

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 7/13/2016 8:41:34 AM
Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Morning Clips – Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Governor Nikki Haley News:

South Strand News: Jackson Village residents prepare to protest sewer tax in Columbia July 15
<http://www.southstrandnews.com/20160712/160719967/jackson-village-residents-prepare-to-protest-sewer-tax-in-columbia-july-15>

Eileen Keithly

Members of the Jackson Village community in the Plantersville area of Georgetown County plan to rally on the steps of the state capitol on Friday, July 15, to protest a yearly sewer tax that some residents say is “illegal” and “racist.” The Rev. Benjamin Grate, spokesperson for the group, said the rally will take place at 9 a.m. and bring awareness to a decade-long problem that local authorities in Georgetown County have chosen to ignore. “We have been gathering for many years to fight this illegal and racist tax,” Grate said. “This tax was only given to the black residents of Plantersville – the white residents were exempt. ... “We are tired of waiting for someone in Georgetown to help us. These taxes are unjust and it was a conspiracy to bind the tax to our household taxes, so when we cannot pay them, our homes and our property are taken away from us.”

NOTE: Chaney Adams, Gov. Nikki Haley’s press secretary, said the governor is aware of Friday’s rally and has taken some preliminary steps to assist the group. “We ... have asked that the state Office of Economic Opportunity work with the Waccamaw Economic Opportunity Council to determine if these residents in the Georgetown community are eligible for assistance,” Adams said. The Office of Economic Opportunity, Chaney said, is a state agency that works in partnership with community action agencies and other non-profit agencies to administer and distribute grants to South Carolinians living in poverty.

South Strand News: State program to repair, replace flood-damaged homes in Georgetown County
<http://www.southstrandnews.com/20160712/160719966/state-program-to-repair-replace-flood-damaged-homes-in-georgetown-county>

Clayton Stairs

South Carolinians who were affected by massive flooding in October 2015 are receiving \$159 million in state assistance for repairing and replacing homes. Officials with the South Carolina Disaster Recovery Office, created by Gov. Nikki Haley, met with about 200 Georgetown County residents on July 12 at Howard Recreation Center in Georgetown. They told attendees that the SCDRO is dedicated to helping residents with the greatest need, based on age, number of people in the household, income and ability to help themselves. “We are starting from the bottom up,” said Kevin Shwedo, former director of the SCDRO. “If you are extremely poor and disabled, you are our number-one priority and we will take care of you first.” J.R. Sanderson, the current director of the SCDRO, said work on homes should begin in spring 2017 and the goal is to refurbish or replace 1,500 homes in three years.

Palmetto Business Daily: Pitts lauds SC for being first 100 percent Work Ready certified state in nation

<http://palmettobusinessdaily.com/stories/510958168-pitts-lauds-sc-for-being-first-100-percent-work-ready-certified-state-in-nation>

South Carolina Work Ready Communities (SCWRC) is a tool used to measure the quality and capability of a county's workforce. Recently, the last county in South Carolina received that certification. Many states have Work Ready programs; the Palmetto State is the only state in the nation to have 100 percent certification. "The business community has made clear that having a skilled and highly trained workforce is the most critical piece of the puzzle for them in today's highly competitive business environment," South Carolina Chamber of Commerce President Ted Pitts said. "Gov. (Nikki) Haley, our state, and county leaders all deserve a lot of credit for being focused on improving our state's workforce." Pitts remarked on the importance of this achievement for the state. "Being the first fully-certified Work Ready state in the nation is a big deal and I can guarantee that business leaders around the world looking to locate their operations and grow will consider this another important indication that the Palmetto State is the best place in the country to do business," he added.

Palmetto Business Daily: SCFOR officials: New road bill is 'huge shot in the arm'

<http://palmettobusinessdaily.com/stories/510958163-scfors-officials-new-road-bill-is-huge-shot-in-the-arm>

The 2016 legislative session concluded with South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley signing into law a roads bill that, over the next decade, will help provide more than \$4 billion in funding for improvements to the Palmetto State's roads and bridges. That funding will be achieved in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT). "Though not a long-term funding plan, this is a huge shot in the arm for our crumbling infrastructure and gives the legislature time to develop a long-term revenue stream for SCDOT," Officials for the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce stated. "While this is a positive step, a new report reinforces the fact that South Carolina roads are in bad shape and we need to keep telling our legislators how important a long-term funding plan is to the business community and residents of the state." National transportation organization TRIP recently conducted a study that showed South Carolina ranked sixth in the nation in Interstate fatality rates; the state's non-Interstate fatality rate was more than twice the Interstate fatality rate.

WCSC: \$75 million investment to bring 140 jobs to Greenville County

<http://www.live5news.com/story/32428471/75-million-investment-to-bring-140-jobs-to-greenville-county>

Rachel Cumberbatch

A leading integrated global manufacturer will bring jobs to Greenville County with a multi-million dollar investment. Tower International is investing \$75 million to open its first South Carolina operations facility here in the Upstate. The new facility is expected to create 140 jobs in Fountain Inn. The new facility will manufacture engineered automotive metal components and assemblies for the world's largest automotive manufacturers.

NOTE: "We couldn't be more excited about Tower International's decision to do business in South Carolina," said Governor Nikki Haley on the new facility. "This \$75 million investment and the 140 new jobs it means for Fountain Inn are real reasons to celebrate, and we look forward to watching Tower thrive in our state for many years to come."

Associated Press: Haley orders agencies to inventory state phones, vehicles

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6p7uEip9

SC State Wire

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley has ordered her Cabinet agencies to audit employees' use of

taxpayer-funded phones, computers and vehicles. The executive order requires the agencies to complete their inventory and report any potential savings by Dec. 31. It specifies the review must include cellphones, landline phones, desktop printers, laptops and state vehicles. Asked whether there are allegations or suspicions of misuse, Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams said Tuesday the effort is to ensure agencies know what they have and use those resources efficiently. The order signed last week applies only to the 16 Cabinet agencies that report to the governor. The effort follows an inventory of all state property that took several years. Haley said in 2014 she next wanted an inventory of how many vehicles and cellphones agencies own.

The Herald: SC Gov. Haley hails York Co. man's 'inspiring' free fireworks display

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andrew-dys/article89077482.html>

Andrew Dys

Some say nothing big ever happens in tiny Hickory Grove. They are wrong. In the tiny rural western York County town of 467 people, one man's free fireworks show that promoted unity, togetherness, and community has been noticed by South Carolina's most famous of its four million-plus people. Gov. Nikki Haley. "The governor thanked me!" said Wesley White. "How cool is that?" Haley read a column on [heraldonline.com](http://www.heraldonline.com) about White's free fireworks show on July 4 where White invites everybody. Everybody meaning black and white, rich and poor. A warehouse worker, White, 29, spends \$3,000 of his own money to put on the yearly show to show love for country, community, and each other. Haley sent an official letter, personally signed and hand-written saying "South Carolina appreciates you!" Haley wrote to thank White for "inspiring us all," and promoting "unity" and "joy." Haley praised White for bringing people together in times where there is so much divisiveness. The letter arrived in the mail Monday and White's family rushed it to his job for him to see.

SC after Dallas Shootings:

The State: 2nd Columbia firefighter being investigated for Facebook remarks about protesters

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article89225672.html>

Clif Leblanc

A second Columbia firefighter is under internal investigation for a threatening Facebook posting aimed at Black Lives Matter protesters, chief Aubrey Jenkins said Tuesday. "Start running people over," the firefighter wrote on a personal Facebook thread related to Sunday's protest that drew 800 people to the State House and streets in the city center. The crowd marched to the Interstate-126 bridge and shut it to traffic until police ordered them to retreat. Fire chief Aubrey Jenkins said he plans to meet Wednesday with the male firefighter, whom Jenkins declined to identify publicly. The firefighter's remarks were posted during the demonstration that began about 7 p.m. and lasted well into the night.

The Herald: Friendship Nine members meet with modern-day Freedom Riders

<http://www.heraldonline.com/article89252212.html>

David Thackham

Amid national and regional protests questioning the health of race relations in America, Friendship Nine member David Williamson Jr. said the students were well-placed to learn from history. The Friendship Nine was a group of African-American college students who gained national attention after they were jailed following a lunch counter protest at the former McCrory's store in Rock Hill on Jan. 31, 1961. Their defiance popularizing the strategy of "Jail, No Bail." Williamson told the visiting students to work together across racial and socioeconomic divides to achieve common goals. "You don't work for your goal or my goal, you work for the goals of everybody," said Williamson. "Forget

about the color of a person's skin, just care about the character of the person inside and work from there."

Aiken Standard: Marches, prayer vigils and other events planned in Aiken County

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160712/160719846/marches-prayer-vigils-and-other-events-planned-in-aiken-county>

Dede Biles

Recent fatal shootings in other parts of the country, issues involving the relationship between law enforcement officials and the public, and concern about America in general are the inspirations for a number of events that are being held in Aiken County this month. The Concerned Ministers Fellowship is the organizer of a march scheduled today in New Ellenton. It will start at Four Mile Missionary Baptist Church at 601 Jackson Ave., and it will end at City Hall at 200 Main Street North.

Aiken Standard: Tragic courtroom shooting in Michigan has Aiken tie

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160712/160719829/tragic-courtroom-shooting-in-michigan-has-aiken-tie>

Tripp Girardeau

A tragic courtroom shooting in Michigan, which left two bailiffs dead, has connections in Aiken. Ron "Ronnie" Kienzle, 63, and Joseph Zangaro, 61, were identified as the two men killed by an inmate who disarmed a deputy at the Berrien County Courthouse, Berrien County Sheriff Paul Bailey said at a news conference Monday. Kienzle is the family member of an Aiken County couple. He is the brother of Steve Kienzle, whose wife Cindy Kelly-Kienzle works in the same office as Aiken County Councilman Philip Merry, District 6. "This hit us hard," Merry said. "This is the kind of thing you hear about on the news that seems so far away, but this one hit home. Even though the shooting happened in Michigan, for us, it came here emotionally."

Dylann Roof Case:

Associated Press: Judge to weigh moving up trial of church shooting defendant

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Su1BoMqY

Bruce Smith

A judge is considering whether Charleston church shooting defendant Dylann Roof should go to trial in state court before his federal trial. His state trial on murder charges is currently set for January but prosecutor Scarlett Wilson wants the state to try Roof before his November federal trial on hate crimes and other counts. Circuit Judge J.C. Nicholson has called a hearing later Wednesday on the matter. Public Defender Ashley Pennington has called Wilson's request to move up the state trial "reckless and shortsighted." The 22-year-old defendant faces the death penalty in both state and federal court in the June 2015 shooting deaths of nine black parishioners at the Emanuel AME church.

SC Political News:

The State: SC House panel reviewing state's retirement system

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article89189372.html>

Cassie Cope

A S.C. House oversight panel reviewing the S.C. Retirement System Investment Commission is likely to recommend changing the way that body is set up, a state legislator said Tuesday. The system is

drawing scrutiny because it has billions in unfunded obligations. Across the system's five retirement funds, that unfunded liability is more than \$20 billion, Investment Commission executive director Michael Hitchcock told legislators Tuesday. The retirement system benefits S.C. state workers. The largest pension fund, the S.C. Retirement System, serves state and local government employees, including teachers, and has about \$24 billion in assets, Hitchcock said. The other four pension systems benefit judges and solicitors, National Guard members, S.C. police officers and General Assembly members, a system that is being phased out.

Post and Courier: Report says 'Charleston loophole' helped thousands of domestic abusers obtain guns

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160712/160719800/report-says-charleston-loophole-helped-thousands-of-domestic-abusers-obtain-guns>

Glenn Smith

Thousands of convicted domestic abusers were able to buy guns in recent years due to the same loophole in the FBI's background check system that allowed Dylann Roof to arm himself before killing nine people at Charleston's Emanuel AME Church. That's a key finding in a U.S. Government Accountability Office report which studied the effectiveness of the FBI's background check system in keeping guns out of the hands of abusers. Under federal law, those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence charges are banned from purchasing guns, as are those who are subject to orders of protection. The GAO found the screening system blocked about 89,000 of those people from buying guns between 2006 and 2015. But nearly 6,800 others were able to purchase firearms because the three-day time limit for an FBI background check to clear had expired before agents could complete the review.

Greenville News: Upstate senate seat changes could be good for beer industry

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/07/12/upstate-senate-seat-changes-could-good-beer-industry/86772246/>

Amanda Coyne

A change in legislators in one Greenville Senate district could be good news for South Carolina brewers and craft beverage makers. Sen. Mike Fair was a "consistent 'no' vote" on alcohol-related legislation, said craft beverage lawyer Brook Bristow. Fair said he opposed legislation that would make it easier to sell alcohol because it may lead to an increased incidence of drunken driving. "The rate of DUIs hasn't dipped and we have continued to increase the outlets," Fair said. "Alcohol is a drug, and beer is the most abused drug out there. People driving drunk are causing the highest number of fatalities and most injuries on the highway." One of Fair's "no" votes was against the Pint Law, legislation that is credited with reinvigorating the craft beer industry in South Carolina. The Pint Law allowed breweries to serve up to 64 oz of beer for on-site consumption to each customer and removed the requirement for breweries to only serve beer in 2 oz and 4 oz samples. Fair's opposition to alcohol-related bills has been an obstacle in the Senate because just one senator can hold up a bill, Bristow said.

Post and Courier: Heightened security for RNC but S.C. delegates say they have nothing to fear

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160712/160719811/heightened-security-for-rnc-but-sc-delegates-say-they-have-nothing-to-fear>

Emma Dumain

The recent unrest around the country is prompting law enforcement officials to amp up security in Cleveland for next week's Republican National Convention. But there's no reason for South Carolinian delegates to be too concerned, said Glenn McCall — RNC national committeeman

representing South Carolina and vice-chairman of the Committee on Arrangements, which handles convention logistics. "I would say that security is going to be fine," McCall told The Post and Courier on Tuesday. "Everything will be secure around the convention hall and we'll have the authorities here, including Secret Service and other agencies." He added, "I am confident our delegates and guests will definitely feel secure." McCall cited Cleveland police's handling of the citywide celebration of the Cavaliers' National Basketball Association championship last month as proof local law enforcement is up to the task of mass crowd control.

SC Elections:

Post and Courier: House speaker to endorse Berkeley lawmaker

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160712/160719808/house-speaker-to-endorse-berkeley-lawmaker>

Brenda Rindge

State House Speaker Jay Lucas will endorse Rep. Sylleste Davis for House Seat 100 on Friday. Lucas, R-Hartsville, will speak at a campaign event at noon Friday at Gilligan's at the Dock. Davis is running in the special Republican primary on July 19. She is being challenged by Robbie Metts. Davis was sworn in to office last month to fill the unexpired term of former Rep. Eddy Southard, who resigned in April after allegations he sexually harassed a female Statehouse page. In June, he withdrew his name from the November ballot. The winner of Tuesday's primary will face Democrat Tonia Aiken-Taylor on Nov. 8.

SC Agency News:

Associated Press: SC agencies, food bank, compost group want to end food waste

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

SC State Wire

Several state agencies are joining with private groups to try to reduce food waste in South Carolina. The groups are announcing the "Don't Waste Food S.C." campaign Wednesday at Harvest Hope Food Bank in Columbia. The Commerce Department, the Department of Health and Environmental Control and the Agriculture Department are working with Feeding America which represents food banks across the country and Re-Soil Compost. The groups say they want to see most of the 600,000 tons of food wasted in South Carolina year donated to the hungry or turned into compost. The organizations are holding a news conference at 10 a.m. Wednesday.

Opinion/Editorial:

Post and Courier: Cheap S.C. gas' hidden price

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160713/160719782/cheap-sc-gas-hidden-price>

Editorial

The advantages of living in South Carolina include our pristine coast, often pleasant weather (though not necessarily in July) and mostly friendly people. But before counting our state's distinction of having the nation's lowest gas prices last week as an untainted benefit, consider a contributing — and ultimately self-defeating — factor in that illusory bargain. While being No. 1 in cheap gas sounds positive, that status stems in large part from the overall negative — and perilous — policy of having one of the nation's lowest gas taxes. And despite continued common-sense appeals to finally raise that tax to address dangerous funding shortfalls in road maintenance and construction, the Republican-dominated General Assembly again refused this year to take that overdue course. Thus, our state gas tax is stuck at its 1987 level. Thus, our state's roads and bridges are still stuck in

continuing decay.

NOTE: Yes, last month state lawmakers did pass, and Gov. Nikki Haley did sign, a bill that will provide \$2.2 billion in road funding over the next decade. But the bill relies on bonds — in other words, borrowing. And the amount of money coming, while significant, falls far short of covering the state's infrastructure needs.

The State: What if they were your neighbors?

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scoppe/article89153412.html>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

It was fortuitous — or perhaps providential — that Luke 10:25-37 had been chosen years ago as the Gospel reading for this past Sunday for Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Episcopalians and other Christians who use a common lectionary. For those who don't use the lectionary, or who didn't make it to church on Sunday, this would be a good time to remember what is probably Jesus' least ambiguous parable. You probably know it by heart: A lawyer asks Jesus who this neighbor is that he must love as himself, and Jesus tells the story of a traveler who had been robbed and left for dead. Two religious leaders saw him and ignored him, and then a Samaritan came to his assistance. Samaritans were members of a religious sect that first-century Jews considered vile, so painting the Samaritan as the good neighbor would be like telling a lot of Americans that our neighbors — the people for whom we have a biblical mandate to love as we love ourselves — are Syrian refugees. Or atheists. Or poor people. Or people of another race. We South Carolinians have been confronted before with the challenge of loving our neighbor as ourselves, and we handled it astoundingly well. Recognizing that my neighbor can be someone who doesn't look just like me or think just like me or have life experiences very much like my own was what brought us together after the massacre at Emanuel A.M.E. Church last summer.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: South Carolina Air Guard flying over Horry, Florence areas

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

SC State Wire

Residents in Florence and Horry Counties are being warned that the South Carolina Air National Guard is conducting flight training exercises that may spark interest, but are routine. Guard spokesman Senior Master Sgt. Ed Snyder says F-16 Flying Falcons from the Joint National Guard Base in central South Carolina are flying Wednesday between 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. The jets from the 169th Fighter Wing will be escorting a single civilian aircraft. The exercise is coordinated with the Federal Aviation Administration and trains Guard members in maneuvers that help defend U.S. air space. The Guard has been taking part in such training as part of the nation's North American Aerospace Defense Command mission since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

Post and Courier: Six more South Carolina residents contract Zika, bringing statewide total to 17

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160712/160719795/six-more-south-carolina-residents-contract-zika-bringing-statewide-total-to-17>

There are now 17 confirmed cases of Zika virus in South Carolina. The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control announced Tuesday that six additional residents had been diagnosed with Zika virus since their last update Saturday. According to state health officials, the six new cases were contracted while the residents were traveling abroad in countries and territories where the virus is active. Sixteen of the confirmed cases to date involve residents who were infected while traveling abroad. "One case involved a South Carolina resident who had sexual contact with someone who

acquired the Zika infection while traveling abroad," DHEC wrote on its website.

Local News:

WIS: USC student says lynched monkey is racial threat, not harmless joke

<http://www.wistv.com/story/32431499/usc-student-says-lynched-monkey-is-racial-threat-not-harmless-joke>

Chad Mills

Kaylah Summers still can't believe the bizarre sight she snapped a picture of Saturday. "Well, I was getting ready for work on Saturday afternoon, and I ran to my car to get something, and on my way back in, I saw something out of my peripheral vision like swinging from the tree," said Summers. The picture shows it clearly – a stuffed animal monkey with a belt around its neck hanging from a tree branch near Summers' blue car. The 21-year-old rising senior at the University of South Carolina said she immediately realized the intent. "Being that they refer to African-Americans as monkeys, I feel like they were trying to hint at hanging an African-American person, and that's very hateful being as far as we've come. It's 2016. We shouldn't be seen like that anymore," she said. The apartment complex, the Village at Columbia, said it took down the monkey just moments after Summers reported it, and the complex has since denounced what it calls an "offensive display." Meanwhile, Summers said she's been a bit uneasy in her own home.

Sun News: Sidney Moorer hearing on contempt of court accusation scheduled for Sept. 6

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article89144292.html>

Elizabeth Townsend

Sidney Moorer will appear Sept. 6 in a contempt of court hearing in which a judge will rule whether he broke a gag order by speaking to a television news station during the Heather Elvis kidnapping trial. Sidney Moorer, charged with kidnapping and obstruction of justice in the disappearance of Heather Elvis, stood trial on the kidnapping charge the week of June 20, but a hung jury led to a mistrial. The state claims Moorer violated a gag order, signed by Judge Steven John in March 2014 that prohibits the release of "extrajudicial statements and release of documents," by discussing the case during an interview with WBTW News Channel 13 on June 21 – the second day of the trial, according to court documents.

Associated Press: Tuomey Hospital sues Nexsen Pruet law firm for \$117M

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=I0WFYVaj

SC State Wire

A lawsuit has been filed alleging that legal malpractice by a law firm caused the destruction of Tuomey Healthcare of Sumter. Media outlets report that three members of the former Tuomey Healthcare System Board of Directors filed a lawsuit Tuesday against Nexsen Pruet, the law firm that advised them to fight against a whistleblower allegation from Dr. Michael Drakeford. James Griffin, the attorney representing the plaintiffs, says the health care system paid more than \$100 million in legal fees for a case that was settled by the hospital paying \$72.4 million. The lawsuit seeks \$117 million in damages for legal havoc allegedly wreaked by "misleading and reckless" advice from the law firm. Nexsen Pruet board chairman Leighton Lord said in a statement that the firm is "disappointed in" and disagrees with the lawsuit.

The State: Turbeville denies speed trap allegations

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article89161292.html>

Jeff Wilkinson

The tiny town of Turbeville, located on a heavily traveled highway between Interstate 95 and Myrtle Beach in rural Clarendon County, is asking that a civil lawsuit alleging that it runs an illegal speed trap be dismissed. The class action suit, first reported by The State last month, was brought by three Midlands law firms representing two women who received tickets in 2014 under Turbeville's "town safety" ordinance. Under that law, the town's police officers routinely issue municipal tickets for "careless driving" with higher fines than state tickets. The motion to dismiss the ordinance argues that neither woman was harmed and so has nothing to sue over.

The State: Feds charge Upstate business with hazardous waste crime

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article89230037.html>

Sammy Fretwell

An Upstate business and its owner have been indicted on charges of illegally storing and disposing of hazardous waste and releasing hazardous air pollution in Anderson County, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. Welch Group Environmental and executive Glenn Welch, 52, of Belton, were charged in a five-count indictment, federal prosecutors said Tuesday. Acting U.S. Attorney Beth Drake declined comment, but a news release from her office said Welch faces possible prison time if convicted. The storage charge carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$50,000 fine, while the air pollution charge carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Post and Courier: Planning Commission votes against Sergeant Jasper zoning change

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160712/160719780/planning-commission-votes-against-sergeant-jasper-zoning-change>

Diane Knich

The city of Charleston's Planning Commission voted 5-2 Tuesday to recommend to City Council that it not give final approval to a zoning change for the Sergeant Jasper apartment building at 310 Broad St. City Council last month voted 12-1 in favor of giving initial approval to a new overlay zone for the property that would allow a residential use there, one with as many as 324 units. The property currently is zoned limited business and limited to 80 residential units. The matter now will go back to City Council, a group that can override a negative recommendation from the Planning Commission with a vote of at least 75 percent of its members. Many neighborhood residents and preservation groups spoke out against the plan at the commission's Tuesday meeting.

Associated Press: South Carolina athletics going to clear bag policy

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=2nkle8iJ

SC State Wire

South Carolina fans will have to carry items in clear bags for the school's sporting events this fall. The school announced the policy Tuesday. The athletic department says the move makes for a safer environment and faster entry to stadiums for fans, who have had bags inspected before entering venues. The new guidelines will be enforced at all ticketed athletic events starting this academic year. Medically necessary items will be allowed in after an inspection. Those banned bags include purses larger than a hand-sized clutch, backpacks, camera bags, binocular cases, diaper bags and drawstring bags. Athletic director Ray Tanner says he met with area law enforcement leaders and other Southeastern Conference schools and realized there is a "new level of security" that needs to be implemented at school venues.

The State: USC adopts clear bag policy for most athletic events

<http://www.thestate.com/sports/college/university-of-south-carolina/other-usc-sports/article89129517.html>

Leave the backpacks, diaper bags, purses and fanny packs at home. The University of South Carolina is implementing a clear bag policy for all ticketed sporting events beginning with the 2016-17 athletic calendar, the school announced Tuesday. It's a "move designed to provide a safer environment and more expedited entry for fans," according to USC. It is similar to the policy adopted in 2013 by the NFL and used at other college stadiums. Fans attending such ticketed USC sports as baseball, men's and women's basketball, football, men's and women's soccer, softball and volleyball will be limited in the size and type of bags they can bring into each venue. Non-ticketed sports include golf, swimming and diving, track and field, equestrian, tennis and beach volleyball.

Associated Press: Clemson Extension conduct horticulture conference

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

SC State Wire

Agents from Clemson Cooperative Extension are conducting a conference to help educate young people about horticulture. The American Horticultural Society's National Children & Youth Garden Symposium begins Wednesday in Columbia. The symposium includes more than 40 presentations. Organizers say it's a forum for hundreds of educators, garden designers, program leaders and others from across the country who are passionate about connecting kids with plants and the natural world. Clemson experts will present their ideas about school gardening for South Carolina educators, children's garden design and 4-H gardening projects. Clemson Cooperative Extension is working with Heathwood Hall and Riverbanks Zoo & Garden as co-hosts of the four-day event, which includes visits to both places. Heathwood boasts a School Environmental Education program. Riverbanks recently opened the Waterfall Junction children's garden.

The State: Ousted pastor of S.C. megachurch has close ties to Elevation's Furtick

<http://www.thestate.com/news/state/south-carolina/article89180207.html>

Tim Funk and Rick Rothacker

A pastor ousted by his megachurch in South Carolina over problems that included alcohol use is a close friend of Elevation Church pastor Steven Furtick and has served on the board of overseers at the Charlotte church. As recently as 2014, Perry Noble – removed July 1 by the board at NewSpring Church in Anderson, S.C. – was described as the longest serving member of the Elevation board. Elevation officials did not respond Tuesday to requests for comment on whether he was still on the board. Elevation, started in 2006, is one of the fastest growing evangelical churches in America, and it draws about 20,000 people to services every weekend at its 10 locations in and around Charlotte. A 2014 issue of a magazine published for Elevation's members called Noble "one of Pastor Steven's closest friends," referring to Furtick.

Sun News: Nearly 200 new jobs coming to Grand Strand

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article89256372.html>

New jobs are coming to the Grand Strand area along with a new repair and maintenance facility, the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corporation will announce Wednesday morning during a press conference. Horry County Council Chairman Mark Lazarus said the new company will provide 175 jobs paying \$18 to \$22 an hour. Lazarus declined to name the new company or reveal any more details on the announcement. The press conference will be held at 11 a.m. at the Myrtle Beach General Aviation Terminal. Check back after the announcement for more details.

Herald-Journal: Tokyo Gas Engineering Solutions, Sterling Packaging to build new Spartanburg County plants

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160712/articles/160719914>

Chris Lavender

New jobs and capital investment are coming to Spartanburg County. The Spartanburg County Council is scheduled to hold third and final readings Wednesday on a fee in lieu of taxes agreement with Tokyo Gas Engineering Solutions (TGES) America Ltd. and a special source credit agreement with Hastings Parker Novak LLC. TGES plans to invest \$68 million in the construction and installation of equipment at a new facility at the Toray Industries site near the intersections of highways 290 and 221 in Moore. Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Vice President Carter Smith said the facility will be used to supply compressed air and steam to Toray's manufacturing operation. Toray, which is expected to begin operations in summer 2017, will specialize in the production of precast and prepreg carbon fiber for the company's customers in North America.

Herald-Journal: Mama Mary's move from Spartanburg to N.C. to leave 125 jobless

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160712/articles/160719906>

Bob Montgomery

The owner of a Spartanburg pizza crust maker plans to move the operation to North Carolina and eliminate 125 jobs here. New Jersey-based B&G Foods, which last year acquired Spartan Foods of America/Mama Mary's, announced its lease at 4250 Orchard Park Road in Spartanburg expires Oct. 14. The Mama Mary's pizza crust operation will be moved to a B&G Foods facility in Yadkinville, N.C., according to Robert C. Cantwell, president and CEO of B&G Foods. "The Yadkinville facility currently has full baking operations, producing New York Style and Old London products, with capacity to seamlessly integrate the production of Mama Mary's products," Cantwell said in a press release.

'Pokemon Go' News:

Post and Courier: Charleston-area police caution Pokémon Go game can potentially lead players into trouble

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160712/160719836/charleston-area-police-caution-pokxe9mon-go-game-can-potentially-lead-players-into-trouble>

Melissa Boughton

The Pokémon Go fad is being praised for connecting people who might not otherwise meet, but some of them are after more than digital creatures. Players can be seen walking around like zombies, heads buried in their phone, and unaware of their surroundings. The cellphone game even has a warning as it loads to remind users to stay alert at all times. And police departments are warning about the potential for Pokémon Go players to become victims of crime, with criminals using game beacons to lure players to a location. They also caution against trespassing and attempting to play while driving. The O'Fallon (Missouri) Police Department said Sunday it had arrested four people suspected of multiple armed robberies in which they were targeting people using the app. In Wyoming, a woman found a dead body in a river while hunting the virtual creatures. In Massachusetts, a man's home was turned into a virtual gym where players could battle and he had a line of strangers outside his door.

Post and Courier: 'Pokemon Go' craze hits Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160713/160719797/pokemon-go-craze-hits-charleston->

Deanna Pan

On another searing 90-degree day at Waterfront Park, children splashed their parents in the Pineapple Fountain while a bearded tourist from Connecticut furiously tapped the screen of his smartphone. Beads of sweat pooled on his forehead. A battle raged between Dennis Berry's Doduo, a two-headed bird, and an opponent's Pinsir, a thorned beetle-like bug. "You're gonna get your (butt)

kicked,” his buddy sneered. Berry arrived in Charleston on Friday for a friend’s bachelor party. He started playing “Pokemon Go” at Rita’s on Folly Beach on Sunday. His head has been buried in his phone ever since. “I don’t know really what I’m doing. I’m just playing,” Berry said, an admission that made his friends cackle. “I’m 34. I thought people were losers who did it back then.” Now Berry has joined their ranks.

The State: Pokemon GO players ‘gotta catch ‘em all’ in Columbia

<http://www.thestate.com/entertainment/local-events/article89066247.html>

Erin Shaw

Pidgeys are pecking around the University of South Carolina Horseshoe, Pinsirs are scuttling across the Williams-Brice Stadium field, and Poliwhags are swimming around Harbison State Forest. All are Pokemon that players of the game Pokemon GO can capture. Pokémon GO is a new free app available on iOS and Android, where players must physically walk around to find Pokemon. The game has quickly become a craze since it was released in the United States last week. The Washington Post reported that Pokémon Go has already been downloaded more times than the dating app Tinder, and “is rapidly encroaching on Twitter.” Here’s what people in Columbia are saying about it...

Independent Mail: VIDEO: Pokémon craze grips Anderson

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/pokmon-craze-grips-anderson-37784255-76a6-6e2a-e053-0100007f0aff-386559311.html>

Kirk Brown

The hunt is on for Pokémon in Anderson County. The mobile game "Pokémon Go" has gone viral in the Upstate and throughout the nation since it was introduced last week. And downtown Anderson has become a hub of activity where dozens of players are using their smartphones to capture the digital anime critters. "We continually brainstorm about what new business, event, or project will draw people to downtown — who would have thought it would be Pokémon?" said Arlene Young, the city of Anderson's downtown and business development director. The Anderson County Courthouse is a Poké Spot where phones can detect Pokémon perched on windows. Richard Shirley, the county's clerk of court, said players were surrounding the building throughout the day Tuesday.

Island Packet: Pokemon Go hits the Lowcountry, and Instinct (the yellow team) is taking charge

<http://www.islandpacket.com/entertainment/arts-culture/article89170957.html>

Wade Livingston

They gathered near the Coligny Beach Park splash pad Tuesday morning, in hopes of holding territory. “Our team only has two people on it,” Colin Nesbitt, 16, visiting Hilton Head Island from Pittsburgh, said. “And we want to add ourselves to the list of defenders to make sure our team can hold it down. “At least for a while.” Nesbitt sat in the shade on a bench between friends Bryant Bauer, 17, and Michael Salapow, 17. The splash pad was dry at the moment — beachgoers carrying chairs, coolers and skimboards sauntered through it on their way to the boardwalk. The three teenagers seemed not to notice. They had out their phones, the screens of which blazed with the images of “Pokemon Go.” “Pokemon Go” is the hottest app of the moment. It’s estimated to have been downloaded more than 7.5 million times in its first five days, according to USA Today. The game is so popular that its servers have struggled to handle all the traffic. The iPhone version alone brings in \$1.6 million a day, according to Forbes.

Sun News: Myrtle Beach Pokémon players out to ‘catch ‘em all’

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article89224172.html>

Angela Nicholas

You can easily spot them at hotspots such as The Market Common and Broadway at the Beach. Groups of folks, cell phones raised, scurrying around hunting for Pokémon, playing the augmented reality game that's swept the country by storm since it was released last week. "The game is very easy to use, very intuitive and really cute," said Robin Roberts of X Con Comics in Myrtle Beach. "It accesses your (smartphone) camera so you see what is in front of you plus a Pokémon. One, a rat, popped up in my salad. It's a virtual experience and you can take a picture of it and post it." Pokémon Go has taken the smartphone world by storm in recent days engaging the nostalgia of young technologically savvy adults who grew up playing Nintendo's Pokémon games while enticing a whole new generation of gamers.

Herald-Journal: Downtown Spartanburg catches Pokemon Go fever

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160712/articles/160719916>

Zach Fox

Groups of teens and 20-somethings, cellphones in hand, stop periodically, talk to each other, then proceed on their way. Each time they stop, they swipe at their screens, trying to catch virtual creatures that appear around them. The global craze of Pokemon Go has found its way to downtown Spartanburg. WHAT IT IS: Pokemon Go is the latest Pokemon game from Nintendo. The game features detailed GPS locations, showing a map of streets, landmarks and buildings that players encounter while searching for Pokemon. Since it launched on July 6, Pokemon Go has seen a huge surge in users, and has more daily active users than Twitter. Estimates show the game has added billions of dollars to Nintendo's stock value.

Greenville News: Pokémon fans 'gotta catch 'em all' in Greenville

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/entertainment/2016/07/11/pokmon-fans-gotta-catch-em-all-greenville/86940886/>

Elizabeth LaFleur

What is the deal with Pokémon Go? The classic video game characters are back in an updated game that's encouraging all kinds of people to gather in downtown Greenville, join team-centric Facebook groups and plan meet-ups. Full disclosure, I'm in the age bracket of people who were kids when Pokémon first became popular. I never traded the cards, or played the video game, or even really understood what it was about. Much like a fax machine, I just didn't expect I'd need to know how it worked by the time I became an adult. Pokémon Go is similar to the classic "gotta catch 'em all" game, but with an augmented reality (AR) twist. It's available for free on iOS and Android.

National News:

Associated Press: Aiming for Friday announcement, Trump narrows his VP list

<http://bigstory.ap.org/8d660499aaa447ceafd9d5ec917781c7>

Jill Colvin and Jonathan Lemire

Donald Trump has reached the final phase of his search for a running mate, narrowing his list to three leading contenders and directing his staff to prepare for a Friday announcement. "It's a little bit like 'The Apprentice,'" former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, one of Trump's finalists, said in a Tuesday interview with Fox News Channel. "You find out sooner or later who the last one standing is." Along with Gingrich, a boisterous rabble-rouser who has spent decades in Washington, the finalists include Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, a steady, staunch conservative who would help to calm nervous Republicans wary of Trump's style, and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a one-time rival who has become one of Trump's most trusted advisers.

Associated Press: Poll: Most young people dislike GOP's Trump, say he's racist

<http://bigstory.ap.org/f075ace3ed4c4387bd53ca6c8d7bc8b7>

Jonathan Lemire and Emily Swanson

Donald Trump is wildly unpopular among young adults, in particular young people of color, and nearly two-thirds of Americans between the ages of 18 and 30 believe the presumptive Republican nominee is racist. That's the finding of a new GenForward poll that also found just 19 percent of young people have a favorable opinion of Trump compared to the three-quarters of young adults who hold a dim view of the New York billionaire. Trump's likely general election opponent, Hillary Clinton, is also unpopular with young people, but not nearly to the same extent as the real estate mogul and reality TV star. A mere 6 percent of young African Americans, 10 percent of young Hispanics, 12 percent of young Asian Americans and 27 percent of young whites see Trump in a favorable light, ratings that suggest the celebrity businessman faces a staggering task this summer to win their backing in his bid for the White House.

Associated Press: Law enforcement, activists to meet with Obama at White House

<http://bigstory.ap.org/e2cebaa9d8d94e8b8e047ef8255857e1>

Kevin Freking

President Barack Obama will quickly return to the delicate balancing act of supporting law enforcement while addressing concerns of bias from some of the communities they serve. Obama is meeting Wednesday with police officers at the White House — the second such session this week. This time it will be expanded to include mayors, academics and civil rights activists. "We'll share solutions from communities that have already found ways to build trust and reduce disparities," Obama said on Facebook. Obama and Vice President Joe Biden met with representatives from eight police organizations Monday before flying the next day to Dallas to lead a memorial for five police officers killed by a suspect who said he wanted to kill whites, particularly white officers. The officers were working at rally in which protesters gathered to voice complaints about the shooting deaths of two black men by police officers, one in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and the other in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Associated Press: Funerals set to begin for police officers slain in Dallas

<http://bigstory.ap.org/1635a1fb84b64a66865ac0f4c64f43d1>

Funerals are set to begin for the five officers slain by a sniper during a protest last week in downtown Dallas. Funerals will be held later Wednesday for Dallas Police Sr. Cpl. Lorne Ahrens, Dallas Police Sgt. Michael Smith and Dallas Area Rapid Transit Officer Brent Thompson. Ahrens' funeral will be held in Plano. Smith's funeral at the Farmers Branch church he and his family attended will be followed the next day with a service at the Dallas church where he worked security. After a Dallas memorial service, Thompson's funeral will be at a church in Corsicana, the town south of Dallas where he lived. Dallas Police Officer Michael Krol's funeral is set for Friday, and Dallas police Officer Patrick Zamarripa's funeral will be held Saturday.

World News:

Associated Press: Cameron out, May in on dramatic day in British politics

<http://bigstory.ap.org/805c9933b088441394688f47eb5ea1cf>

Jill Lawless and Danica Kirka

David Cameron is making a final appearance in the House of Commons as prime minister Wednesday before handing over to his successor, Theresa May. The prime ministerial Jaguar left 10

Downing St. in mid-morning, taking Cameron to Parliament. Cameron is stepping down less than three weeks after losing the campaign to keep Britain in the European Union. He will take on his final weekly prime minister's questions session at noon before traveling to Buckingham Palace to tender his resignation to Queen Elizabeth II. May will later visit the palace, where the queen will ask her to form a new government.

Associated Press: A year later, Iran nuclear deal is holding but fragile

<http://bigstory.ap.org/f0b8663354114adb8d26c21f54df5e1e>

Bradley Klapper

The Iran nuclear accord is fragile at its one-year anniversary. Upcoming elections in the U.S. and Iran could yield new leaders determined to derail the deal. The Mideast's wars pit U.S. and Iranian proxies in conflict, with risks of escalation. Iran's ballistic missiles are threatening the Middle East, raising pressure on the United States to respond forcefully. But for now, the seven-nation nuclear pact is holding. Washington and Tehran are expanding cooperation beyond any level imaginable back when the Iranians were edging closer to nuclear weapons capability. And Boeing's recent announcement of a multibillion-dollar plane deal with Iran Air suggests some of the agreement's early problems may be working out.

--

Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044