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To:  
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Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, April 13, 2016

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## Morning Clips – Wednesday, April 13, 2016

### Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: Gov. Haley criticizes S.C. House for planning to amend road-repair plan

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article71491492.html>

Cassie Cope

Gov. Nikki Haley bashed the S.C. House Tuesday evening for planning to amend a proposal to repair the state's crumbling roads. "Since the Senate passed a roads bill weeks ago, the House has known they either work with the Senate, pass real, good reform, or the bill dies," Haley said in a statement. Haley's office learned Tuesday that House leadership planned to pass an amendment "they know has zero chance of becoming law," she said. "That's a terrible shame, and every South Carolinian should know that tomorrow, the Republican House of Representatives plans to kill two years of work and that as a result, there will be no change in their road conditions anytime soon."

WACH: Haley calls House proposed amendment to roads bill "a terrible shame"

<http://wach.com/news/local/haley-calls-house-proposed-amendment-to-roads-bill-a-terrible-shame>

Matthew Stevens

Governor Nikki Haley called a proposed House amendment to the roads bill "a terrible shame." Haley took to Facebook Tuesday night and said the House plans to pass an amendment Wednesday that "has zero chance of becoming law." "That's a terrible shame, and every South Carolinian should know that tomorrow, the Republican House of Representatives plans to kill two years of work and that as a result, there will be no change in their conditions anytime soon," said the governor. The Senate passed their version of the roads bill several weeks ago. If the House passes the amendment Wednesday, the two chambers have less than seven weeks to come up with a compromise to pass a roads bill for this year.

### General Assembly News:

Greenville News: House Republicans decide to change Senate roads bill

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/04/12/house-republicans-discuss-senate-roads-plan/82936014/>

Tim Smith

The House GOP Caucus wants to change the Senate roads plan, a decision which could prompt a confrontation with Senate Republicans and the governor. Meeting behind closed doors Tuesday afternoon, House Republicans decided to push forward with plans to amend the Senate roads plan by tweaking the provision dealing with governance and by removing the funding part of the bill altogether so funding this year can be handled in the budget, House Majority Leader Bruce Bannister told The Greenville News.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley, who has pushed for House agreement with the Senate's road plan, said Tuesday what the House GOP is planning has "zero chance of becoming law." "Since the Senate

passed a roads bill weeks ago, the House has known they either work with the Senate, pass real, good reform, or the bill dies," she said in a statement. "Today we learned House leadership has chosen to pass an amendment they know has zero chance of becoming law. That's a terrible shame, and every South Carolinian should know that tomorrow, the Republican House of Representatives plans to kill two years of work and that as a result, there will be no change in their road conditions anytime soon."

Post and Courier: Senate moves income disclosure bill into priority spot

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160412/PC1603/160419728>

Maya T. Prabhu

Senators appeared to change their strategy for approving ethics reform to a two-prong approach by moving a bill that would require lawmakers to disclose private sources of income into a priority spot for floor debate. Sen. Larry Martin, R-Pickens, asked senators Tuesday to move the bill to the special order calendar as a way to bring income disclosures back into the ethics reform discussion. Martin tried and failed last week to amend another ethics bill — already in a priority position — that would establish an independent panel to investigate lawmakers accused of potential wrongdoing. The amendment would have included a requirement that legislators disclose outside sources of income. The amendment had been ruled out of order last Thursday due to a technicality.

The State: SC senator pushes Senate to legalize medical pot

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article71434912.html>

Cassie Cope

For each of the 23 days left in this legislative session, state Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort, said he plans to talk for five minutes about patients who could benefit from medical marijuana. Those South Carolinians are of different ages, have different diseases and come from different parts of the state, Davis said. But Davis, who filibustered an increase to the state's 16.75-cent-a-gallon gas tax this year and last, said this mini-gabfest is not the same. "It's not a filibuster. It's five minutes," Davis said, adding his goal is to change hearts and minds. Davis said he also is holding one-on-one meetings with members of the Senate's Medical Affairs Committee, which rejected the proposal last week. Davis hopes his efforts help pass a similar House medical-pot proposal.

Post and Courier: Bill granting Georgia residents concealed carry rights in S.C. sent to Senate floor

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160412/PC1603/160419718>

Maya T. Prabhu

Georgia residents with concealed weapons permits could soon be able to also carry their guns in South Carolina. A Senate Judiciary panel unanimously voted Tuesday to send a bill to the floor that makes it so Georgia residents who carry firearms don't have to put them away when they cross the state line. Sen. Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg, said the reason the neighboring states do not already have an agreement is because Georgia's requirements for getting a permit are not as extensive as they are in South Carolina. "This would allow Georgia residents to carry so long as they abide by the concealed weapons laws of South Carolina once they got here," Hutto said.

Post and Courier: Senate panel advances bill limiting Statehouse demonstration rights

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160412/PC1603/160419741>

Gavin Jackson

The Statehouse grounds — where laws are debated and hashed out — may soon become restricted or off limits to some groups wanting to practice freedom of assembly. A Senate finance panel

approved an amended bill that would create a demonstration permitting process where law enforcement agencies could give input on denying a permit if there is a "legitimate public safety threat or crowd control concern." It could also limit the number of permits granted per day. Sen. Harvey Peeler, R-Gaffney, said his bill is a result of the conflict that erupted after Statehouse ground reservations were approved for a Ku Klux Klan rally and a group affiliated with the New Black Panther Party rally in July. "This addresses the concerns of public safety and the First Amendment," Peeler said. "It's emotional at times, but at some time we need to have a common-sense discussion."

Greenville News: Senate panel OKs personhood bill; it could lead to rights for unborn

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/04/12/senate-panel-oks-personhood-bill-could-lead-rights-unborn/82953528/>

Tim Smith

Legislation that could amend the state's constitution to establish legal rights for the unborn at the time of conception, making abortion illegal, is on its way to the Senate floor. The Senate Judiciary Committee voted 11-5 Tuesday afternoon to approve the so-called personhood bill, which has been proposed in other states but has yet to be passed. "When you get around the edges, there may be some questions we don't have all the answers to but allowing all these children to lose their lives to me is unacceptable," Sen. Lee Bright, a Spartanburg Republican and the bill's author, told the committee. While the bill passed out of committee, it still faces an uphill climb.

Associated Press: Grand Strand leaders meeting with lawmakers in Columbia

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=tfj13Oj3](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=tfj13Oj3)

SC State Wire

Representatives from the Grand Strand are meeting with state lawmakers to stress the importance of the state's \$19 billion tourism industry. The Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting a reception on Wednesday for lawmakers in Columbia. The event is also hosted by the local association of Realtors, Coastal Carolina University, Horry-Georgetown Tech and Myrtle Beach Golf Holiday. The Grand Strand is the heart of the state's tourism industry. Area officials will be discussing not only the importance of tourism to the state but the area's infrastructure and other needs.

The State: Senate panel to consider \$1,000 reward for killing coyotes

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article71451837.html#storylink=apmobile>

Cassie Cope

The Road Runner and S.C. hunters could be waiting just around the corner for Palmetto State coyotes. The Senate's budget-writing Finance Committee will consider this week creating a program to offer a \$1,000 reward for killing tagged coyotes. A Senate budget subcommittee suggested removing the program from the budget that takes effect July 1. However, the proposal's sponsor is hopeful it will pass. The Finance Committee will consider the coyote proposal, along with spending roughly \$7.5 billion in the state's general fund budget, this week and next. The proposal directs the S. C. Department of Natural Resources to tag and release at least 12 coyotes across the state. The tagged coyotes would have a bounty of at least \$1,000 each, payable to any hunter who bags them.

Post and Courier: Lawmakers seek to protect rural schools from closing

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160412/PC16/160419746>

Paul Bowers

As the Charleston County School Board looks to cut costs to avoid another budget crisis, state lawmakers have introduced a bill that would make it harder to shut down small, high-cost schools.

House Bill 5195, introduced Tuesday by three Charleston County Democrats, would create a new set of requirements for the board to fulfill before closing a "rural school," defined as any school with fewer than 750 students. "It's the rural community they pick on first," said co-sponsor Rep. Robert Brown, D-Hollywood. "They just feel that folks are not going to say much, that it's the low-hanging fruit, and I don't think it's going to happen this time around." Under the terms of the bill, which would apply only to Charleston County schools, the district would have to hold three public hearings in the affected community before shutting down a school, with a majority of school board members present. The board would then have to prove that closing the school would result in a tax rate decrease for county residents.

Sen. Lee Bright's 'Bathroom Bill':

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: Groups in support of, against transgender 'bathroom bill' to fill Statehouse

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160413/PC1603/160419706>

Maya T. Prabhu

Groups who are both for and against a proposed bill that would require transgender people to use bathrooms matching the gender on their birth certificates have planned to fill the Statehouse on Wednesday. Sen. Lee Bright, R-Roebuck, will hold a public hearing 10:30 a.m. Wednesday to get feedback on the bill that he introduced last week, which he said was in the interest of public safety. Palmetto Family, a faith-based public policy foundation based in Greenville, bringing lawyers from Alliance Defending Freedom to speak with members of the media Wednesday morning. Members of the group also are expected to testify before the Senate panel.

Associated Press: South Carolina senators to hold hearing on transgender bill

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=KJS5t0jl](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=KJS5t0jl)

Seanna Adcox

A South Carolina bill limiting transgender people's bathroom choices is up for discussion Wednesday, a week after Republican Gov. Nikki Haley and state business leaders called the proposal unnecessary. People are expected to pack a Senate hearing on the bill, though the subcommittee is unlikely to take any vote. Its chairman, Sen. Lee Bright, introduced the measure last week, saying he supports a North Carolina law that has led to companies ending expansion plans in the state and conventions going elsewhere. Bright, who faces three GOP challengers in June, said he's had enough of tolerance if that means "men who claim to be women" going into a bathroom with children. Note: Haley said South Carolinians are generally respectful and kind, and a law is unwanted. "Businesses in South Carolina have very much shown respect and customers have shown respect back," she told reporters last Thursday. "While other states are having this battle, this is not a battle we've seen is needed in South Carolina or that we see citizens are asking for in South Carolina." Besides, she said, the bill's doomed. It's unlikely to make the May 1 crossover deadline for bills to move from one chamber to the other. And House leaders say it won't be taken up in that chamber anyway for the session that ends in June. "Nothing's going to happen with this bill this year," Haley said.

The State: Hearing puts spotlight on SC transgender bathroom bill

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article71275082.html>

Jamie Self and Andy Shain

After the hearing, more than a dozen transgender organizations are planning to participate in a rally

outside the State House, organized by the Trans Student Alliance at the University of South Carolina. The bill sponsored by state Sen. Lee Bright, R-Spartanburg, has mobilized the state's transgender community already energized by a similar law passed in North Carolina last month. Driscoll says Bright's bill is "such a bigger issue than what restroom you're using," she said. "Passing a bill like this feels like it would be saying, 'It's OK to not be accepting, and it's OK to not allow him to feel safe in his environment..'" Bright said he's concerned more about the safety of women in restrooms than the feelings of transgender men and women.

Greenville News: House leader says no time for transgender bill

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/04/12/house-leader-says-no-time-transgender-bill/82938454/>

Tim Smith

House Majority Leader Bruce Bannister of Greenville says he does not believe the House will have time this year to take up a controversial Senate bill addressing transgender use of public bathrooms. His comments signal another challenge for the bill, which must pass the Senate by May 1 to be considered by the House without a special vote. The bill would bar transgender people from using public bathrooms, changing rooms and locker rooms that do not correspond with their biological sex and prevent local governments from passing legislation allowing such use. The legislation is similar to a recently enacted North Carolina law. North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory issued an executive order Tuesday addressing some provisions in the law though leaving unchanged the most talked about part that requires people to use bathrooms of their sex at birth. "It is unlikely, with all the issues that we have before us that we are going to be addressing Sen. Bright's bill regarding public toilets," Bannister said Tuesday.

The State: Richland sheriff opposes so-called bathroom bill, calls it unenforceable

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article71500667.html#storylink=apmobile>

Rachael Myers Lowe

In a letter to the chairman of the Senate subcommittee set to debate S-1203 on Wednesday, Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott called the bill, which requires people to use the bathroom of their birth gender, unnecessary and potentially a "huge burden" on already stretched local law enforcement. Given the bill's "potential impact on my Department, I felt compelled to communicate with you," Lott said in apologizing for not being at the hearing in person because of department business. Officers would have to determine the sex of every person entering a restroom in South Carolina, Lott said. DNA testing is cost prohibitive, and "asking deputies to check a person's genitalia invades the subject's dignity and privacy," he said. In addition, the Richland County Sheriff's Department could be exposed to costly litigation, he said. And besides, the bill is unnecessary, he wrote. In his 41 years in law enforcement in the state, "I have never heard of a transgender person attacking or otherwise bothering someone in a restroom. This is a non-issue," he said.

Herald-Journal: Spartanburg Chamber joins bathroom bill opposition

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160412/articles/160419881>

Bob Montgomery

The Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce has joined a growing number of business groups that say a transgender bathroom bill introduced last week by Republican state Sen. Lee Bright of Roebuck is unnecessary and could hurt business recruitment for the state. "We hear almost daily about our crumbling roads, structurally deficient bridges, workforce challenges and the necessity to be economically competitive," the Spartanburg chamber's executive board said in a statement released Monday. "We will remain committed to those issues and the work that will position our



community and its citizens for future prosperity." Last week the Greenville Chamber of Commerce issued a statement saying the bill does not promote economic growth, inclusion or economic competitiveness.

Gov. Pat McCrory News:

Associated Press: Governor wants to change, but not scrap, North Carolina law

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:0ec67da9ecea481ca54a8cf9ee3590de>

Gary D. Robertson and Jonathan Drew

Saying he received lots of "feedback and suggestions and opinions" about a law he signed that limits LGBT protections, North Carolina's governor has ordered anti-discrimination rules be expanded for state employees. Gov. Pat McCrory also wants lawmakers to soon restore the ability of all workers to sue over employment bias in state court, which was removed in the law. "This was my conclusion after hearing from many, many different sides of the issue," McCrory told The Associated Press shortly after he signed an executive order Tuesday addressing the law. But McCrory said he sees no need to repeal the rest of the law, which has brought nationwide fallout on North Carolina since his signature three weeks ago, with corporate executives, gay-rights groups and political opponents blasting him. Some companies also have scaled back their planned job expansions, and Bruce Springsteen canceled a concert in the state because of the law.

Charlotte Observer: N.C. governor, facing criticism, expands some anti-discrimination protections

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/politics-government/article71369922.html>

Jim Morrill

Responding to mounting criticism over House Bill 2, Gov. Pat McCrory Tuesday expanded anti-discrimination protection for state employees and affirmed the rights of local governments to do the same for their employees. But the governor's executive order did little to appease critics of the law, which has touched off a firestorm among some businesses, national artists and gay rights groups. Economic development officials hailed McCrory's move as a signal that North Carolina is "open for business." Gay and transgender rights groups, however, called the move insufficient, noting that McCrory didn't change the controversial "bathroom" provision that bars transgender persons from using the bathroom they choose. "If the governor is truly committed to non-discrimination and wants to undo the harms done by House Bill 2, this is just the beginning of the conversation," said Chris Sgro executive director of Equality NC.

Mississippi LGBT Law:

Associated Press: Country artists condemn LGBT laws, but labels silent

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:b534afb2b24e44fcbd4d4921fd2d4d1b>

Kristin M Hall

Several country music artists and songwriters have condemned proposed laws that critics say discriminate against LGBT people, but anyone looking for reaction from the record labels and production companies on Nashville's Music Row has heard only the sound of silence. New laws in North Carolina and Mississippi have drawn the ire of businesses and celebrities alike, with Bruce Springsteen and Bryan Adams canceling shows in those states. Legislation dealing with the treatment of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people was vetoed by Georgia's governor, but bills are still being considered in Tennessee and South Carolina. Numerous artists with ties to Nashville have denounced the proposals here, which would ban transgender people from using restrooms that don't conform to their sex at birth and would allow counselors to refuse services to

LGBT people on religious grounds. Among them: Emmylou Harris, Billy Ray Cyrus and his pop star daughter Miley Cyrus, and actor Chris Carmack of ABC's "Nashville."

McClatchy DC: Navy says Mississippi LGBT law did not affect ceremony location

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/congress/article71454237.html>

Tony Pugh

The U.S. Navy is disputing news reports that an upcoming military ceremony in Pascagoula had been moved to Portland, Oregon because of opposition to Mississippi's new LGBT law. News outlets in Portland were reporting that the Navy had canceled plans to christen and commission an amphibious transport dock ship, the USS Portland, at the Huntington Ingalls Industries shipyard in Pascagoula, Mississippi, on May 21. The story seemed to take off after Portland Mayor Charlie Hales announced last week that he would not attend the christening in Pascagoula unless Mississippi lawmakers repeal HB 1523, which critics say will legalize discrimination against LGBT individuals.

SC Political News:

The State: Bono joins Graham's call for aid to Mideast refugees

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article71448202.html#storylink=apmobile>

Andrew Cwieka

Aiding countries facing waves of refugees is key to fighting terrorism pre-emptively, lawmakers and refugee experts said in a spectator-filled congressional hearing Tuesday. U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and U2 singer Bono, along with other refugee experts, advocated more financial and humanitarian assistance to Middle Eastern countries — including Turkey, Syria and Jordan — to a Senate appropriations subcommittee. "This is a crisis where you pay now or pay later," Graham said. "You're not going to win this war just by killing terrorists." Graham, the subcommittee's chairman, and others testifying agreed shortages of food and educational opportunities for refugees are some of the biggest threats to a country's security, especially one on the border of a conflict zone.

Post and Courier: Bono calls Lindsey Graham a 'funny sucker,' 'gets s--- done'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160412/PC1603/160419738>

Emma Dumain

As it turns out, an Irish rock star has a lot of nice things to say about South Carolina's senior U.S. senator. In an exclusive interview with The Post and Courier on Tuesday, Bono — frontman of the band U2 and founder of the ONE Campaign — spent nearly five minutes extolling Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham. "He gets s--- done in a way, in a place, where it's hard to get things done," said Bono, whose group advocates for foreign aid, most notably in Africa. "It's people like him that just give me hope in the political process. 'I've seen him fight for what you call 'partisan causes,' but then you see him search for a way of working with people in order to get stuff done for the world's poor," Bono continued. "He puts his ego away. He puts even his politics away and he goes to work for people he'll never meet or know. And that's amazing." What the two men lack in common ground politically and socially they make up for in a shared commitment to the value of foreign aid and constructive U.S. involvement in the international community.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: Supreme Court should make Wilson-Pascoe dispute public

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article71368907.html>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

WE'VE SEEN this play before: Attorney General Alan Wilson is accused of a conflict of interest in a public corruption investigation. Because it involves the State Grand Jury, the dispute is set to play out in secret, even though it doesn't involve any grand jury secrets and the central question is about political accountability, which is always the public's business. Last time, at least initially, the public got to watch. The public needs to be able to watch this dispute as well. Under state law, anything that goes on inside a State Grand Jury hearing room is secret. But when House Speaker Bobby Harrell tried in 2014 to stop the State Grand Jury from investigating his campaign spending, Circuit Court Judge Casey Manning and later the state Supreme Court ruled that the dispute should be public. Their reasoning was that the sort of things the secrecy law protects — who the Grand Jury is questioning, what documents it's seeking, what it's learning — were in no way compromised by a debate over whether Mr. Wilson had a vendetta against the speaker. As a result, we got to hear just how specious the speaker's "evidence" of a political vendetta was.

Island Packet: Roll Call: Nikki Haley the veep Trump needs, but won't get

<http://www.islandpacket.com/opinion/national-opinions/article71416562.html>

Opinion: Patricia Murphy

Donald Trump has proclaimed himself the king of the deal, so let's see him make this one — getting Gov. Nikki Haley to be his running mate. It might be the only move he could make between now and the Republican convention that could move delegates from #NeverTrump to #MaybeTrump and ease his path to the nomination in the face of a party apparatus that just doesn't seem to want him to win. Getting Haley to agree to join a Trump ticket would probably be the highest hurdle for Trump to clear. The South Carolina governor first endorsed Sen. Marco Rubio for president, but when that didn't work out, she said she'd vote for Ted Cruz instead. Haley has spoken out repeatedly against the sort of prejudice she says Trump cultivates and joked to the Gridiron dinner this year that even though she got to give the GOP response to the State of the Union, "I won't really feel like I've arrived until Donald Trump has asked to see my birth certificate." So Haley's no fan of the man, but as Trump said in his book "The Art of the Deal," "If you're going to be thinking anyway, you might as well think big." Assuming Trump is thinking anyway, and I leave that open for debate, let's run through the many reasons Haley is the only person who could right the SS Trump.

Aiken Standard: South Carolina House of Representatives should pass dashcam bill

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160413/AIK0201/160419866>

Editorial

South Carolina House of Representatives members have a busy week now that the General Assembly is back in session. Several important initiatives have found their way onto the House calendar, including a major roads bill the Senate passed with amendments March 10. We were disappointed, though, to see that a Senate bill concerning dashcam footage failed to appear on the House calendar. Sponsored by Sen. Larry Martin, R-Pickens, Senate Bill 913 would revise the state's Freedom of Information Act by specifically classifying audio and video recordings from police dashcams as public information. If police object, they can petition the court to withhold the footage. As it stands, the decision to disclose rests with police, and if police deny a request it can cost taxpayers thousands of dollars in legal fees to mount a court challenge. Senators passed the bill 40-0 earlier this month. Now, it's in the House of Representatives' hands.

South Carolina News:

WLTX: Equal Pay Day Highlights Gender Wage Gap



<http://www.wltx.com/news/local/equal-pay-day-highlights-gender-wage-gap/129971971>

Chuck Ringwalt

According to the United States Congress Joint Economic Committee, on average women earn 21 percent less than men. Tuesday marked Equal Pay Day. The day symbolizes how far into the year a woman must work to earn what a man earned the previous year. "It's definitely still a problem that we are facing today," said Columbia City Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine. Devine said she's seen it affect many women, including herself, even being self-employed as an attorney. "I have had clients who have gone to another attorney and for some reason or another are no longer working with that attorney and then they come to me and I find out that they have paid that attorney a higher rate than they would have paid me," Devine said. Across the nation women are making just \$0.79 for every dollar a man earns.

Associated Press: 11 US jails win millions in grants to overhaul operations

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=3nEjRkWE](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=3nEjRkWE)

Jake Pearson

Eleven U.S. jail systems will receive millions of dollars in grants to overhaul operations in order to reduce their overall inmate populations - some by as much as one third, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation announced Wednesday. The two-year grants of between \$1.5 million and \$3.5 million to jails in big cities like New York and smaller ones in places such as Charleston County, South Carolina, are meant to upend how jails function nationwide to reduce unnecessary incarceration, said Laurie Garduque, who is heading the Chicago-based charitable group's initiative. "The foundation's goal is to change the way the nation thinks about and uses jails," she said. "The whole idea of the initiative is to model best practices, have models of reform, so that other jurisdictions can implement them on their own."

Post and Courier: At hearing, judge to weigh possible Dylann Roof trial delay

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160413/PC16/160419787>

Andrew Knapp

Attorneys and a judge Wednesday morning will discuss whether Dylann Roof's state court trial should be delayed because his defense team needs more time to prepare their fight against the death penalty. The hearing was set for 10 a.m. at the Charleston County Judicial Center in downtown Charleston. Roof was not expected to attend. He is charged with nine counts of murder and three of attempted murder in the June 17 shooting that killed nine black parishioners at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston.

Post and Courier: Trial in Walter Scott shooting could come before Dylann Roof's

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160412/PC16/160419740>

Andrew Knapp

Local solicitors might agree to try the former North Charleston policeman who shot Walter Scott before they prosecute Dylann Roof, the man accused in the mass shooting at Emanuel AME Church, according to court documents filed Tuesday. Roof had been expected to be put on trial first in July, but his attorneys' request to delay the proceeding could prompt the switch. Michael Slager, who is charged with murder in Scott's death, is set to be tried in late October. The development came in 9th Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson's response to a bid by Roof's lawyers for more time to prepare their defense against the death penalty.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Charleston County awarded \$2.25 million grant to address jail population, criminal justice reform

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160413/PC16/160419721>

Melissa Boughton

Charleston County received a \$2.25 million grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to implement reforms to reduce the jail population and create a more effective local criminal justice system. The foundation announced Tuesday that Charleston County's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council is one of 11 jurisdictions in the country chosen to receive significant funding and access to expert technical assistance to implement a plan for reform over the next two years. In total, nearly \$25 million was awarded. "We are ecstatic and grateful the MacArthur Foundation chose to invest in our community and the enhancements to our criminal justice system," said Council Chairman Mitch Lucas. The grant is part of the Safety and Justice Challenge, a national initiative supported by the Foundation with an initial \$75 million to reduce over-incarceration by changing the way America thinks about and uses jails.

Associated Press: Couple: Police search still humiliating more than a year on

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=gAR7QrdQ](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=gAR7QrdQ)

Meg Kinnard

Silent tears stream down Lakeya Hicks' face as she recalls Oct. 2, 2014, a day that should have been a happy memory as she and her husband drove the car they had recently and proudly purchased. Instead, her recollection is filled with brutality and embarrassment. It was that day that she and her husband, Elijah Pontoon, were pulled over and forced to endure what they say was an illegal cavity search. Police never found any of the drugs they suspected the couple of holding, and they were never charged with a crime. Pontoon and Hicks, who are black, say they endured humiliation at the hands of four white police officers on the side of a public road. Police have denied the allegations, and while there isn't video of the search, a dash camera did capture audio of the encounter. No trial date has been set in the couple's federal case, and mediation could happen later this year. As they wait for the legal case to make its way through the courts, Hicks says she and her husband are focusing on their growing family and how, one day, they hope things will be different.

Associated Press: NAACP wants more training for agency involved in shooting

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=XvdvyEOa](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=XvdvyEOa)

Jeffrey Collins

An NAACP leader in the South Carolina county where a white police officer was sentenced to probation in the killing of a black motorist said officers need more training in how to deal with minorities. The civil rights organization is watching police departments in North Augusta, where Justin Craven shot the motorist after chasing him to his driveway in February 2014, and in nearby Aiken, which is being sued by a husband and wife who said they were subjected to illegal cavity searches at roadside. Like the rest of the public, Aiken County NAACP President Phillip Howell saw the video of Craven fatally shooting 68-year-old Ernest Satterwhite for the first time Monday. "It's despicable," said Howell, of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Greenville News: Radio transmissions released in Officer Jacobs' shooting

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/04/12/radio-transmissions-released-officer-jacobs-shooting/82964612/>

Anna Lee

Police have released radio transmissions along with a 911 call in last month's fatal shooting of Greenville police officer Allen Jacobs. The nearly 15-minute long sequence of calls were obtained by

The Greenville News under the state's Freedom of Information Act and show how quickly the events from March 18 unfolded. Authorities have said Jacobs was running after the 17-year-old suspect Deontea Mackey when he was ambushed and shot multiple times in the Nicholtown community. Mackey then turned the gun on himself, police have said. According to documents and recordings, the call log begins at 12:27 p.m., when an officer radios in, "Shots fired, shots fired!" on Rebecca and Maco streets.

Aiken Standard: Solicitor, Sheriff seeking more funding related to police body cameras

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160412/AIK0101/160419806>

Christina Cleveland

The Aiken County Sheriff's Office and the Second Circuit Solicitor's Office are requesting nearly \$245,000 related to police body cameras now that state has mandated their use. Gov. Nikki Haley signed a requirement into law in 2015 that all state law enforcement agencies had to implement body cams following the shooting death of unarmed motorist Walter Scott. Scott was fatally shot by former North Charleston police officer Michael Slager in April 2015. Aiken County Sheriff Michael Hunt said at Tuesday night's County Council work session his office is requesting \$182,850 for body cameras next fiscal year for its approximately 150 uniformed deputies.

Sun News: Email: Withington offered to drop out of race for 'maybe 20K'

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article71404842.html>

Claire Byun

An Horry County Council candidate charged with accepting a bribe sent an email to other candidates saying he'd drop out of the race for "maybe \$20,000." Richard "Dick" Withington, 72, of Myrtle Beach was arrested earlier this month and charged with inducement to file for, or withdraw from, candidacy for election, according to J. Reuben Long Detention Center records. He was given a \$10,000 bond and no-contact orders from several of the victims. In an email obtained by The Sun News through a Freedom of Information Act Request, Withington told other council candidates that he would drop out of the race if he is given "immediate substantial donations." The email shows it was sent at 2:30 a.m. March 20. "If this should occur in the next few days, I can change my filing, and even endorse [redacted], if the facts should so warrant," the email said. Withington, who is still running for Horry County Council District 4 and the South Carolina State Senate District 34 seat, could not be reached for comment Tuesday afternoon.

The State: Watchdog group sues Richland County over penny tax records request

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article71423212.html>

Sarah Ellis

A nonprofit government watchdog group is suing Richland County over documents related to the county's transportation penny sales tax program, saying the county has violated the S.C. Freedom of Information Act. In a complaint filed Monday on behalf of the Greenville-based S.C. Public Interest Foundation, attorney Jim Carpenter says the county has failed to respond in a timely manner and furnish records that were requested in February. "We're asking for copies of public records, and we have a statutory right to receive them," Carpenter told The State. "We could request these out of idle curiosity, and we'd have a right to see them."

Sun News: Myrtle Beach rental agencies given 33 days to comply with new mo-ped law

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article71354362.html>

Emily Weaver

Business owners that rent mo-peds, scooters, golf carts and low-speed vehicles have 33 days to

inspect, inventory and register their fleet with the Myrtle Beach Police Department under a new law that takes effect May 15. Myrtle Beach City Council passed the final reading of the ordinance Tuesday aiming to curb the proliferation of slow-moving rentals that clog city streets. Under the new law, every rented mo-ped, scooter, golf cart and other low-speed vehicle in the city will need to bear tags that identify the type of conveyance on the road. The rented vehicles will require a city-issued decal to operate legally on the streets of Myrtle Beach beginning May 15. The decals will be provided through an annual registration.

National News:

Associated Press: DC subway officials to address safety lapses on Capitol Hill

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:3d4936cb33274675ac7c019bbb260271>

Ben Nuckols

Congress is set to ask questions about the safety of the Washington area's subway system after an unprecedented daylong shutdown. The Metro system's general manager and other officials will answer questions from two House oversight subcommittees at a hearing Wednesday afternoon. In prepared testimony, Metro general manager Paul Wiedefeld says he's found "systemic issues with regard to track, power and car maintenance" that need to be addressed. Wiedefeld decided to shut down the system for emergency track inspections last month after an electrical fire that was similar to a fire that killed a passenger last year. Rep. Mark Meadows, a North Carolina Republican who chairs one of the subcommittees, says in his prepared remarks that Metro "has become synonymous with poor service, delays and rampant safety concerns."

Associated Press: Paul Ryan is not running for president \_ or passing a budget

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:0c8a6bba45624e7f8b06c65d26181657>

Erica Werner and Andrew Taylor

House Speaker Paul Ryan's national stature is such that he had to call a news conference to deny he wants to be president. Back on Capitol Hill, he's about to blow through a statutory deadline to pass an annual budget, a major embarrassment for him and House Republicans. Under the government's arcane budget law, the House is supposed to produce a budget by this Friday, April 15. But a tea party revolt over Ryan's embrace of last year's bipartisan deal with President Barack Obama to increase spending has left him well short of the votes he needs. "It would appear that we're not going to have a budget," the No. 2 House Democrat, Steny Hoyer of Maryland, told reporters Tuesday. "They made it a big deal. Hypocrisy is part of it," he added. "They're in deep disarray." House Republicans met the budget deadline each of the five years they controlled the House under the leadership of John Boehner, who was ousted as speaker last fall under conservative pressure. Ryan himself, his party's 2012 vice presidential nominee, chaired the House Budget Committee for much of that time and guided the "Ryan Budget" that slashed entitlement spending. But he also cut a deal with Senate Democrats and the White House that enhanced his profile as a charismatic, policy-focused conservative.

Associated Press: Public wants Senate action on court, but interest is modest

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:ee8e9aacc9fa4d85a2080d71a841737f>

Alan Farm and Emily Swanson

Nearly 2 in 3 Americans back Democrats' demands that the Republican-run Senate hold hearings and a vote on President Barack Obama's pick for the Supreme Court. But an Associated Press-GfK poll also suggests that GOP defiance against considering the nominee may not hurt the party much because, to many people, the election-year fight is simply not a big deal. Just 1 in 5 in the survey

released Wednesday said they've been following the battle over Obama's nomination of federal judge Merrick Garland extremely or very closely. That included just 26 percent of Democrats and 22 percent of Republicans expressing intense interest, along with a scant 8 percent of independents. That aligns with the political reading of the issue by many Republicans that while it motivates each side's most committed partisans, people in the middle consider it a yawner — making the fight essentially a wash.

World News:

Associated Press: Judge rules against couple in China's 1st same-sex case

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:Obaaa68faaba46bcb035d40046e69615>

Gerry Shih

A judge ruled against a gay couple in China's first same-sex marriage case that attracted several hundred supporters to the courthouse Wednesday in a landmark moment for the country's emerging LGBT rights movement. The court in the central city of Changsha dismissed the suit brought against the local civil affairs bureau for refusing to issue the couple a marriage registration certificate. The couple's lawyer Shi Fulong said he expected the judge would rule against them but not so soon — within just a few hours. "It goes against the spirit of the laws of the people's republic of China," Shi said. Plaintiff Sun Wenlin said he would appeal until he exhausts all legal options. The lawsuit comes amid growing awareness of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues in China, where society and the government have generally frowned on non-traditional expressions of gender and sexuality.

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