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Subject: Morning Clips – Monday, September 19, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier : Governor's council works to stem opioid abuse

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160919/160919626/governors-council-works-to-stem-opioid-abuse>

Melissa Boughton

South Carolina was warned in 2013 by the state inspector general that if doctors didn't stop writing opioid prescriptions at such a high rate there would be a critical public health crisis. At the time, the state ranked 23rd highest in the country per capita for overdose deaths and 10th highest in the country for the number of painkiller prescriptions per capita. Over the next year, reported opioid deaths across the state jumped 118 percent from 237 in 2013 to 516 in 2014, according to data gathered by The Post and Courier.Gov. Nikki Haley responded to the report in 2014 by creating a Governor's Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Council. Opioid prescriptions have dropped from 4,866,458 in 2013 to 4,490,916 in 2015, according to data compiled by the Center for Public Integrity and The Associated Press. Members of the council said those numbers are continuing to steadily decline this year, as well. Bob Toomey, retired director of the S.C. Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services and former co-chairman of the council, said there was a knowledge deficit among prescribers and patients about prescription opioids, but the council's multifaceted approach is helping to close the gap.

Post and Courier : Pharma contributions drop in South Carolina as opioid legislation gains steam

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160918/160919394/pharma-contributions-drop-in-south-carolina-as-opioid-legislation-gains-steam>

Gavin Jackson

The pharmaceutical industry has donated nearly \$800,000 to South Carolina lawmakers and political groups over the past decade, but contributions have waned in recent years. Peaking at \$104,450 in 2010, contributions dropped to \$49,250 last year — a timeframe when lawmakers approved legislation to combat mounting opioid-related deaths in the state. One leading measure came from Rep. Chip Huggins, R-Columbia, who sponsored legislation that gave addicts access to the life-saving opioid overdose antidote Narcan. Availability was increased when the law was bolstered this year when legislators gave pharmacists the ability to prescribe and administer the drug. Health advocates applauded the move, which made South Carolina one of a handful of states to have the option in place for what many see as an immediate intervention step to preventing a fatal occurrence. NOTE: Republican Gov. Nikki Haley topped out at \$33,000 from the pharmaceutical industry during the past 10 years, while her two-time Democratic gubernatorial opponent, state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, D-Camden, received roughly half that at \$15,250. Both received hefty donations due to higher contribution limits than legislators.

The State: The Buzz: Haley hitting the stump

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article102555457.html>

Cassie Cope

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley isn't letting her second-term, lame-duck status keep her off the campaign trail. The invites have been rolling in for the Lexington Republican to stump for Republicans in other states. Haley heads to Vermont on Oct. 5 to headline that state's GOP 2016 Fall Harvest Dinner. On Oct. 13, Haley will headline a fundraiser in Atlanta for Georgia's Republican congressmen and women. Last week, Haley was in the Peach State headlining a fundraiser for GOP women running for Congress. The \$2,500-a-ticket event benefited U.S. Sen. Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire; Liz Cheney, daughter for former Vice President Dick Cheney; and U.S. Reps. Barbara Comstock of Virginia, Martha McSally of Arizona and Elise Stefanik of New York. Eric Tanenblatt, one of the largest GOP bundlers in the South and a principal with Dentons, a global law firm headquartered in Atlanta, sent out the invitation to the Friday event. Haley also hit the road last Wednesday, going to Republican Governors Association meetings in New York City.

Post and Courier : How South Carolina welcomed, gave \$1.2M to suspected swindler

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160918/160919483/how-south-carolina-welcomed-gave-12m-to-suspected-swindler>

John McDermott

The big money began to roll in for Miami businessman Navin Xavier in the days leading up to his May 2013 wedding. More than a week before the formal black-tie nuptials at the exclusive Breakers hotel, a \$75,000 deposit landed in the commodity industry executive's bank account. Just four days after tying the knot in Palm Beach, the Essex Holdings Inc. president and CEO received an even bigger wire transfer, this time for \$150,000. More deposits would follow over the next few months. The source of the funds wasn't a benevolent uncle or other generous wedding guest. Rather, it was a branch of the South Carolina Department of Commerce. The agency's Coordinating Council for Economic Development paid \$1.2 million in public money to Xavier on the expectation that he would spend more than \$50 million to create a couple of hundred jobs in an area in need of an economic lift. The state never got the bang for the buck it was hoping for. Now, it will likely have to write off its investment entirely.

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley was among the other dignitaries who turned out to help greet the new employer. She called the company's decision to set up operations in Marion a "big win for one of our state's rural areas." She also thanked Xavier personally, according to a video of the event. "You are taking a chance on us," Haley told him. "My commitment to you is that ... is that everybody here is going to support you. We are going to wrap our arms around you, and you are going to feel support the whole way through." Haley's office declined to comment on the indictment and lost state funds last week.

The State: SC Gov. Haley issues order to ensure gas supplies after Alabama spill

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article102465257.html>

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley has issued an executive order designed to ease the impact on gasoline supplies and prices following a pipeline spill earlier this month in Alabama. The pipeline serves the Southeast and has been shut down for more than a week after a Sept. 9 spill released 250,000 gallons of fuel. News outlets report that gasoline prices in some areas of the Carolinas have increased in recent days. Haley issued an order that will allow an increase in the number of fuel truck deliveries. An order issued by Gov. Pat McCrory in North Carolina waives some of the size and weight restrictions on gasoline tank trucks. McCrory says that should help protect consumers from excessive gas prices and ensure an uninterrupted supply of fuel.

Associated Press: The Latest: North Carolina working to replenish gas supplies

<http://bigstory.ap.org/27b5fd1683354060a6797476c71a0855>

North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory says he and other officials are working with fuel suppliers to monitor and quickly replenish gasoline supplies. McCrory's office issued a statement Sunday night saying a pipeline repair in Alabama should soon have normal supplies flowing to North Carolina. The governor's statement says state officials are working to make sure motorists are protected from excessive gas prices and minimize any interruptions in fuel supplies. Some service stations across the state reported they've run out of gasoline. McCrory's office says most of those stations are getting new supplies of gas or will get them Monday. A break in a Colonial Pipeline discovered Sept. 9 interrupted service to Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. The company doesn't know when the spill started.

Associated Press: Pump problem? Gov's office says they've gotten no complaints

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=qJXMIM5E

SC State Wire

Despite some gas station employees saying they've run out, the Georgia governor's office has said they have not received any complaints of gas shortages within the state after a pipeline spill in central Alabama. "As of now ... we've not received any complaints," Gov. Nathan Deal's spokeswoman Jen Ryan said in a statement Sunday. "If that changes on Monday or at any time in the coming days, the governor's office will act accordingly." Fuel supplies in at least five states - Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and the Carolinas - were threatened by the spill, and the U.S. Department of Transportation ordered the company responsible, Colonial Pipeline, to take corrective action before the fuel starts flowing again. Drivers in Atlanta area found some pumps completely dry or they had to pay 20 cents more because, according to a sign on the pump, the gas had to be pulled from Savannah.

SC Political News:

Post and Courier : In opioid debate on Capitol Hill, few links found between money and votes for S.C. lawmakers

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160918/160919392/in-opioid-debate-on-capitol-hill-few-links-found-between-money-and-votes-for-sc-lawmakers>

Emma Dumain

Earlier this year, Congress gave itself a collective pat on the back. It put aside partisan politics, for the most part, and passed what's being called the most sweeping bill ever to address the mounting opioid abuse crisis across the United States. It was an easy bill to vote for. The legislation authorized funding for local governments to combat the painkiller addiction epidemic — without appropriating any substantial sum of money. The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, or CARA, also avoided conflict with the pharmaceutical industry by empowering local officials to tackle the crisis in their own communities, rather than addressing what role the opioid manufacturers might have played in making addictive opioids so widely available. The Center for Public Integrity and The Associated Press recently looked for links between opioid abuse legislation and the thousands of dollars federal officeholders have received between 2005 and 2015 from the giants of the drug industry, including those that manufacture the best-known, most widely used addictive painkillers.

Associated Press: South Carolina party chairs beat vitriol with friendship

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

Meg Kinnard

In a year of intense polarization and partisanship - and in a state known for its rough-and-tumble

politics - South Carolina's top party leaders are working to cut through the bull. It doesn't mean dedication for their candidates is any less fervent. But the state's Republican and Democratic chairmen take an amiable approach to helping South Carolina voters figure out how they feel about the issues, not just impress partisan viewpoints upon them. Their public discussions are styled in a plainspoken and rhetorically minimalist way. GOP Chairman Matt Moore and Democratic counterpart Jaime Harrison have co-taught classes and penned joint op-eds to advocate for issues. They even carpooled to a recent symposium. The rivals and friends say they often disagree but that their differences don't mean they can't work together.

The State: 'Sick of waiting,' SC Democratic candidates face tough odds

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article102631267.html>

Jamie Self

A librarian. A newly minted Upstate attorney. A pastor and community organizer who struggled with addiction. A Pennsylvanian who came to South Carolina to play college football, went to work for Joe Biden and now calls the Palmetto State home. Who are they? They are the best candidates the S.C. Democratic Party could field for November's congressional elections. The Democrats are contesting eight congressional races – one for the U.S. Senate and seven for the U.S. House. But, in reality, the hopes of South Carolina's embattled minority party are focused on one race. In that race, Tega Cay's Fran Person, a former University of South Carolina football player, is challenging Republican incumbent Mick Mulvaney of Indian Land for the 5th District congressional seat. Unlike the other Democratic congressional candidates, Person has proven he can raise money. Person had raised more than \$400,000 through the end of June and that was before Vice President Biden, Person's old boss, came to the state to campaign and fundraise for his former aide.

The State: For SC Democrats, rebuilding party 'is a long process'

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article102592807.html>

Avery G. Wilks

The party of Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson is on a mean losing streak in South Carolina. Fifty years removed from utter domination of S.C. politics, Democrats now hold none of the state's 11 constitutional offices or U.S. Senate seats, cling to minorities in the S.C. House and Senate, and control just one of the state's seven U.S. House seats. South Carolina has not picked a Democrat for president since 1976. Its voters last elected a Democratic U.S. senator in 1998. And in 2014, the Democratic candidate for S.C. governor suffered the party's worst loss for that position in 24 years. Now, a party still trying to recover from losing its base of white conservatives has other issues to worry about: struggles with recruiting good candidates, S.C. voters' aversion to the Democratic brand, and the sheer number of white voters in a state where race often defines party affiliation.

The State: The Buzz: A bigger chair for SC Democrats' Harrison?

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article102555442.html>

Cassie Cope

S.C. Democratic Party Chairman Jaime Harrison might be interested in the biggest job his party has to offer – chairing the Democratic National Committee. Asked Thursday of his interest – and whether he was seeking the post – Harrison laughed and said, “When Hillary Clinton wins the presidency, she will have to pick who's the next DNC chair. Technically, you don't run for it.” A new chair likely will be appointed after the election. Former chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz resigned amid an email scandal, leaving vice chair Donna Brazile as interim chair through the election. The first African-

American to chair the S.C. Democratic Party, Harrison said he had been talking about the possibility of getting the big chair. But, he added, the conversations were "more on a conceptual basis." "If the president of the United States asks me to consider serving as DNC chair, I would, in consultation with my wife, really, really consider it. At this point, it hasn't been offered."

The State: Clinton takes a sick day; Trump gets closer

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article102682017.html>

Bristow Marchant

What a difference a week makes. The polls are as close as they have been in weeks after Hillary Clinton gave a speech in which she placed half of Donald Trump's supporters in a "basket of deplorables," then took several days off the campaign trail last week after she stumbled out of a Sept. 11 memorial in New York. Her campaign later revealed she had been diagnosed with pneumonia. The illness kept Democrat Clinton out of the game for much of the week. It also reignited questions about her stamina and her trustworthiness among voters. The Republican Trump took advantage of Clinton's absence to lay out his plan for paid maternity leave, discuss his health with TV's Dr. Oz, and formally end his yearslong flirtation with the conspiracy theory that President Barack Obama had been born outside the United States. Most importantly, Trump's standing in polls grew.

Post and Courier: For Charleston Harbor dredging, where there's a Will there's a way

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160919/160919478/for-charleston-harbor-dredging-where-theres-a-will-theres-a-way>

The day after the U.S. Senate approved a bill that would authorize dredging Charleston Harbor to a 52-foot depth, newspaper columnist and television commentator George F. Will telephoned State Ports Authority CEO Jim Newsome. The call was a chance both to congratulate Newsome on the legislative victory and to let him know the Port of Charleston would be featured in an upcoming column. "I just got off the phone with Jim Newsome, who is in Washington to try to get Congress out of the way of the port's progress," Will told The Post and Courier via email on Friday. "My next column — if the news cooperates, in next Thursday's papers — will be about my visit (to the Port of Charleston) a few weeks ago."

Post and Courier : State looking to borrow \$45 million to indefinitely house 'sexually violent predators'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160917/160919544/state-looking-to-borrow-45-million-to-indefinitely-house-sexually-violent-predators>

Maya T. Prabhu

South Carolina could borrow \$45 million to pay for a new facility to house the state's "sexually violent predators." When those convicted of rape and other sex crimes finish serving their prison time, the state mandates inmates undergo a civil process to determine if they are considered a sexually violent predator and should continue to be held in state custody. With 184 residents as of last week, the Department of Mental Health says it will outgrow the two S.C. Department of Corrections dorms it uses at the Broad River Correctional Institution in the next year. The Joint Bond Review Committee recently gave approval to the borrowing program. The plan goes before the State Fiscal Accountability Authority this week. If approved, the project is expected to be complete by 2018. "When we created it years ago, we wanted to make sure that we kept the most violent offenders away from the public and off the streets," said Charleston Republican state Rep. Chip Limehouse, who serves on the panel.

Independent Mail : Anderson County leader 'harassed' by meal tax calls

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/09/18/anderson-county-leader-harassed-meal-tax->

[calls/90506530/](tel:90506530)

Nikie Mayo

As the Anderson County Republican Party prepares to host a forum on the proposed 2 percent hospitality tax, one county councilman says he is being harassed by someone outside the Upstate who opposes the tax. Anderson County Councilman Tom Allen said Friday that he has received at least 35 calls through “an automated harassment system” that he believes originates with a person or group based in Columbia. “What has happened in the last few days is that between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., my home phone rings constantly,” Allen said. “But when I pick it up, the people on the other end of the line have no idea they are connecting to me. They are mostly elderly people, and they say they have heard a recording that tells them to press a button if they are against the tax. When they do that, it connects to my house. I am being harassed.” Allen is one of the people who supported the proposed tax on Aug. 9 when it went to the county council for a first reading. The second reading is scheduled for Tuesday night. If the tax is approved then, the council will give the proposal a third, and final, reading at a future meeting.

LGBT Laws:

Charlotte Observer: Charlotte Chamber: Let's hit 'reset' on HB2, LGBT ordinance

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/business/article102630242.html>

Ely Portillo and Steve Harrison

The Charlotte Chamber, hospitality and tourism leaders called Sunday for the city of Charlotte and state leaders to repeal controversial laws that have thrust the state into the national spotlight and cost North Carolina high profile sports games, corporate expansions and concerts. And, they said, there's still a glimmer of hope Charlotte and North Carolina could win back some of the canceled athletic events if they act quickly. “This is not about politics. This is not about who's right and who's wrong,” said Vinay Patel, CEO of SREE Hotels and a board member of the North Carolina Restaurant & Lodging Association. “We've been caught in a crossfire. ... We're in a crisis, and this is the time to take action.” Gov. Pat McCrory's office said last week that he will call lawmakers into session this week to repeal House Bill 2 – if Charlotte City Council goes first and drops the city's nondiscrimination ordinance that prompted state legislation. The state law, which limits local nondiscrimination protections for LGBT individuals and mandates transgender people use the bathroom on their birth certificate in schools and government buildings, has sparked numerous cancellations from groups that oppose HB2.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: Scoppe: How South Carolina encourages voters to turn off their brains

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scoppe/article102256027.html>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

IF YOU'D RATHER vote for a yellow dog than a Republican — or, I don't know, for a spotted cow rather than a Democrat — that's your absolute right. I and others who routinely vote for both Republicans and Democrats will think you are an unwise voter, but we would never try to deny you the right to be unwise. But should our state government actively encourage you to do that? South Carolina and nine other states do — although one of the others is trying to stop, and being stymied by federal judges. Imagine, if you can, that you are a loyal partisan, but your House member keeps fighting ethics reforms and other measures you care about. He has become to you far worse than a yellow dog or a spotted cow, and in November he has a challenger. A challenger who supports ethics reforms and those other measures that you care about. So you've decided to finally cross that great

divide and vote for someone from that other party.

Post and Courier: Seismic tests bad for business

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160919/160919421/seismic-tests-bad-for-business>

Editorial

Often business interests and environmentalists are at loggerheads: Development versus conservation. But the two have found common ground on a worthy issue affecting the Atlantic Coast. They oppose seismic testing for offshore oil. Of course, Big Oil is an exception. It wants to test for oil deposits in case the federal government changes plans and permits drilling offshore. But business owners and organizations from New Jersey to Georgia have stepped up to oppose testing because, despite what the oil companies promise, they know the damage such testing can do to marine life. And why would companies want to test for oil or gas if they weren't hoping to drill for it? The newly formed Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast (BAPAC) recognizes that the practice of seismic testing can prove unhealthy to fish, whales, dolphins and sea turtles. And they recognize that jeopardizing those resources could jeopardize businesses like tourism and commercial fishing.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Conference opens in South Carolina on slave dwellings

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

SC State Wire

A historian says people should learn from the old homes that slaves lived in, just as they would from the more beautiful buildings from more than a century ago. The State newspaper reported (<http://bit.ly/2cBO7gl>) that Joe McGill has slept in more than 100 slave dwellings in 17 states and the District of Columbia. McGill founded the Slave Dwelling Project, which starts its third annual conference in Columbia, South Carolina, on Monday. The goal of the Slave Dwelling Project is to "identify and assist property owners, government agencies and organizations to preserve extant slave dwellings." McGill says there's a tendency in this country to focus history on those who kept slaves, rather than upon the slaves themselves.

The State: After sleeping in 100+ slave dwellings, this man has a message

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article102619162.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

Joe McGill has slept in more than 100 slave dwellings in 17 states and the nation's capital. "These places should be used, just as are nice beautiful buildings – places people strive to go visit," McGill said. "I think these slave dwellings should be equally sought out to visit for the lessons they could teach us." Now, the 55-year-old historian is the founder of the Slave Dwelling Project, which is set to kick off its third annual conference in Columbia on Monday. The goal of the project, according to its website, is to "identify and assist property owners, government agencies and organizations to preserve extant slave dwellings." "I want folks to realize that we tend to operate on an incomplete narrative when we interpret the history of this nation," McGill told The State newspaper. "We tend to associate our history with those who enslaved, not those who they enslaved." The first time he ever slept in a slave dwelling was about 17 years ago, McGill said – at the Boone Hall Plantation in Mt. Pleasant as part of a History Channel documentary. "The thing that stands out the most was ... waking up to the sounds of dogs barking in the background, and thinking about enslaved people trying to escape and being chased by dogs," he said.

Associated Press : Weather Change: Meteorology degree offered in South Carolina

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=MUFDo5Dc

SC State Wire

In a state where the weather ranges from snow and ice storms to coastal flooding and hurricanes, South Carolina students can finally get a college degree in meteorology. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports (<http://bit.ly/2cJT8otDS>) that the College of Charleston has won approval to offer the major this year. It's the first college in the state to offer the degree. Associated professor Lee Lindner says the College of Charleston hired its first professor with meteorology training two decades ago and has been pursuing approval of the meteorology major for several years. The college now has four professors who are trained meteorologists and offers 12 courses in the field. The major has about a dozen students/ The first meteorology graduates will receive their degrees in May of 2018.

Post and Courier : A degree of weather, C of C launches meteorology major

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160917/160919517/a-degree-of-weather-c-of-c-launches-meteorology-major>

Bo Petersen

Drought that saps a lake to its bed, an ice storm that shreds tons and tons of branches from trees, a deluge that brings a devastating flood — can't beat that for a syllabus if it's a meteorology degree you seek. And now Trevor Gibbs, who as a 7-year-old watched raptly through his family's picture window while Hurricane Gaston snapped branches like they were nothing, has the opportunity to study weather for a living. Gibbs is on track to be one of the first students to earn a meteorology degree from the College of Charleston. The college won approval for the major this year, and is the first school in the state to offer the program. Maybe the only wonder is what took so long in a region notorious for the wild swings of its weather.

Local News:

Associated Press : Driver, 10-year-old child, 2 players die in NC bus crash

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ODx4tITc

Jeffrey Collins

The bus driver, two football players and a 10-year-old child are the four people killed after a bus carrying a South Carolina junior college football team to its first game ever crashed on a North Carolina highway, state troopers said. The front left tire on the bus blew out around 2:30 p.m. Saturday, sending it into a guardrail, then scraping the side of a concrete bridge column on U.S. Highway 74 near Hamlet, North Carolina, Highway Patrol Lt. Jeff Gordon said. The National Transportation Safety Board is sending two investigators to the scene of the crash to investigate the tires on the bus, agency spokesman Christopher O'Neil said, adding the board hasn't decided whether it will do a full investigation of the wreck. The driver of the bus, Brian Kirkpatrick, 43, of Chester was killed as were Darice Hicks, 10, of Rock Hill; Devonte Gibson, 21, of Rock Hill; and Tito Hamilton, 19, of Pahokee, Florida. Two of the dead were ejected from the bus and two were rescued from inside, but died a short time later at the hospital, Gordon said. Gibson and Hamilton were each high school football players trying to continue their playing careers.

Associated Press: The Latest: Feds to check tire in bus crash that killed 4

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=qHnf7TEB

SC State Wire

Two federal investigators are going to North Carolina to check the tires on a bus that crashed, killing four people on their way to a South Carolina junior college's first-ever football game. National Transportation Safety Board spokesman Christopher O'Neil said in a statement that the agency

hasn't decided whether a full investigation is needed into the wreck that also injured 42 others Saturday afternoon on U.S. Highway 74 near Hamlet, North Carolina. Troopers say the left front tire of the bus blew out, sending the left side scraping against a concrete bridge column. The driver of the bus died, along with two men with the Ramah Jucco Academy team and a 10-year-old child. Most of the players went to Clinton College in Rock Hill. The school says it is canceling classes Monday and bringing in grief counselors.

The Herald: Boy, 8; 2 Clinton College students; driver killed after bus carrying football players from Rock Hill crashes in N.C.

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article102587567.html>

Teddy Kulmala and Andrew Dys

Clinton College officials are "devastated" by the Saturday bus crash in North Carolina where two of their students were among four people with area ties who died in the horrific crash in which more than 40 were injured. An 8-year-old boy from Rock Hill and the bus driver, who is from Chester, also died, police said. The crash happened around 2:30 p.m. Saturday near Hamlet, N.C., according to the State Highway Patrol. A 1993 charter bus was traveling east on the U.S. 74 bypass when the front left tire blew, causing the bus to go out of control and veer into the median, troopers say. The bus struck a median guardrail before sideswiping a concrete bridge column. The bus was traveling from Rock Hill to Fayetteville, N.C., to participate in a scheduled football game Saturday night against the University of God's Chosen, the Highway Patrol said. Both eastbound and westbound lanes of the U.S. 74 bypass were closed nearly 10 hours after the crash.

The State: Families remember two decades after day-care operator killed their babies

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article102660142.html>

Cliff Leblanc

They are parents whose wretched loss cost them their faith in day cares, much of humanity and even God. Davis Daniel, 61, and Lindy McClarrie, 51, share the pangs of losing their babies 23 years ago to Irmo day care owner Gail Cutro. Ashlan, Daniel's daughter, died Sept. 9, 1993, at age 4 months 18 days. McClarrie's son, Parker Colson, died at age 4 months, 29 days. Cutro is in the state's women's prison, serving a life sentence for killing them. Daniel, a towering man who speaks softly and seldom, sat last week in his den in Irmo trying to capture the devastation Cutro brought to him and his family over the loss of their little girl. "It was some rough times," said Daniel, who has had two heart attacks over the years. "I was real mad with God." He lives within a couple of miles of where Cutro ran her day care in the New Friarsgate subdivision. Daniel's home also is a short drive from where Ashlan is buried. Neither his son, Reid, nor Reid's children, nor the children of his wife of 17 years, Cindy, have put their kids in day care. "He refused to let his wife work," Daniel said of Reid Daniel.

Associated Press: Man shot, killed in weekend incident in North Charleston

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

SC State Wire

North Charleston police are investigating a weekend shooting that left a man dead. Charleston County deputy coroner Sara Senn tells local news outlets that 39-year-old Edward Jones of North Charleston was found on the ground late Saturday night in front of a home in the city. He had been shot and later died at a hospital. Police say several people were in front of the home at the time and are being sought for questioning. No arrests have been made. It was the 25th homicide this year in North Charleston.

The Herald: New software will help York County crime lab untangle complex DNA mixtures

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article102659752.html>

Teddy Kulmala

A printout marked with a series of numbers and colorful zig-zags may look like a foreign language to some people. But to Cristy Kissel, who leads the York County Sheriff's Office DNA laboratory, those lines and numbers represent the extent to which people's DNA is present in evidence collected during criminal investigations. Thanks to a new software recently purchased by the Sheriff's Office, Kissel and her co-workers will be better able to distinguish a specific DNA profile in samples that include multiple profiles. The lab routinely receives pieces of evidence gathered by investigators from crime scenes. "If we have a suspect or elimination samples, we'll try to compare those to those (evidence) samples to either eliminate them or include those individuals," she said. "If we don't have enough profiles from any known individuals, then we try to take that DNA profile and search it through CODIS."

Associated Press: Young child found wandering alone on Gaston street

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=vI9rctu3

SC State Wire

A little boy was found wandering alone on a street in Gaston. Media outlets report that according to the Lexington County Sheriff's Department, deputies responded at about 5:20 p.m. Saturday to a report of a small child who had wandered from his home. The boy was wearing a diaper and a T-shirt. Deputies say the child was placed into emergency protective custody. The boy's parents were located Sunday morning as deputies canvassed the neighborhood. However, it isn't clear whether the child was returned to their custody or if any charges will be filed. Deputies say the investigation is ongoing.

Island Packet: National anthem controversy prompts area ADs to consider response

<http://www.islandpacket.com/sports/high-school/article102517342.html>

Jeff Shain

Thursday happened to be Military Appreciation Night at Beaufort High, and neither the Eagles nor visiting May River broke rank as the national anthem was played in the minutes before their football game. No kneeling. No sitting on the bench behind their teammates. Other than some absent-minded milling about on the outer concourse, it was the same way outside the playing field. In a locale where the Bible Belt intersects with a strong military presence, that really isn't a surprise. To date, the anthem protests of 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick and other athletes have not appeared at Lowcountry high schools. That hasn't been the case elsewhere, though, as prep athletes from New Jersey to Alabama to Iowa to Washington have taken a knee as a way to protest racial injustice. If nothing else, it has led administrators here to consider how to react to any such action.

Associated Press: Plans for new USC medical campus in Columbia taking shape

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=476Xcjd8

SC State Wire

The University of South Carolina's trustees have given preliminary approval to build a new \$200 million home for its medical school. The State newspaper in Columbia reports (<https://goo.gl/Wlgt0k>) that the board unanimously approved putting the new campus on 16 acres in downtown Columbia donated by a developer. The new campus will be across the street from Palmetto Health Richland hospital. The medical school is planning the move as it nears the end of a lease in 2030 at its current facility near the Dorn Veterans Medical Center.

Associated Press: Coastal Carolina University opens Gullah culture institute

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=D1KeiGeO

SC State Wire

Coastal Carolina University is opening a new institute to study Gullah culture. The Sun News reports (<https://goo.gl/zFySmo>) that an inaugural ceremony was held on Friday for the Charles Joyner Institute of Gullah and African Diaspora Studies. The institute's coordinator, Veronica Davis Gerald, said Gullah culture along South Carolina's coast and elsewhere has its roots in people from West Africa who were brought to the area to cultivate rice. She says Gullah culture goes back to the 1700s and continues to influence music and food of the region. Gerald said that the institute is already offering a minor for students and will eventually offer a major. She says students can learn from the Gullah population that's still in the area. Also known as Geechee in Georgia and elsewhere, the Gullah culture once stretched along coastal areas from the Carolinas to Florida.

Associated Press: Crane operator towers over downtown Spartanburg

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6BqA9ulp

SC State Wire

It takes Loren Hacker about 20 minutes to get to work, and that's after he arrives at his job site in downtown Spartanburg. Hacker's office is inside a small compartment about 180 feet in the air. It's attached to the tower crane at the site of the future 10-story AC Hotel by Marriott on the corner of West Main Street and Daniel Morgan Avenue. Five, often six, days a week Hacker starts his climb up the 207-foot crane, sometimes as early as 4:30 in the morning. He doesn't climb back down until the day's work is complete, which can be anytime between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. "I get up here 30 minutes before the guys below start working," Hacker said in between hoisting bundles of materials and buckets of concrete around the construction site one recent morning. "When I get up here I do all my crane inspections." Hacker works alone in the crane's small air-conditioned cab, operating levers on a console that controls the behemoth's movements. He communicates by radio with supervisors and signalers below.

Sun News: Almost 18 million visitors makes for great summer in Myrtle Beach despite slow start

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/business/article102262407.html>

Jason M. Rodriguez

The summer of 2016 toppled a record-breaking 2015, with increases in occupancy, arrivals at the airport, higher attendance at the summer's biggest concert and visitors to the Grand Strand reaching an all-time high of 17.95 million. The summer got off to a slower start as visitors delayed their vacations due to school years ending later than usual, said Brad Dean, president and CEO of the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce. "The summer of 2016 started soft but ended strong, with most revenue indicators showing favorable results overall for the three summer months," Dean said, adding many businesses believe the persistent rumors about the ocean's water quality negatively impacted their bottom line. The chamber led a campaign earlier this summer to assure visitors that the water was safe to swim in.

Post and Courier: Georgetown port's dwindling cargo sure to be a focus of redevelopment efforts

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160918/160919488/georgetown-ports-dwindling-cargo-sure-to-be-a-focus-of-redevelopment-efforts>

David Wren

If the Port of Georgetown's precarious future wasn't clear before now, the previous two months of operations at the bulk and breakbulk terminal along the Sampit River should leave little doubt. So far in fiscal year 2017, which started on July 1, the Port of Georgetown has handled a mere 1,517 tons of cargo. That's down from 88,521 tons moving across the terminal during the same period a year earlier. June's total of 882 tons was among the lowest single-month tallies on record. Then it was

followed by August's figure of 635 tons. Both numbers are well below the monthly goal of 10,000 tons set by the State Ports Authority — a "Tale of Two Cities" maritime agency that operates both the struggling Georgetown site and the Port of Charleston, one of the nation's best-performing seaports.

Associated Press: Urban Land Institute visits Georgetown after mill closure

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

SC State Wire

A team from the Urban Land Institute is visiting Georgetown this week to discuss urban renewal in the city following the closing last year of the Georgetown steel mill. Representatives from the international nonprofit will meet with about 100 residents to discuss the future of the mill area. Local news outlets report they will be looking at things such as infrastructure, jobs and economic development. Institute representatives will then prepare a report for city officials. The mill, which dominates one end of the city's riverfront business district, has been empty since it was closed last year putting about 225 people out of work. The Urban Land Institute is an international nonprofit group that helps communities with land use planning and sustainable development.

Aiken Standard: Fuel supplies at some Aiken gas stations running low

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160918/160919547/fuel-supplies-at-some-aiken-gas-stations-running-low>

Gas wasn't difficult to find in Aiken over the weekend, but some employees at the businesses where it is sold expressed concern about how long fuel would continue to be readily available. After a pipeline spill earlier this month in Alabama, there were reports about gas stations in South Carolina being out of fuel. On Sunday, the Aiken Standard visited five gas stations on or near the S.C. 118 Bypass from York Street to Whiskey Road and another gas station on Silver Bluff Road. At three of the gas stations, employees said they had gas to sell but declined to comment further. At one of the gas stations, an employee reported that its supplies were getting low, and at another, an employee said his boss had told him that it was possible that the business wouldn't be getting more gas for two weeks.

National News:

Associated Press: Naturalized Afghanistan citizen sought in Manhattan blast

<http://bigstory.ap.org/1863ca74ee724accb52dfe45805189c9>

Jake Pearson and Alicia A. Caldwell

The New York Police Department said Monday that it was looking for a naturalized Afghanistan citizen for questioning in a weekend explosion in a Manhattan neighborhood that injured 29 people. Mayor Bill de Blasio said 28-year-old Ahmad Khan Rahami could be armed and dangerous. "We need to get this guy in right away," de Blasio said on CNN. "My experience is one the FBI zeroes in on someone, they will get them." Authorities are still working to determine whether there is a connection between multiple explosive devices found over the weekend in two states: the Manhattan explosion, an unexploded pressure cooker device blocks away, a pipe bomb blast at a Jersey shore town and five explosive devices at a New Jersey train station. On Sunday night, FBI agents in Brooklyn stopped "a vehicle of interest" in the investigation of the Manhattan explosion, according to FBI spokeswoman Kelly Langmesser.

Associated Press: 1 of 5 devices near train station explodes; no injuries

<http://bigstory.ap.org/1749e7fe32cb49f5a5deddbe9184911f>

A suspicious device found in a trash can near a train station exploded early Monday as a bomb

squad was attempting to disarm it with a robot, officials said. Elizabeth Mayor Christian Bollwage said the FBI was working to disarm one of five devices found in the same bag in a trash can by two men at around 8:30 p.m. Sunday near the Elizabeth train station. The men had reported seeing wires and a pipe coming out of the package, Bollwage said. There was no immediate report of injuries or damage. The mayor warned that other explosions were expected. FBI agents and police converged on an apartment above a fried chicken restaurant near the train station before 6 a.m. Monday, but it was not clear whether their search of the dwelling was connected to the explosion. New Jersey Transit service trains resumed service on the Northeast Corridor and North Jersey Coast Line at 5:30 a.m. Monday, but they faced residual delays because service was suspended after the devices were found.

Associated Press: Minnesota mall stabbing could be realization of terror fears

<http://bigstory.ap.org/9fb5b40f390047d9b8a82f2db081f335>

Jeff Baenen and Amy Forliti

Authorities are investigating the stabbings of nine people at a Minnesota mall as a potential act of terrorism, a finding that would realize long-held fears of an attack in the immigrant-rich state that has struggled to stop the recruiting of its young men by groups including the Islamic State. A young Somali man dressed as a private security guard entered the Crossroads Center mall in St. Cloud over the weekend wielding what appeared to be a kitchen knife. The city's police chief said the man reportedly made at least one reference to Allah and asked a victim if he or she was Muslim before attacking. The rampage ended when the man was shot dead by an off-duty police officer. None of the injured suffered life-threatening wounds. The motive of the Saturday attack is still unclear, but FBI Special Agent-in-Charge Rick Thornton said Sunday that the stabbings were being investigated as a "potential act of terrorism" and the Islamic State claimed responsibility. Authorities were digging into the attacker's background and possible motives, looking at social media accounts, his electronic devices and talking to his associates, Thornton said.

Associated Press : Pro-painkiller echo chamber shaped policy amid drug epidemic

<http://bigstory.ap.org/3d257452c24a410f98e8e5a4d9d448a7>

Matthew Perrone and Ben Wieder

For more than a decade, members of a little-known group called the Pain Care Forum have blanketed Washington with messages touting prescription painkillers' vital role in the lives of millions of Americans, creating an echo chamber that has quietly derailed efforts to curb U.S. consumption of the drugs, which accounts for two-thirds of the world's usage. In 2012, drugmakers and their affiliates in the forum sent a letter to U.S. senators promoting a hearing about an influential report on a "crisis of epidemic proportions": pain in America. Few knew the report stemmed from legislation drafted and pushed by forum members and that their experts had helped author it. The report estimated more than 100 million Americans — roughly 40 percent of adults — suffered from chronic pain, an eye-popping statistic that some researchers call deeply problematic. The letter made no reference to another health issue that had been declared an epidemic by federal authorities: drug overdoses tied to prescription painkillers. Deaths linked to addictive drugs like OxyContin, Vicodin and Percocet had increased more than fourfold since 1999, accounting for more fatal overdoses in 2012 than heroin and cocaine combined.

Associated Press: Hawaii lawmakers promise reform for confined fishermen

<http://bigstory.ap.org/4c1f4af89db740cab9798a5fb401430d>

Martha Mendoza and Margie Mason

State and federal lawmakers are promising to improve conditions for hundreds of foreign fishermen working in Hawaii's commercial fleet, and at least one company has already stopped buying fish from

the boats following an Associated Press investigation that found the men have been confined to vessels for years without basic labor protections. Whole Foods halted buying seafood caught by foreign crew until it's clear the men are treated fairly. On Sunday, the Hawaii Seafood Council said that starting Oct. 1, the Honolulu Fish Auction will sell fish only from boats that have adopted a new, standardized contract aimed at assuring no forced labor exists on board. The AP report found commercial fishing boats in Honolulu were crewed by men from impoverished Southeast Asia and Pacific Island nations who catch prized swordfish, ahi tuna and other seafood sold at markets and upscale restaurants across the country. A legal loophole allows them to work on the American-owned, American-flagged boats without visas as long as they don't set foot on shore. The system is facilitated by the U.S. Coast Guard and Customs and Border Protection.

World News:

Associated Press : Obama, Iraqi leader to strategize on fight to reclaim Mosul

<http://bigstory.ap.org/becc5ead3b304b0f9846baad0ad1457d>

Josh Lederman

President Barack Obama and Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi will strategize about the upcoming offensive to take back the northern city of Mosul when they meet on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly. Increasingly, and not without irony, Iraq has become the bright spot in Obama's campaign against the Islamic State group, though profound challenges remain. In neighboring Syria, the chaotic civil war continues to plague efforts to defeat IS extremists, but in Iraq, cooperation with Abadi's forces has helped the U.S.-led coalition wrest back half the territory that IS once held, according to the U.S. Yet a key city remains under IS control: Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city and the extremist group's stronghold in the country. An intensely difficult urban fight to oust IS from Mosul is expected to ramp up in the next two to three months, following recent victories in reclaiming other Iraqi cities including Fallujah and Ramadi.

Associated Press : UN holds first-ever summit on refugees and migrants

<http://bigstory.ap.org/bc3eef02fb964eaf9eb2afc41d338fae>

Michael Astor

The issue of what to do about the world's 65.3 million displaced people takes center stage at the United Nations General Assembly on Monday when leaders from around the globe converge on New York for the first-ever summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants. With more people forced to flee their homes than at any time since World War II, leaders and diplomats are expected to approve a document aimed at unifying the U.N.'s 193 member states behind a more coordinated approach that protects the human rights of refugees and migrants. "It's very interesting because if we are able to translate that paper into a response in which many actors are going to participate, we will solve a lot of problems in emergency responses and in long-term refugee situations like the Syrian situation," Filippo Grandi, the U.N.'s High Commissioner for Refugees told The Associated Press. That may prove an uphill struggle, however, as the document is not legally binding and comes at a time that refugees and migrants have become a divisive issue in Europe and the United States.

Associated Press : Syria truce hangs in the balance amid attacks, lack of aid

<http://bigstory.ap.org/78f222939ae8490789fe51b3650beff7>

Bassem Mroue

Syria's week-long cease-fire, brokered by the United States and Russia, was in doubt Monday amid repeated violations and with no aid deliveries to the besieged rebel-held part of the northern city of

Aleppo, a key point in the agreement. The uncertainty cast doubts on a U.S.-Russian plan to set up a coordination center that would plan strikes against militants in the country. The two sides, which brokered the truce earlier this month, had said that if it holds for seven days, it would be followed by the establishment of a Joint Implementation Center for both countries to coordinate the targeting of Islamic State and al-Qaida-linked militants. As violations mount, a senior opposition official declared the cease-fire "clinically dead," adding that government forces have violated the truce all over the country.

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