving forward, we're talking about the good things our officers are doing."

The Herald: 'We're not going to drop it': Concerned Black Men detail next steps seeking police transparency

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article96086082.html>

David Thackham

The 30-day waiting period is up. The serious discussions have only just begun for Brad Rawlinson. The local Rock Hill attorney spent an hour and a half Tuesday evening explaining and defending a list of 10 demands that he and his activist group gave to the Rock Hill Police Department last month that he hopes will create transparency into police actions. "These are demands for a reason," Rawlinson said during a public forum held at the old Pix Theater on Oakland Avenue. "We're not going to drop it." Rawlinson led a dialogue with around 30 attendees that touched on topics including cameras in patrol vehicles, changes in behavior and enacting change in black communities. He and his group, the Concerned Black Men of Rock Hill, last month marched downtown to the Rock Hill Police Department on July 16 to deliver a list of demands for action within 30 days. The group's leaders have since held meetings with Mayor Doug Echols and police Chief Chris Watts.

Greenville News: Greenville deputy cleaning gun in public was 'improper'

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/08/16/greenville-county-deputy-gun-cleaning/88828294/>

Romando Dixson

Internal affairs has investigated a Greenville County deputy after a man posted a video of the officer cleaning his service weapon in public. The Sheriff's Office on Tuesday said it was improper for the deputy to clean his service weapon as he stood outside of a patrol car at Boulder Creek Apartments, 300 Furman Hall Road. The deputy was working an "extra-duty" job Thursday at the apartment complex, the Sheriff's Office said. The man recording the video said children were outside playing, including his niece, who rode by on a bike. The man was about 15-20 yards away when he confronted the officer about two minutes into the video. The man told the deputy that he should clean his pistol in his car and doing it in public was "very inappropriate."

Opinion/Editorial:

Post and Courier: Fleeing an unaffordable law

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160817/160819506/fleeing-an-unaffordable-law>

Editorial

The Affordable Care Act's title conveys a false promise. Its predictable failure to fulfill that pledge was re-confirmed by Tuesday's news that Aetna, the nation's third largest health insurer, will withdraw from 11 of the 15 states where it has been offering policies through the ACA. One of those 11 states is South Carolina, where Aetna has been providing ACA policies in 14 counties — including Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester. And according to The Washington Post, Aetna's retreat puts Arizona's Pinal County "at risk of having no insurers offering exchange plans in 2017, a circumstance that would present a major challenge to the basic mechanics of the ACA." Among those "basic mechanics" is the constitutionally dubious "individual mandate" for most Americans to obtain health insurance. The law also is based on the rosy-scenario assumption that large numbers of relatively healthy young people will buy policies under the ACA. That illusion has been shattered. So Aetna, like other companies before it and others leaving the ACA soon, has concluded that this is not an "affordable" endeavor for its bottom line. UnitedHealth Group Inc. and Humana Inc., two other insurance giants, had already announced large reductions in their ACA participation.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Tropical depression moving over the central Atlantic

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=jMNI4LAX

SC State Wire

The U.S. National Hurricane Center says a tropical depression moving over the central Atlantic is expected to strengthen to a tropical storm. The depression's maximum sustained winds early Wednesday are near 35 mph (55 kph). Slow strengthening is expected and forecasters say the depression is likely to become a tropical storm later in the day. The depression is centered about 775 miles (1,245 kilometers) west-southwest of the Cabo Verde Islands and is moving northwest near 15 mph (24 kph).

Local News:

Greenville News: Woman sues Pickens PD, officer in laundromat sex assault

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2016/08/16/woman-sues-pickens-pd-officer-laundromat-sex-assault/88835282/>

Anna Lee

The city of Pickens and its police department is being sued by a woman who alleges she was molested by an officer with a history of sexual harassment, according to federal court records. In the suit, the woman accuses former police Sgt. Robert Lee Sapp of abusing his position of authority when he fondled and kissed her outside a Pickens laundromat in June 2014. Sapp was arrested in October 2014 and charged in warrants with misconduct in office, malfeasance or nonfeasance and assault and battery — first degree. The woman had initially approached Sapp with information when he threatened to arrest her if she didn't walk with him to the side of the laundromat, according to court records. Sapp later denied assaulting the woman, but a State Law Enforcement Division investigation found his DNA on her. GPS data from Sapp's police cruiser also indicated that his car was at the laundromat for over an hour the day the woman was assaulted, records show.

The State: Sweeping fed indictment targets SC 'Travelers' for major financial crimes

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article96007522.html>

John Monk

A sweeping 45-count federal indictment against 22 residents of the North Augusta area, including more than a dozen of the Irish Travelers' group, was issued Tuesday by a federal grand jury. The indictment alleges that the defendants, most of whom live in Murphy Village in Aiken County, were part of an organized crime ring. They are accused of committing major financial frauds, among them money laundering, as part of illegal schemes involving life insurance, food stamps, Medicaid funds and auto financing. "Many of the defendants are Travelers and reside in Murphy Village where they own large homes, luxury cars and expensive jewelry and clothes, which are often acquired through the fraud schemes," the indictment alleges.

The State: Who are North Augusta's Irish Travelers?

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article96051242.html>

Cynthia Roldan

The reputation of Murphy Village's residents reaches far beyond the Palmetto State. The North Augusta community, just past Interstate 20 in Aiken County, is home to one of the largest communities of Irish Travelers in the nation. According to the 2010 Census, about 1,400 Travelers live in Murphy Village. National counts of Travelers range between 10,000 and 40,000. Nationwide, the community's residents have been associated with scams involving shoddy repair work. Most recently, Union County Sheriff David Taylor published an article in the local newspaper warning residents to be alert for Irish Travelers leaving their business cards around town. On Tuesday, a federal grand jury returned an indictment of 45 counts against 22 people, most of them Travelers living in Murphy Village. The indictment alleges the group committed different kinds of fraud and money laundering schemes, among other charges.

Post and Courier: 'Irish travelers' federally indicted in sweeping fraud probe

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160816/160819520/irish-travelers-federally-indicted-in-sweeping-fraud-probe>

Melissa Boughton

Twenty-two Augusta area residents, many known as "Irish travelers," were named Tuesday in a 45-count federal indictment on charges of racketeering and other criminal activity related to the group's alleged scams. According to allegations in the indictment, the defendants operated out of Murphy Village, near North Augusta in Aiken County, and committed a number of fraudulent schemes to

obtain life insurance benefits, food stamps, Medicaid funds and fraud involving vehicle financing. The travelers, which founded Murphy Village, self-identify as roving laborers and salesmen who offer an array of door-to-door services, according to the indictment. The men travel to other states during favorable weather to work in construction-related jobs, while the women usually remain in Murphy Village, described as insular and isolated.

Associated Press : Man to serve 16 years for stabbing at church on reservation

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=RuwTf5I1

SC State Wire

A South Carolina man has been sentenced to 16 years in federal prison for stabbing a companion to death inside a church on the Cherokee Indian Reservation in North Carolina. Local news outlets report Forest Dakota Hill of Easley, South Carolina, was sentenced Tuesday. He pleaded guilty in April to second-degree murder. Court records and testimony showed Hill and two other people drove to the Smokemount Baptist Church in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in March 2015. While there, Hill stabbed one of the men with him, 25-year-old Tyler Gaddis of Whittier, to death in what court records say was "an unprovoked attack."

Associated Press: Coroner: Man dies after being trapped under tractor

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

SC State Wire

Officials say an Aiken County man has died after being trapped under a tractor. Aiken County Coroner Tim Carlton tells news outlets that 67-year-old Roger Loge died Tuesday near his Monetta home. Officials say Loge's neighbor found him after his wife, who was out of town, was unable to get in contact with him and after he failed to show up for work. Investigators believe Loge was trying to attach a front-end loader to his tractor when the tractor rolled forward, trapping him underneath. Carlton says an autopsy will be performed Wednesday.

Associated Press: Bond denied for teens accused of killing Good Samaritan

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=le7g8zT1

SC State Wire

Bond has been denied for two South Carolina teenagers accused of fatally shooting a good Samaritan who helped them pull an SUV out of a ditch. News outlets report 19-year-old Michael Odell Anthony Dupree-Tyler and a 17-year-old male suspect, both of North Charleston, were in bond court Tuesday night on murder charges in 45-year-old Chadwick Garrett's death. An arrest affidavit states Garrett agreed to pull the suspects' SUV out of the ditch for \$20. Witnesses told police that when Garrett finished, he asked the suspects about the money at which point the 17-year-old suspect took out a gun, firing several shots, striking Garrett in the chest. The affidavit says the teenager then got into the SUV while Dupree-Tyler drove. Online jail records do not list attorneys for the suspects.

Sun News: Heroin epidemic talk draws standing-room-only crowd

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article96078852.html>

Emily Weaver

A standing-room only crowd of more than 400 community members packed a meeting room inside the Base Recreation Center Tuesday night to learn more about an epidemic that has claimed more than 60 lives so far this year in Horry County. Like in other cities big and small across the country, heroin use is on the rise in Myrtle Beach and across the county. And the turnout Tuesday night revealed a growing mass of community partners that aren't ready to let the drug destroy them. "We would have held this at the convention center, but who knew the crowd would be this large?" noted

Myrtle Beach City Councilwoman Mary Jeffcoat as she stood in a line outside the rec center. Heroin overdoses have killed 61 people so far, Horry County Chief Deputy Coroner Tamara Willard told the crowd. Some of those overdose deaths have been linked to fentanyl, a deadly narcotic sometimes sold as heroin although it is estimated to be 50 to 100 times stronger than the street drug.

Herald-Journal: \$24K grant to aid Parkinson's patients in Spartanburg

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160816/articles/160819746>

Ten people with Parkinson's disease will benefit from a \$24,000 grant aimed at improving mental and physical relaxation, Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System announced Tuesday. The grant, funded by the Spartanburg County Foundation, will be implemented over the next year at the Center for Integrative Medicine, previously the Center for Health and Healing. The program is provided by Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System and Gibbs Cancer Center & Research Institute, according to a statement. Since 2014, the center has served clients with Brainwave Optimization, a noninvasive process used to achieve greater balance in the brain. Brainwave Optimization harnesses a brain's natural ability to reset, shift its balance and find deep relaxation. The 10 participants will take part in three one-hour sessions with ballet master Alex Tressor, focusing on movement and flexibility.

Island Packet : Board member calls investigation into O'Nan 'closely guarded' matter

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/education/article96076547.html>

Wade Livingston

A Beaufort County School Board member said the district's investigation of Hilton Head Island High School Principal Amanda O'Nan is a "closely guarded" matter. Board member JoAnn Orischak could not confirm whether O'Nan or the investigation were discussed during Tuesday night's executive session, but she did say Superintendent Jeff Moss and his staff are maintaining there is "no evidence of wrongdoing." "They're maintaining there is no record of anything," Orischak, whose district is home to O'Nan's school, said after Tuesday's meeting. "There's no key card log, no surveillance — nothing." "There has been no indication by the superintendent or his staff that Ms. O'Nan violated any administrative regulations." On Monday, district spokesman Jim Foster said the district's investigation was done "long before" Sunday's reporting of the claims in a Sheriff's Office investigative report, but he would not answer questions about the complaints it had received, when it received them or any specifics about the investigation or how it was conducted.

Island Packet: Nepotism policy update would prohibit hiring superintendent's family members

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article96037072.html>

Rebecca Lurye

A superintendent's immediate family members would not be allowed to work for the Beaufort County School District under a revised conflicts of interest policy that received preliminary school board approval Tuesday night. That draft policy, approved by the Beaufort County school board on a second reading at Tuesday's meeting, includes the provision, "No member of the Superintendent's immediate family shall be eligible for employment within or as a contractor to the BCSD in any capacity." The change comes days after Superintendent Jeff Moss admitted to ethical violations related to hiring his wife last September, and despite the fact that the board said Friday it would not do anything about the violations. On Tuesday, there was no board discussion about the change, which is part of a comprehensive update to the board's policy manual completed over the last seven months by an ad hoc school board committee.

The Herald: Spartanburg County Council OKs second reading of Sunday alcohol sales measure

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160816/articles/160819804>

Spartanburg County Council approved a second reading Monday of an ordinance to permit Sunday sales of alcoholic beverages at county stores. The ordinance requires three readings for final approval. If the ordinance is passed, a referendum will be placed on the Nov. 8 ballot to let voters decide whether grocery, convenience and other stores in the county should be allowed to sell alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption. A special meeting will be held to ensure the proposal is approved in time to be placed on the November ballot. The council needs to approve the ordinance on third and final reading by Sept. 9. Spartanburg County already allows on-premises alcohol sales at restaurants and bars on Sundays.

Associated Press: Getting to the Surf: Myrtle Beach pursues new parking option

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=H3tEzJkG

SC State Wire

North Myrtle Beach is taking steps to provide more parking for people who want to enjoy the sun and surf along the city's beaches. Local media outlets report that a resolution passed Monday will allow some commercial developers - instead of providing their own parking for businesses - to pay into a city fund and have the city build parking lots. Businesses are required to provide a certain number of parking spaces depending on the type and size of business. Under the resolution, businesses could pay \$25,000 to the city fund for every spot they are required to provide. Parking along the city's shorefront is hard to come by, especially during the busy summer tourist season. The Grand Strand is the heart of the state's \$19 billion tourism industry.

Associated Press: Asking the Question: Ports seeks opinions on cruise terminal

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=7fK9WjjZ

SC State Wire

The South Carolina Ports Authority is spending \$35,000 on a survey asking people what they think about a contentious cruise terminal proposed for Charleston and an environmental group opposed to the plan. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports (<http://bit.ly/2aYIR9E>) the agency is spending \$35,000 to have political consultants from Columbia take a phone survey of 800 South Carolina residents. Respondents are being asked what they think about the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League and the group's executive director Dana Beach. Other questions ask about local politicians. Authority spokeswoman Erin Dhand says the survey is part of ongoing efforts to measure public opinion of the agency. But Beach says he's unnerved by a state agency asking strangers questions about him. One of the newspaper's reporters was surveyed last weekend.

Post and Courier: Charleston ports agency using phone survey to gather input on cruise ship terminal

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160816/160819523/charleston-ports-agency-using-phone-survey-to-gather-input-on-cruise-ship-terminal>

David Wren

The State Ports Authority is spending \$35,000 to learn what South Carolina residents think about cruise ships, an environmental group opposed to plans for a passenger terminal near the city's Historic District and that organization's director. Southern Research, a group headed by Columbia political consultants Richard Quinn and Bob McAlister, is conducting a telephone survey of 800 residents statewide to gauge their opinions on the cruise ship debate and other topics. The survey asks respondents to rate their approval or disapproval on an array of subjects. In addition to cruise ships, the survey — which takes roughly 10 minutes to complete — asks for opinions about Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg, North Charleston Mayor Keith Summey, and a new cargo terminal under construction at the former Navy base in North Charleston.

The State: Coastal geologist criticizes beach renourishment efforts, including in SC

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article96064092.html>

Sammy Fretwell

The federal government should rethink the wisdom of spending money to renourish beaches as sea levels rise and coastal property in the Carolinas and other places becomes increasingly vulnerable, a coastal geologist critical of renourishment efforts said Tuesday. Rob Young, who heads the Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines at Western Carolina University, said the government is subsidizing coastal development with renourishment money – and that’s costing taxpayers. Communities across the country have spent millions of dollars renourishing beaches. Those efforts encourage people to rebuild after every major hurricane, he said. During a talk with journalists in Asheville, Young also said the federal government isn’t studying beach renourishment comprehensively enough to know what impact it is having on the environment.

The State: Columbia to spend \$1 million again to provide aid to its homeless population

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article96086537.html>

Clif Leblanc

The city of Columbia in coming months will spend \$1 million to help the homeless, including at the winter shelter and Main Street’s Transitions center, a total that is about the same as recent years. The single largest part of the budget approved Tuesday by Columbia City Council for the homeless population is \$333,000 to operate the winter shelter. It opens between Nov. 1 and March 31 on nights when temperatures dip to 40 degrees or lower. Last year, the shelter was budgeted to be open 100 nights but had residents for 65 nights, said Mac Bennett, chief executive officer of United Way of the Midlands, which has overseen the shelter the past two years. Warm winter temperatures for two consecutive years have kept the shelter from operating at capacity. During those 65 nights, 739 men and women stayed at the city-owned facility that overlooks the downtown water plant.

The State: \$55 million Clemson complex near completion, even has a nap room

<http://www.thestate.com/sports/college/acc/clemson-university/article96094877.html>

Matt Connolly

The future of Clemson football is almost here. The Tigers’ new state-of-the-art football complex, complete with all the bells and whistles, is slated to be completed January 26. The facility is expected to help Clemson in recruiting, as well as in operating day-to-day. The \$55 million complex is more than 140,000 square feet and is highlighted by a players’ lounge that includes a barber shop, arcade, bowling alley and laser tag. The facility will also include a 24-seat HD theater, an indoor golf simulator and an indoor replica of The Hill and Howard’s Rock. “This complex will be one of the best in the nation and will allow us to continue our pursuit to be among the best programs in the country,” Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said. “We look forward to it being the home of Clemson football for a very long time.”

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: Trump campaign shakes up leadership in latest sign of tumult

<http://bigstory.ap.org/94bdf984030145f9b9d444432a4e3450>

Jill Colvin and Julie Pace

Republican Donald Trump announced a shakeup of his campaign leadership Wednesday, the latest sign of tumult in his bid for the White House as his poll numbers slip and only 82 days remain before the election. The billionaire real estate mogul named Stephen Bannon of the conservative Breitbart

News website as chief executive officer and promoted pollster Kellyanne Conway to campaign manager. Paul Manafort, Trump's controversial campaign chairman, will retain his title, but it is unclear if his role will change. In tapping Bannon for a top campaign role, Trump is doubling down on his outsider appeal rather than appeasing more traditional Republicans. The conservative Breitbart figure has been a cheerleader for Trump's campaign for months and was critical of Republican leaders, including Ryan. Bannon is a former Goldman Sachs banker and does not bring presidential campaign experience to Trump's White House bid.

National News:

Associated Press: Staying ahead of the mold, residents salvage what they can

<http://bigstory.ap.org/ed9ead5dea5d492c91f53777bf3b4841>

Michael Kunzelman, Melinda Deslatte and Rebecca Santana

The heartbreaking task of sorting through waterlogged belongings and ripping out carpets and drywall is kicking into high gear Wednesday in flood-wracked southern Louisiana as the state faces a long-term challenge of how to house thousands of displaced people. But even as the water receded in some areas, it was rising in other places downstream, sending people fleeing to shelters. Officials painted a stark picture of the crisis: at least 40,000 homes damaged and 11 people killed in some of the worst flooding in Louisiana history. More than 30,000 people have been rescued since Friday. There were scattered reports of looting, and Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards said parishes with widespread damage were being placed under curfew as of Tuesday night.

Associated Press: Monstrous California wildfire drives over 80,000 from homes

<http://bigstory.ap.org/447a24fd39094cf78ff2a784d72f8a2f>

Robert Jablon

It tore through canyons and flew over ridges in every direction with astonishing speed, sending flames 80 feet skyward and forcing tens of thousands to flee their homes. The Southern California wildfire that began as a small midmorning patch of flame next to Interstate 15 in the Cajon Pass had by Tuesday's end turned into a 28-square-mile monster that had burned an untold number of homes. "This moved so fast," said Darren Dalton, 51, who along with his wife and son had to get out of his house in Wrightwood, a mountain town of 4,500 popular with skiers in winter. "It went from 'have you heard there's a fire?' to 'mandatory evacuation' before you could take it all in. This is a tight little community up here. Always in rally mode. Suddenly it's a ghost town." Hundreds of cars packed with residents, belongings and animals left the town. The air for miles around the blaze was filled with smoke. The sound of explosions — possibly from ammunition stored in homes — could be heard in the distance.

World News:

Associated Press: Russia: striking Syria from Iran does not violate sanctions

<http://bigstory.ap.org/d697e7c77e3f412cad0e3a839f910be5>

Nataliya Vasilyeva and Amir Vahdat

The Russian foreign minister on Wednesday rejected allegations that its use of Iranian military bases for airstrikes in Syria violates United Nations sanctions on Iran. Russia on Tuesday announced that it had launched the strikes from near the Iranian city of Hamedan and struck targets in three provinces in northern and eastern Syria. The defense ministry on Wednesday announced a new wave of airstrikes out of Iran, saying its jets took off earlier in the day from a base southwest of the Iranian capital, Tehran, to strike targets in the east of Syria. It is virtually unheard in recent history for Iran to

allow a foreign power to use one of its bases to stage attacks. Russia has also never used the territory of another country in the Middle East for its operations inside Syria, where it has been carrying out an aerial campaign in support of President Bashar Assad's government for nearly a year. Iran is also a major supporter of Assad.

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