

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Monday, September 26, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Haley creates new advisory committee on veterans' issues

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

SC State Wire

Gov. Nikki Haley is forming a new committee to advise state and local leaders on veterans' issues. An executive order signed Monday creates the Veterans Policy Advisory Committee. A similar veterans' study committee created by state law dissolved after issuing its report earlier this year. The new, 15-member group will make recommendations at least annually to the state's 30-member Military Base Task Force on policies that can best serve veterans' needs. South Carolina is home to 10 military installations. According to Haley's order, more than 400,000 veterans live in South Carolina. The new advisory group will include legislators, state agency directors, veterans and members of the Military Base Task Force, which is tasked with coordinating efforts to maintain South Carolina's military presence and advising the governor and legislators.

Post and Courier: Gov. Haley establishes committee to drive veteran policy

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160926/160929541/gov-haley-establishes-committee-to-drive-veteran-policy>

Gavin Jackson

Gov. Nikki Haley signed an executive order Monday to improve the transition of veterans to civilian life in South Carolina. The 15-member Veterans Policy Advisory Committee replaces past legislative study committees, the most recent of which expired earlier this year. The committee will make recommendations for policy changes to her and the South Carolina Military Base Task Force about how state government can better serve veterans' needs. "There is no better way to thank our brave men and women in uniform than by taking care of them when their time of service ends," Haley said in a statement. Some 400,000 veterans already call South Carolina home with more expected on their way, according to the Department of Defense. Haley's husband Michael is one of them. Michael Haley returned from a year-long deployment in December 2013 and now works part-time with the S.C. National Guard with the rank of captain.

The State: SC Gov. Haley creates veterans policy committee

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article104278876.html>

Jamie Self

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley issued an executive order Monday creating the Veterans Policy Advisory Committee. The committee will assess the needs of the state's more than 400,000 veterans, including the employment and mental health challenges some face as they transition to civilian life. Made up of veterans, state lawmakers and representatives of various state agencies, the panel will recommend policy changes to the S.C. Military Base Task Force and the governor. "There is no better way to thank our brave men and women in uniform than by taking care of them when their time of service ends," Haley said in a news release. State Rep. James Smith, a Richland Democrat and combat veteran, thanked Haley for creating the panel. "It's critically important that we maintain our focus on meeting the needs of veterans and their families," he said. S.C. Adjutant General Bob Livingston said of the state's veterans: "While they have already earned our support and gratitude, we must provide them with avenues to contribute to our communities and state. Where there are obstacles, we need to remove those obstacles and where there are opportunities, we need to build on those opportunities."

WACH: Haley creates Veterans Policy Advisory Committee

<http://wach.com/news/local/haley-creates-veterans-policy-advisory-committee>

Matthew Stevens

Governor Nikki Haley signed an executive order Monday creating the Veterans Policy Advisory Committee. The committee's task is to analyze the contributions and needs of the more than 400,000 veterans in SC. Based on their analysis, the committee will make recommendations on how to improve lives of veterans, such as better ways of creating jobs and how to help with the physical and mental health stresses of returning to civilian life. "There is no better way to thank our brave men and women in uniform than by taking care of them when their time of service ends. Veterans can always feel home in South Carolina," said Haley. The committee will be made up of military veterans, members of the General Assembly and reps from the Adjutant General's Office, DEW, DDSN, Department of Mental Health and Department of Drug, Alcohol, and Other Drug Abuse Services. Currently, the Palmetto state has 50,000 active duty and reserve members of the military.

Greenville News: UST Logical Systems bringing headquarters to Greenville's Main Street

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/2016/09/26/ust-logical-systems-bringing-headquarters-greenvilles-main-street/91110304/>

Amanda Coyne

UST Logical Systems is moving its headquarters from Hendersonville, North Carolina, to Greenville, South Carolina, according to a release from Gov. Nikki Haley's office. The move will entail a \$1.6 million investment and 50 new jobs at 103 N. Main Street, along the One City Plaza. The logistics and transport company says the move is to accommodate continued growth. The company's first day in the 6,000-square-foot office space was Monday. They held a ribbon cutting celebration Monday afternoon. Hiring for new positions at the company's headquarters will begin at the end of this year. Those interested can visit the company's website.

Fox Carolina: UST moves corporate headquarters to Greenville

<http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/33191030/ust-moves-corporate-headquarters-to-greenville>

Dal Kalsi

UST Logistical Systems plans to relocate its corporate headquarters to downtown Greenville as part of a \$1.6 million investment that will bring 50 jobs to the Upstate, according to Gov. Nikki Haley's office. "We couldn't be more excited that UST has decided to establish its headquarters in South Carolina," Gov. Nikki Haley said. "This \$1.6 million investment, and the 50 jobs it means for Greenville County, is a real reason to celebrate across the state, and we look forward to a long-lasting partnership with one of the newest members of Team South Carolina." UST, established in 1998, is a logistics company that specializes in the delivery of furniture and appliances from a retailer's warehouse directly to a customer's home. UST handles home delivery operations for several major store chains including Conn's Home Plus and hhgregg. The company's new corporate headquarters will be moved to 103 North Main Street in Greenville.

Associated Press: More Michelin Men (And Women): 350 new South Carolina jobs

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=QgMD4OMu

SC State Wire

Michelin North America which already operates seven tire manufacturing plants in the Upstate of South Carolina is expanding again. Michelin is adding a new distribution center in Spartanburg that will create 350 jobs. The company has its North American headquarters in Greenville and announced Monday that it's investing more than \$270 million in the new distribution center. Construction is scheduled to begin later this year with the first phase to be completed late next year. The site will eventually have five buildings with more than 3 million square feet of space. The center will be a hub for distribution of Michelin, BFGoodrich and Uniroyal tires for passenger vehicles, heavy trucks and agricultural equipment.

Greenville News: Michelin adding Spartanburg distribution center, 350 new jobs

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/2016/09/26/michelin-adding-spartanburg-distribution-center-350-new-jobs/91113418/>

Amanda Coyne

Michelin North America is adding a distribution center in Spartanburg, which will bring 350 new jobs to the Upstate. The project will bring \$270 million in new capital investment, with construction expected to start this

year and the first phase of opening anticipated for late 2017. The compound will have 3.3 million square feet across five buildings dedicated to the distribution of passenger tires, truck tires and tires for agricultural equipment. "The Spartanburg distribution facility will cap a multi-year evolution of Michelin's distribution network in North America," said Pete Selleck, Michelin North America president and chairman, in a release from the S.C. Department of Commerce. "We see it as a transformational milestone designed to better serve our customers while optimizing inventories and improving supply efficiency." Michelin is a major employer in the Upstate and South Carolina as a whole, with tire plants in Greenville, Spartanburg, Anderson and Lexington counties. The new facility will be at the intersection of State 101 and State 417 in Spartanburg County.

Herald-Journal: Michelin advances plans for \$270M Spartanburg facility

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20160926/michelin-advances-plans-for-270m-spartanburg-facility?rssfeed=true>

Bob Montgomery

Michelin North America announced plans Monday to break ground later this year on a new \$270 million, 3.3 million-square-foot distribution center in Spartanburg County that will create 350 new jobs. "The Spartanburg distribution facility will cap a multi-year evolution of Michelin's network in North America," stated Pete Selleck, chairman and president of Greenville-based Michelin North America. "We see it as a transformational milestone designed to better serve our customers while optimizing inventories and improving supply efficiency."

The joint announcement was made by Michelin and Gov. Nikki Haley. Spartanburg County Council last month paved the way for the project by approving a set of tax incentives. The project was first announced in May. "Michelin has been one of South Carolina's most important business partners since its doors opened in Greenville County over four decades ago," stated Haley. "Both our state and this fantastic company have grown tremendously over the course of this partnership."

Post and Courier: Michelin's \$270 million Upstate distribution center to be linked to Port of Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160926/160929560/michelins-270-million-upstate-distribution-center-to-be-linked-to-port-of-charleston>

David Wren

Michelin North America is moving ahead with plans to build a \$270 million distribution center near Spartanburg that will move tires to retailers regionally and between the Port of Charleston via the State Ports Authority's inland port in Greer, company officials said Monday. Construction is expected to begin later this year with the first phase opening by late 2017 and the full center completed by early 2019. The center will include five buildings totaling 3.3 million square feet and will handle Michelin, BFGoodrich and Uniroyal branded tires for passenger vehicles, heavy trucks and agriculture equipment. The center ultimately will create about 350 jobs. "The Spartanburg distribution facility will cap a multi-year evolution of Michelin's distribution network in North America," Pete Selleck, chairman and president of Michelin North America, said in a statement. "We see it as a transformational milestone designed to better serve our customers while optimizing inventories and improving supply efficiency."

Fox Carolina: Michelin to build distribution center in Spartanburg, create 350 jobs

<http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/33192764/michelin-to-build-distribution-center-in-spartanburg-create-350-jobs>

Dal Kalsi

Michelin North America, Inc. is moving forward with plans to build a new distribution center in Spartanburg County as part of a \$270 million investment that will create 350 new jobs, Gov. Nikki Haley's office announced Monday. Michelin is one of the largest corporations in South Carolina and is headquartered in Greenville. The company designs, manufactures and sells tires for every type of vehicle, including airplanes, automobiles, bicycles, earthmovers, and farm equipment. The Michelin Distribution Center will be located intersection of Highways 101 and 417 in the Woodruff area, within a short distance of seven existing Michelin tire plants across the Upstate and the company's Greenville-based headquarters. The distribution center will feature five buildings that will make up a total of approximately 3.3 million square-feet. The center will support distribution

of tires under Michelin, BFGoodrich and Uniroyal brands for passenger vehicles, heavy trucks and agricultural equipment. Construction on the new center is expected to begin in late 2016. The first phase is projected to open in late 2017 and the complete facility will open in early 2019.

NOTE: "Michelin has been one of South Carolina's most important business partners since its doors opened in Greenville County over four decades ago. Both our state and this fantastic company have grown tremendously over the course of this partnership, and we couldn't be more excited to see that growth and success continue with this \$270 million investment that means 350 new jobs for South Carolinians." - Gov. Nikki Haley

Sun News: Looking for work? Myrtle Beach center seeks 300 full-time employees

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article104229786.html>

STARTEK announced Monday that it is seeking to hire 300 full-time employees at its Myrtle Beach call center by the end of the year. "Newly hired customer service representatives will provide inbound support on behalf of telecommunications and global information services clients," said Emily Walsh, an account executive with 104 West Partners, a communications firm releasing the STARTEK announcement. "Positions start at \$10 per hour and offer comprehensive benefits along with career advancement opportunities," Walsh said. The international company, specializing in outsourced services such as customer support for businesses, is looking to fill the positions immediately, according to the STARTEK release. Interested candidates are invited to apply in person from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and receive on-the-spot interviews at STARTEK's engagement center located at 310 Hinson Drive, Myrtle Beach. Applications will also be accepted online at any time through the company's website at www.startek.com/careers, according to the release.

Charlotte Protest Shooting:

Associated Press: The Latest: Body camera use questioned in fatal shootings

<http://bigstory.ap.org/e81763f2988649559e1a273319a6b049>

The fatal shooting of a black man by a police officer in Charlotte is only the latest shooting to raise questions about how the department uses body cameras. Six people were fatally shot since body cameras were given to all patrol officers about a year ago. But the officers who fired the fatal shots in five of those cases — including Keith Lamont Scott's — weren't using the cameras. The weekend release of police footage showing the shooting of Scott left questions in many people's minds. The footage includes body camera video from another officer. Police Chief Kerr Putney has said the officer who shot Scott wasn't wearing a body camera that day because he's part of a tactical unit. He says those units will get the cameras eventually, but he's been reluctant to allow recordings of their tactics and locations.

Herald-Journal: Spartanburg police officers training with new body cameras

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20160926/spartanburg-police-officers-training-with-new-body-cameras?rssfeed=true>

Daniel J. Gross

Body cameras have come to the Spartanburg Police Department. Patrol officers are being equipped with wearable cameras this week after federal grant dollars that were secured in July made the purchases possible. Training is set to begin Tuesday after the 85 Axon Flex police body cams were delivered to the department. The training will last about two hours per officer, said Maj. Art Littlejohn, who oversees the police department's field services bureau. Training sessions will be done in waves based on the patrol schedules of each officer. Officers will immediately start wearing their cameras after completing the training. "If we train 20 people on them (Tuesday), 20 people will go out on the street with them," Littlejohn said.

Charlotte Observer: Man admits to shooting bystander at Charlotte protests, prosecutor says

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/special-reports/charlotte-shooting-protests/article104237666.html>

Mark Price

The Charlotte man accused of killing a protester Wednesday during a crowded march in uptown has admitted to the shooting, Assistant District Attorney Clayton Jones said in court Monday. Police say Rayquan Borum, 21, shot and killed Justin Carr, 26, during the second night of Charlotte protests that erupted over the police killing of Keith Scott on Tuesday outside an apartment in the University City area. Borum is charged with first

degree murder and possession of a firearm by a felon. In his first court appearance Monday, he did not speak and made no formal plea. He has asked for a public defender to represent his case. Prosecutors said he was not entitled to a bond at this time. Borum's first court date is Oct. 5, with a preliminary hearing Oct 17. Carr survived nearly a day before dying Thursday afternoon at Carolinas Medical Center. He was shot in the head, according to a police report. The shooting of Carr outside the Omni Hotel marked a turning point in what evolved into a week of protests that drew intense national attention. He was shot about 8:30 p.m. Wednesday and within two hours, vandals and looters had struck more than a dozen sites in uptown, prompting Gov. Pat McCrory to declare a state of emergency and summon the National Guard to Charlotte.

Charlotte Observer: ACLU: Charlotte police must release rest of video from Scott shooting

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/local/article104228581.html>

Ames Alexander

The ACLU is calling on Charlotte police to release all the remaining video footage of the events surrounding the fatal police shooting of Keith Lamont Scott last week. On Saturday, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department released portions of the video footage – captured by a dashboard camera and a body camera – showing the moments immediately before and after the Sept. 20 shooting. But the department withheld some footage, “leaving many questions still unanswered,” the ACLU of North Carolina said in a statement Monday. “The videos released this weekend raise a host of questions about why police shot and killed Keith Lamont Scott, and whether, in doing so, the officers involved violated state or federal law, in addition to failing to follow the department’s own rules regarding the use of deadly force, de-escalation, when to wear and activate body cameras, and more,” said Susanna Birdsong, Policy Counsel for the ACLU of North Carolina.

The State: What’s it like to lose a child to gun violence? SC moms share stories

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article104135591.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

Le-Kavis Henicks was 13 when he was shot in the back of the head in 2007. His mom, Brenda Henicks, was en route to pick him up when it happened. The Columbia mother was one of many parents who showed up at the State House on Sunday afternoon to mourn their dead children. She described her son as athletic – loving to play almost any sport involving a ball – and intelligent, looking forward to college. “I wouldn’t wish this on any other mother,” Henicks said. “We don’t wish for our children to cross over before we do.” At the same time as the State House rally – which was put together by the organization Parents of Murdered Children – people all over the country gathered for the Concert Across America to End Gun Violence. The reason all of this happened today? Nine years ago, Congress designated Sept. 25 as a day of remembrance for homicide victims, according to a news release from concert organizers. There were two such concerts in Columbia, according to www.concertacrossamerica.org. One happened at the Main Street United Methodist Church from 4 to 6 p.m. and the other took place at Cool Beans on College Street from 8 to 10 p.m. Kathy Handel and Cheryl Soehl, with the Faith Coalition on Gun Violence, organized the first one. The Columbia concerts were among 350 nationwide, according to the event website.

Herald-Journal: Protest goes peacefully outside Panthers game

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20160925/protest-goes-peacefully-outside-panthers-game?rssfeed=true>

Robert W. Dalton

The roar and the chant rose almost simultaneously. The roar came from Carolina Panthers fans gathered in Bank of America Stadium Sunday afternoon as Cam Newton scored a first-quarter touchdown against Minnesota. The chant — “Say his name! Keith Scott!” — came from about 200 protesters gathered on Mint Street in the shadow of the stadium. Charlotte police shot and killed Scott on Tuesday, setting off six days of protests. The roar washed over the protesters as they held hands and formed a circle. The chant, however, didn’t reach the fans inside the stadium, who came together for three hours of group therapy after the long week. Law enforcement presence was heavy. In addition to police in riot gear that stood watch over the protesters, a line of officers surrounded the stadium. Some fans fist-bumped or hugged officers as they made their way into the stadium. DJ Chuck T, a Charlotte hip-hop artist, shouted at officers over a bullhorn, imploring them to turn in their badges. He said he didn’t believe dash-cam and body-cam videos released Saturdays support Charlotte Police Chief Kerr Putney’s claim that Scott had a gun.

Aiken Standard: 'This doesn't define us': USC Aiken students protest hate speech after inappropriate tweet
<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160926/160929674/x2018this-doesnx2019t-define-usx2019-usc-aiken-students-protest-hate-speech-after-inappropriate-tweet>

Maayan Schechter

It was a post to Twitter that many thought would tear USC Aiken apart, but on Monday afternoon beneath the dense trees that make up the center of the university's campus, students refused to let that happen. "This doesn't define us," said junior Sydney Marsh, 20. "This was one post, one person; and this person doesn't define who we are as a whole." Last week, during the two to three days when out-of-town guests visit their students on campus for an annual family weekend, the university's social media team received word of an inappropriate tweet allegedly made a current student. The tweet, which remains under the investigation of state and campus law enforcement, used a racial slur, called the Black Lives Matter movement a "joke," and threatened to blow up Westwood High School in Columbia. The tweet followed a reported demonstration at the high school in response to two recent officer-involved shootings of black men.

Dylann Roof Case:

Associated Press: The Latest: 320 potential jurors report in church slayings

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

SC State Wire

The first day of jury screening has wrapped up in the federal death penalty trial of a white man charged with killing nine black parishioners at a Charleston, South Carolina, church. About 320 potential jurors reported to the federal courthouse as the process of seating a jury in the Dylann Roof trial got underway. He's charged with hate crimes resulting in death, obstruction of religion and other offenses. Jurors reported in panels of 80. Those who weren't dismissed or allowed to defer their jury service filled out questionnaires related to the massacre at Emanuel AME Church in June, 2015. Initial screening continues until a pool of 700 jurors completes those questionnaires. Individual jury questioning begins in November. About 3,000 jurors received summonses during the summer - a pool that was about 73 percent white and 23 percent black.

Associated Press: Hundreds of jurors report to court in church massacre trial

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=sYW1tDlo

Bruce Smith

Dylann Roof, the man charged with massacring nine black parishioners at a Charleston church, mostly avoided eye contact Monday with the potential jurors who could give him a death sentence if they convict him of federal charges. About 320 potential jurors reported to the courthouse in the city's historic district on the first day of jury screening for Roof's trial on charges of hate crimes resulting in death, obstruction of religion and other offenses in the June 2015 slaying at Emanuel AME Church. He faces 33 federal counts altogether. Prosecutors allege he had talked of starting a race war before the killings and posed for online photos with the Confederate battle flag.

Associated Press: First of hundreds of jurors report in church shooting trial

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=sYW1tDlo

Bruce Smith

Hundreds of potential jurors will report to the federal courthouse in Charleston, South Carolina, in the coming days as the jury selection begins in the trial of a white man charged in deaths of nine black church parishioners. Dylann Roof faces hate crimes and other federal counts in the June 2015 shooting deaths at Emanuel AME Church. The first jurors report on Monday for initial screening. Three thousand jurors have received summonses. That group will be whittled to a pool of 700 jurors who will return to the courthouse in November to be questioned individually by the judge. Testimony is not expected to begin until after Thanksgiving. While federal prosecutors are seeking the death penalty, Roof's attorneys say he is willing to plead guilty and serve life if the death penalty is taken off the table.

Associated Press: Lengthy jury selection in Charleston church shootings begins

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

Bruce Smith

The laborious process of jury selection is getting underway in the federal death penalty trial of Dylann Roof, the white man charged in the deaths of nine black parishioners gunned down during a Bible study at a Charleston church. The 22-year-old Roof is charged with hate crimes, obstruction of religion and other counts in the June 17, 2015 shootings at Emanuel AME Church. Prosecutors allege he talked of starting a race war, posed with the Confederate battle flag before the killings and used the internet to scope out Emanuel and other historically black churches. The first of hundreds of potential jurors report to the courthouse in Charleston's historic district on Monday. Testimony in the case being heard by U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel is not anticipated until after Thanksgiving.

The State: Roof jury selection underway in Charleston federal death penalty case

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article104226996.html>

John Monk

The first of some 3,000 potential jurors in the Dylan Roof death penalty trial began reporting Monday to the U. S. District courthouse in downtown Charleston. Jurors were summoned, some 80 at a time, before U.S. Judge Richard Gergel, whose questions were aimed at weeding out those who obviously cannot or who will elect not to serve: people over 70, having no one else to care for young children and the like. Also to be excluded: those whose minds are already made up about Roof's guilty, or whether to impose the death penalty. Roof, 22, a self-proclaimed white supremacist, is charged with federal hate crimes resulting in death in the June 2015 slayings of nine African-Americans who were attending an evening Bible study at historic "Mother" Emanuel AME church downtown.

Post and Courier: Dylann Roof jury selection begins for death penalty trial

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160926/160929580/dylann-roof-jury-selection-begins-for-death-penalty-trial>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

Hundreds of prospective jurors on Monday flocked to the federal courthouse in Charleston to begin the lengthy process of choosing the people who will decide the fate of Emanuel AME Church shooter Dylann Roof at his death penalty trial. Ultimately, 12 jurors chosen from 3,000 people summoned will decide whether Roof should be executed or spend life in prison for the June 2015 slayings of nine black worshippers at the Charleston church. The self-avowed white supremacist faces 33 federal counts, including hate crimes and religious rights charges. Before each panel of about 80 prospective jurors packed into a courtroom, Roof chatted with his attorneys at the defense table, even smiling and glancing around. However, once the people who might decide his fate arrived, he stared emotionless at his lap, peering up only a few times throughout the day. The 22-year-old sat directly facing each panel.

SC Agency News:

Associated Press: McCormick prison inmate killed in fight

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=v28n48DI

SC State Wire

An inmate has been killed at one of the state's high security prisons. South Carolina Department of Corrections spokesman Dexter Lee tells The State (<http://bit.ly/2dt0c7u>) that the male prisoner was killed Sunday during a fight with another inmate at McCormick Correctional Institution in McCormick. The man hasn't been identified pending notification of family. The incident triggered a lockdown of the prison. Authorities haven't released details like how the inmate was killed. The investigation is ongoing.

The State: Inmate killed at McCormick prison

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article104141516.html>

Cynthia Roldan

An inmate was killed at one of the state's high security prisons Sunday. The male prisoner, who has not been identified pending notification of next of kin, was killed during a clash with another inmate at McCormick

Correctional Institution in McCormick, said Dexter Lee, spokesman for the Department of Corrections. The incident triggered a lockdown of the institution. Other details, including how the inmate was killed, were not available Sunday night. Agency officials have not announced an arrest in the killing, and the investigation is still ongoing.

Associated Press: SC deputies complete program for dealing with mentally ill

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

SC State Wire

Sheriff's deputies in three South Carolina counties have recently completed training for dealing with mentally ill people that they hope will make them more empathetic in such situations. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports (<http://bit.ly/2cNhJ9a>) deputies from Charleston, Dorchester and Richland counties participated in the 40-hour training led by the National Institute for Corrections. They used a curriculum developed by the National Alliance on Mental Illness Maine. Road deputies in Charleston County have participated in similar training for a year, but the sheriff's office said this was the first time South Carolina jail deputies have completed the program. Officials will track whether the jail sees a drop in use-of-force incidents after the training. Deputy Michael Walters says the training will help deputies use compassion in dealing with mentally ill people.

The State: Plan coming soon to fix Columbia's 'Malfunction Junction'

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article104122701.html>

Tim Flach

Motorists will get their first look in a little over a week at ideas that state transportation officials are considering to reduce congestion at the intersection of I-20, I-26 and I-126. The list of final contenders will be outlined during a session from 5-7 p.m. Oct. 4 at Seven Oaks Elementary School, 2800 Ashland Road, in the St. Andrews area. Improving traffic flow at a crossroads that drivers have nicknamed "Malfunction Junction" is the top goal of state officials. Transportation officials call it "Carolina Crossroads." Transportation officials have spent the past year developing the plan, with a goal of starting construction in 2019. Construction could cost as much as \$800 million and take up to 10 years to complete, according to some preliminary estimates. The highways were built in the 1960s. Improvements were made from 1976-97 as more neighborhoods and stores rose along the routes. But no one foresaw the number of vehicles today traveling the roads as the Columbia area grew and I-26 became a lifeline between Lowcountry ports and the Upstate's manufacturing hub. Up to 133,600 vehicles travel through the I-20/ I-26 intersection daily, traffic studies say.

The State: Wrecks on South Carolina roads kill 8 during weekend <http://www.thestate.com/news/state/south-carolina/article104232366.html>

Jane Moon Dial

South Carolina Department of Public Safety officials said there were eight road deaths reported during this past weekend. Officials said seven of the deaths occurred on U.S. routes, S.C. roads and secondary roads. One death occurred on an interstate. In five of the deaths, officials said a seat belt was not used. Two people who died were reportedly wearing seat belts. One person killed was a pedestrian. As of Monday, 703 people have died on state highways, compared to 700 highway deaths during the same time period in 2015. Of the 452 motor-vehicle occupants who have died in 2016, 216 were not wearing seat belts. Ninety-six pedestrians have been killed compared to 82 during the same time period in 2015. So far 101 motorcyclists have been killed compared to 106 this time in 2015. Nineteen bicyclists have died in 2016 compared to 14 this time last year.

Associated Press: Official: Leader of South Carolina Mentor has left company

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6DSiDA2z

SC State Wire

An official says the man in charge of a South Carolina company that provides residential care to adults with disabilities is no longer its director. The Greenville News reports (<http://grnol.co/2di1S7b>) the departure of Stan Butkus as state director of South Carolina Mentor comes after the newspaper reported on resident deaths, staff arrests, lawsuits and allegations of abuse and neglect. Vicki Thompson is a commissioner of the state Department of Disabilities and Special Needs. She says the agency has advised commissioners that

Butkus had left South Carolina Mentor. The agency froze admissions to facilities run by SC Mentor in March. South Carolina Mentor has a state contract of nearly \$20 million to look after people with intellectual disabilities, autism, brain and spinal cord injuries. The newspaper was unable to reach Butkus for comment.

Greenville News: SC Mentor changes leadership after IG's report, frozen admissions

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/09/25/sc-mentor-changes-leadership-after-igs-report-frozen-admissions/90923106/>

Tim Smith

The leader of a South Carolina company that provides residential care to adults with disabilities is no longer director of the firm, months after reports in The Greenville News of a troubling record of resident deaths, staff arrests, lawsuits and allegations of abuse and neglect. South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs Commissioner Vicki Thompson of Seneca said Friday the agency informed commissioners this week by email that Stan Butkus is no longer the state director of South Carolina Mentor and that a national search is underway to find a new director. Butkus, a former director of the DDSN, could not be reached for comment. The company was the subject of a recently issued state inspector's general report. The agency froze admissions to facilities run by SC Mentor in March after The News began raising questions about the quality of care in its facilities. SC Mentor has a state contract of nearly \$20 million to look after the well-being of some of the state's most vulnerable adults, which include those with intellectual disabilities, autism, brain and spinal cord injuries.

SC Delegation News:

Sun News: Beach renourishment funds needed now, county tells Congress

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article104231696.html>

Audrey Hudson

Horry County officials aren't waiting until 2018 when the regularly scheduled federal beach renourishment project is expected to begin, and are already lobbying lawmakers in Washington to include the needed funding in the next budget. The South Strand was approved for renourishment this year, but the bids came in over budget and the Army Corps of Engineers is rebidding that project. Meanwhile, Horry County Councilman Mark Lazarus says it made financial sense to bump up the timetable for the entire Grand Strand to undergo the renourishment all at once, beginning next year. It will cost taxpayers \$6 million to mobilize renourishment efforts on the South Strand. By doing all three at once, Lazarus said they can save \$12 million.

SC Political News:

The State: Sick of Clinton, Trump, some SC voters looking to third-party candidates

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article104129926.html>

Avery G. Wilks

Eric Jones will sleep well the night of Nov. 8, knowing he did not cast a vote to send Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump to the White House. The 45-year-old Mount Pleasant resident plans to vote for Gary Johnson, even though he knows the Libertarian Party candidate does not stand a chance of becoming America's next president. "Even if the person you voted for does not win, you are still sending the message you want to send," said Jones, an information technology network engineer. "Voting for the lesser of two evils is still voting for evil." Disdain for both major parties' candidates likely will give third-party candidates a boost in South Carolina this fall. Some voters see Democrat Clinton as crooked and Republican Trump as a maniac – and fear putting either in charge of the free world. Rather than accept the offerings of the two political parties, some S.C. residents say voting third party is a principled alternative – one they hope sends a message that the U.S. political system is broken.

The State: Clinton campaign holds SC debate watch parties

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article104188671.html>

Bristow Marchant

Supporters of Hillary Clinton will hold debate watch parties around the state, including four in the Columbia-

Lexington area. The Hillary for SC campaign announced five official watch parties ahead of tonight's debate between Clinton and Donald Trump, which will broadcast live at 9 p.m. Monday. The main debate watch party will be at the campaign's Columbia headquarters at 942 Harden Street starting at 7:30 p.m. There will also be a separate Lower Richland watch party in Hopkins, a Students for Hillary party at Columbia College, and an LGBT for Hillary party in Lexington. A fifth watch party will be held in Rock Hill. No official watch parties have been announced by the Trump campaign in South Carolina.

The State: Clinton goes into the debate with the lead, but can she keep it?

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article103794161.html>

Bristow Marchant

Heading into Monday night's potentially decisive presidential debate, Hillary Clinton seems to have at least stopped her slide in the polls. But she remains in a tight race with Donald Trump, both in the polls and on the electoral map, and both could change depending on the candidates' debate performances. Republican Trump reportedly has been doing much less traditional debate prep than Democrat Clinton. In part, that is because the front-runner must be prepared for both the erratic businessman and the disciplined, on-point GOP nominee to show up Monday. The spotlight also could fall on moderator Lester Holt, and whether he will do any live fact-checking of candidates' claims. The Clinton campaign openly has encouraged Holt to do so, in hopes of undercutting some of Trump's wilder statements. One thing to keep in mind: Larry Sabato with the University of Virginia's Center for Politics shows an average 4-point swing in the polls in favor of one candidate or another after the first debate in the last 11 presidential races. Now, before the candidates walk on stage, here's where the race stands now.

The State: Get registered to vote on Voter Registration Day

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article104242966.html>

Bristow Marchant

You still have more than a week to register to vote in South Carolina, but Tuesday is officially National Voter Registration Day. To mark the occasion, the League of Women Voters will hold a public voter registration drive at the Comet transit center at 1727 Sumter St., part of a 50-state voter registration drive ahead of November's election. Volunteers will register voters from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday. The League of Women Voters will hold a separate event for students, faculty and staff at Midlands Tech's Beltline campus from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and for residents and staff of The Crossings at Columbia from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Tuesday's event follows on a similar effort to register voters ahead of the 2012 election, organized by the group. "Every single vote matters. You can make a difference in the future of your hometown, your state of South Carolina, and your country by registering and voting in this election," says Julie Sellers, president of the League of Women Voters of the Columbia area. These events are funded in part by the League of Women Voters Education Fund.

LGBT News:

Post and Courier: State LGBT group endorses first Republicans

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160926/160929555/state-lgbt-group-endorses-first-republicans>

Andy Shain

For the first time, South Carolina's leading LGBT activist group endorsed Republicans in state elections. The SC Equality PAC on Monday backed eight GOP incumbents and challengers in the general election, including a lawyer who could be the state's first openly gay state legislator. Republican attorney Jason Elliott of Greenville unseated state Rep. Wendy Nanney in the GOP primary and faces no opposition on Nov. 8. He is widely expected to be in the State House when the session starts in January. Elliott, a former aide to ex-U.S. Sen. Jim DeMint, was not initially included on SC Equality's endorsement list until his omission was mentioned by a reporter. SC Equality Executive Director Jeff Ayers called it an oversight. Ayers said he has not spoken with Elliott since his primary victory and is unsure how South Carolina's first openly gay lawmaker will handle LGBT issues.

Associated Press: Investors join call for North Carolina to repeal LGBT law

<http://bigstory.ap.org/4774a2c40ffa40cfa256788fcdf629b3>

Martha Waggoner

Some 60 investors representing \$2.1 trillion in managed assets joined the NCAA, entertainers and more than 200 businesses in calling for North Carolina to repeal its law limiting LGBT protections against discrimination. "While the U.S. economy continues to grow, quite frankly North Carolina appears to be headed for what I would call a state-government-inflicted recession," said Matt Patsky, chief executive officer of Trillium Asset Management. Trillium has more than \$2 billion in assets under management. Patsky spoke Monday at a news conference alongside some of the investors who signed a statement calling for repeal of the law known as HB2. Trillium was one of the organizers of the statement, along with environmental research group Croatan Institute and the New York City comptroller, Scott Stringer. Stringer was unable to attend because of a New York ban on travel to North Carolina, Patsky said.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Memorial to confront South's troubled history of lynchings

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=7wpmuVG9

Jay Reeves

Southern states have long welcomed tourists retracing the footsteps of the late Martin Luther King Jr. and others who opposed segregation. Now the Alabama city that was the first capital of the Confederacy is set to become home to a privately funded museum and monument that could make some visitors wince: a memorial to black lynching victims. The nonprofit Equal Justice Initiative has announced it is building a memorial in the state capital of Montgomery devoted to 4,075 blacks its research shows were killed by lynching in the U.S. from 1877 to 1950. The nonprofit's director, Bryan Stevenson, said the aim is to help "change the landscape" of American racial discourse by openly acknowledging a painful past, much as Germany has Holocaust memorials and South Africa a museum on its past state-sanctioned segregation - apartheid.

Associated Press: Zika cases leveling off in South Carolina

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=QTk2Mf7j

SC State Wire

The number of cases of people with the Zika virus seems to be leveling off in South Carolina. The Department of Health and Environmental Control says there have been 49 travel-related Zika cases in South Carolina. That includes one person who contracted the virus through sexual contact with someone who contracted the virus while traveling abroad. Three new cases have been reported this month. There were 20 cases each in July and August. DHEC says there have been no confirmed cases of local transmission of the disease in South Carolina. Medical University of South Carolina health professor Robert Ball told the Post and Courier of Charleston (<http://bit.ly/2dILx1y>) that experts think it is unlikely there will be sustained local transmission of the virus, except in localized areas such as Miami.

Post and Courier: Reported Zika cases dropping in South Carolina

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160924/160929752/reported-zika-cases-dropping-in-south-carolina>

Derrek Asberry

Reported Zika cases in South Carolina have dropped in recent weeks, a trend experts are cautiously optimistic about as summer fades. "Although national experts have predicted small clusters, such as Miami, sustained local transmission is unlikely, especially with cooling weather," said Robert Ball, a health professor at the College of Charleston and at the Medical University of South Carolina. The Zika virus is transmitted by the *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes, both of which are found in South Carolina. There is still no evidence of local transmission in this state. Experts confirmed in April that Zika is linked to an often-fatal condition called microcephaly in newborn babies. In those cases, the mothers are infected with Zika during pregnancy. As of Friday, the state Department of Health and Environmental Control had reported 49 travel-associated Zika cases, including one case that involved a resident who had sexual contact with someone who acquired the Zika infection while traveling abroad.

Associated Press: SCE&G announces \$1M donation to help needy pay utility bills

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

SC State Wire

South Carolina Electric & Gas Co. is providing \$1 million toward helping poor, elderly and disabled customers pay their utility bills. SCE&G announced Monday its donation to The Salvation Army of the Carolinas. The nonprofit's regional offices in Aiken, Beaufort, Charleston, Columbia and Orangeburg will distribute the money. Eligible customers can get up to \$500 annually to pay their bills. The utility has no estimate for how long the money will last. Maj. Tom Loudon with The Salvation Army says the money will help keep people healthy, safe and in their homes. SCE&G also announced donating \$250,000 to Meals on Wheels. Hundreds of seniors statewide are on waiting lists for the home-delivered meals. The utility provides electricity to about 706,000 homes and natural gas to 352,000 homes in South Carolina.

Post and Courier: S.C. gas prices still up following pipeline repair

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160926/160929563/sc-gas-prices-still-up-following-pipeline-repair>

Warren L. Wise

Gasoline prices nudged up another couple of pennies a gallon during the past week across South Carolina following the repair of a major fuel pipeline in Alabama that ruptured earlier this month. The price at the pump now averages \$2.09 a gallon across the Palmetto State, according to gas price service GasBuddy. Motor club AAA puts the price 2 cents higher. Nationally, the price dropped just under a penny a gallon to \$2.20, according to both gas price services. Late September is normally the time of year when gas prices fall as summer demand wanes and refineries switch to less expensive winter blends, but the fracturing of the Colonial Pipeline that runs from Houston to New York sent prices soaring across the Southeast, and especially across the Upstate, through which the 36-inch fuel line passes.

Island Packet: South Carolina teachers have it rough, according to a new report

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article104204336.html>

Rebecca Lurye

South Carolina is the ninth worst state for teacher-friendliness, according to a recent analysis by WalletHub. The report, released Monday, analyzed the 50 states and Washington, D.C. across 16 key metrics, from average starting salary to pupil-teacher ration, and found South Carolina ranked higher more teacher-friendly than just eight states: North Carolina, Maine, South Dakota, Mississippi, Oregon, Arizona, West Virginia, and — in last place — Hawaii. South Carolina was the third worst state for its academic and work environment, according to the report. New Jersey ranked as the most teacher-friendly state in the country and Texas topped the list for job opportunities and competition. While Vermont was the third worst state for those opportunities, it was the best in the country for its academic and work environment, according to WalletHub.

Local News:

The State: Lexington Sheriff searching for escaped detainee

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article104290676.html>

Noah Feit

The Lexington County Sheriff's Department is asking for the community's help in locating a detainee who ran away from Lexington Medical Center Monday. Corey Jorell Eaglin, 37, ran away after being arrested in the morning following a domestic violence incident, according to the Lexington County Sheriff's Department. Eaglin was last seen wearing a hospital gown and black undergarments. He's also wearing a colostomy bag, according to the sheriff's department, adding Eaglin's missing the lower portion of an arm and has one eye. In addition to the domestic violence arrest, Eaglin also has three outstanding warrants related to drug charges, according to the sheriff's department. As of 3 p.m., the sheriff's department reported more than a dozen units and assisting agencies were searching for Eaglin, who was last seen crossing U.S. 378 toward Leaphart Road.

Sun News: Horry council considers mandatory 72-hours in jail, counseling for drug overdoses

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article104222196.html>

Audrey Hudson

Drug users who overdose on narcotics would face jail time and mandatory treatment for substance abuse under new legal action proposed Monday by County Council Chairman Mark Lazarus. Lazarus asked the county

legal team, police and sheriff's office to determine what laws need to be passed to mandate a 72-hour holding period in jail, citing the growing number of heroin use and repeat overdoses emergency officials are experiencing. "There's no consequences for those people that are overdosing on this, and we're just putting them right back out in the street," Lazarus said during the council's Public Safety Committee meeting. "We've even had incidents where, 10 or 11 hours later, we've gone back and (treated) the same person again or the person in their party," Lazarus said. County emergency personnel are equipped with Narcon, a nasal spray that resuscitates victims who have overdosed on heroin and other narcotics, and say current projections predict Narcon will be used more than 1,000 times this year.

Associated Press: Young man gets 30 years for killing father in Tennessee

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=zeGQ3FzV

SC State Wire

A young man has pleaded guilty to killing his father as jury selection was set to begin for his trial in East Tennessee. The Greeneville Sun (<http://bit.ly/2dl5hSA>) reports 18-year-old Zachary Thomas Blanchard was sentenced to 30 years in prison Monday after pleading guilty to second-degree murder.

Blanchard was 16 when police said he shot 36-year-old Robert J. Blanchard at their home in Greene County. Police said he took his father's van, money, several guns and ammunition. He and three other teens were arrested after a 10-hour search in 2014 in South Carolina, where they were apparently headed for Myrtle Beach. Blanchard was charged as an adult with first-degree murder. Police said the other teens joined him after the shooting. Their cases were handled in juvenile court.

Associated Press: Man shot to death in North Charleston

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=SPPIRC0f

SC State Wire

Charleston County authorities have released the name of a man shot and killed in North Charleston. Deputy Coroner Sara Senn told local media that 47-year-old Ivan Greene of North Charleston was taken to the Medical University of South Carolina Hospital in Charleston after he was shot Friday night. Police spokesman Spencer Pryor says officers were called about 11:30 p.m. Friday and found a man who had been shot. Pryor said witnesses told investigators they saw an SUV pull in front of a house and shots were fired from the vehicle, hitting the victim. No arrests have been reported.

Associated Press: A dozen people hurt in wreck on Interstate 85 near Anderson

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=w28RdhWk

SC State Wire

About a dozen people have been hurt when a church bus wrecked on Interstate 85 in Anderson County. The wreck happened about 10 a.m. Monday about nine miles from the South Carolina-Georgia state line. AnMed Health hospital spokesman Ross Norton says 13 people were brought to his hospital. Norton said several people had critical injuries. Multiple media outlets reported that the bus was carrying members of Homeland Park Baptist Church in Anderson. The church's website said a senior adult trip was planned Monday, leaving at 9:30 a.m. to go to Unicoi State Park in Helen, Georgia. The South Carolina Highway Patrol said the wreck involved a pickup truck with the bus. A witness said the bus was changing lanes when it collided with the truck and the bus overturned.

Independent Mail: Several hurt in I-85 church bus wreck

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/09/26/-85-southbound-blocked/91111124/>

Mike Ellis

A Homeland Park Baptist Church bus carrying about a dozen senior citizens overturned Monday on Interstate 85 near exit 11, leaving several injured. The wreck near mile marker 9 blocked much of the southbound traffic. The bus crashed at about 9:50 a.m. and it took until after noon to clear away enough wreckage to open a single lane, according to officials. AnMed Health Medical Center reported receiving 13 patients from the wreck, with three in critical condition. The high volume of patients forced the hospital to move some patients already seeking treatment at the facility to other areas, according to a news release from AnMed. The wreck involved the church bus and a pickup truck, said South Carolina Highway Patrol Trooper Joe Hovis, though he

could offer no further details as of late Monday morning.

The State: Richland deputies investigating pepper spray incident on school bus

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article104271386.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

Richland County deputies are investigating after a 14-year-old student allegedly used pepper spray on a school bus Monday afternoon. The girl told deputies it was an accident, sheriff's spokesman Lt. Curtis Wilson said. Investigators will view the school bus video to find out what exactly happened, he said. Deputies responded to the intersection of Overpond Road and Springpond Road around 3:30 p.m. EMS also responded. The bus was dropping students off from Dent Middle School, which is in Richland 2 school district. There were 30 students on the bus at the time. Four of them received medical treatment, Wilson said.

Sun News: Court order halts some of the work being done on International Drive

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article104246591.html>

Audrey Hudson

A federal court has issued a temporary restraining order on certain construction work along International Drive, including prohibitions on filling wetlands or cutting down certain trees. The order issued Friday in the U. S. District Court of South Carolina in Florence was reached after discussions with Horry County officials and environmentalists seeking to block construction, according to Judge R. Bryan Harwell. Construction can continue, but is limited. The order says the county cannot perform any more filling, physical work or alteration in any wetlands in the project right of way which have not been filled as of Friday, Harwell wrote in his order. The county is blocked from removing or clearing any trees larger than six inches in diameter. The county can still remove damaged or unhealthy trees if it poses a safety hazard.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: Moderator Lester Holt under scrutiny during debate

<http://bigstory.ap.org/8e138f8cfdfe4688b8c8a67f1a3d63dc>

David Bauder

Everyone's aware of the stakes for Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump during the first presidential debate, but there's a third person in the equation who faces a different pressure: Lester Holt. The NBC News veteran is moderating his first general election debate, making him solely responsible for the questions asked each candidate and for steering the conversation. His performance will be closely watched, particularly in light of a dispute over the extent to which he should call politicians out for making untrue statements. Holt, 57, has kept quiet about his preparations. The NBC "Nightly News" anchor took over his job last year after predecessor Brian Williams was found to have lied about his role in news stories. Like the moderators for all three presidential debates this fall, it's Holt's first time in that role for a general election debate. He hosted a Democratic primary forum in January, and has interviewed Clinton and Trump three times each during the campaign.

Associated Press: Clinton, Trump poised for must-see debate showdown

<http://bigstory.ap.org/f1bf2aef22d54f4fa7dd4b7ffe1c0ddc>

Julie Pace and Jill Colvin

With millions watching and the American presidency on the line, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump are poised for a must-see showdown Monday night, pitting the Democrat's call for steady, experienced leadership against the Republican's pugnacious promises to upend Washington. The 90-minute televised debate comes six weeks before Election Day and with early voting already getting underway in some states. Despite Clinton's advantages, including a sophisticated get-out-the-vote operation and a favorable electoral map, the race is exceedingly close. For Clinton and Trump, the first of three debates is a crucial moment to boost their standing with voters who view both candidates negatively. Clinton struggles with questions about her trustworthiness, while Trump has yet to prove to some voters that he has the basic qualifications to serve as commander in chief.

National News:

Associated Press: 6 shot, 3 others hurt in Houston neighborhood; gunman dead

<http://bigstory.ap.org/4bf7b391d03b4afe968817359cef9980>

Juan A. Lozano

A disgruntled lawyer who had numerous weapons randomly shot at drivers in a Houston neighborhood Monday morning, hitting six people, one critically, before he was shot and killed by police, authorities said. Another three people had injuries from glass or debris. Authorities first received a report of the shootings at about 6:30 a.m., Police Chief Martha Montalvo said at a news conference, and the man began firing at officers when they arrived. Montalvo did not identify the man. A bomb-squad robot examined a Porsche that police said belonged to the gunman; Texas motor vehicle records in a commercially available database showed the car is licensed to Nathan DeSai at an address in the condo complex. The property manager of the condo complex also confirmed that police were going through DeSai's residence. Calls placed to phone numbers connected to DeSai and his father were not immediately answered, and DeSai's father did not answer the door at his home.

Associated Press: Mall shooting suspect charged with murder

<http://bigstory.ap.org/dc0ea5f29a0f4b3192100ab6163470d8>

Martha Bellisle

The man accused of killing five people at Macy's store in a Washington state shopping mall before leading authorities on a nearly 24-hour manhunt was charged Monday with five counts of first-degree murder. Arcan Cetin, 20, made a brief appearance in Skagit County District Court and his bail was set at \$2 million. Court documents released before the hearing said Cetin confessed to the slayings after his arrest, telling detectives who interviewed him that "he did bring the rifle into Macy's and shot all 5 victims." Cetin was arrested Saturday, a day after the gunman opened fire in the department store's cosmetics department Friday night, killing a man, a teenage girl and three women.

Associated Press: FBI data show increase in murder, violent crime in 2015

<http://bigstory.ap.org/83d6e98897c445cfab9dc4f9ea6a706c>

Eric Tucker and Lisa Marie Pane

Are Americans safer? It depends on where you live. A report issued Monday by the FBI says the number of murders rose by more than 10 percent in 2015 from the previous year, while violent crime overall was up nearly 4 percent. Experts say the increase is driven by a spike in violent crime in at least several large cities, but they caution that the country is in the midst of such low crime rates that even the tiniest increase appears larger than it is. "There are problems with violence in certain American cities and we need to work to address that, but there's no evidence of a national crime wave," said Inimai Chettiar of the Brennan Center for Justice, a nonpartisan law and policy institute at New York University School of Law. The FBI report is based on information supplied by local law enforcement agencies through the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program, which compiles data on murders, aggravated assault, car thefts and other crime.

Associated Press: Official: One-third of calls to VA suicide hotline roll over

<http://bigstory.ap.org/0c2c10e0c6b14b28bd5920790884f5d1>

Matthew Daly

More than one-third of calls to a suicide hotline for troubled veterans are not being answered by front-line staffers because of poor work habits and other problems at the Department of Veterans Affairs, according to the hotline's former director. Some hotline workers handle fewer than five calls per day and leave before their shifts end, even as crisis calls have increased sharply in recent years, said Greg Hughes, the former director of the VA's Veterans Crisis Line. Hughes said in an internal email that some crisis line staffers "spend very little time on the phone or engaged in assigned productive activity." Coverage at the crisis line suffers "because we have staff who routinely request to leave early," he said. An average of 35 to 40 percent of crisis calls received in May rolled over to back-up centers where workers have less training to deal with veterans' problems, Hughes said. Hughes left his post in June, weeks after sending the emails.

Associated Press: Showdown: Congress looks to override Obama veto of 9/11 bill

<http://bigstory.ap.org/66ef7c14b23043e99b5a2c0a7c2df0c6>

Richard Lardner

Congress is poised to override President Barack Obama's veto of a bill that would allow families of Sept. 11 victims to sue Saudi Arabia for the kingdom's alleged backing of the terrorists who carried out the attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people. The showdown is scheduled for Wednesday. Proponents of the legislation say they have enough votes for what would be a first: During his nearly two full terms in office, Obama has vetoed nine bills. None has been overridden. While there is broad and bipartisan support for bucking the president, the bill's opponents also are pushing hard to keep the measure from being enacted. They're warning the U.S. will become vulnerable to retaliatory litigation in foreign courts that could put American troops in legal jeopardy. Here's a look at the key issues surrounding the bill, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, as the veto override vote nears...

Associated Press: Testimony: Christie pals OK'd gridlock, campaign chief knew

<http://bigstory.ap.org/6150254f110a434995349cffe9496f29>

David Porter

A political revenge scheme to create traffic gridlock near the George Washington Bridge in 2013 was approved by two former allies of Republican Gov. Chris Christie on trial for fraud and shared with Christie's then-campaign manager, the government's key witness testified Monday. David Wildstein also told jurors how he received the now-famous "Time for some traffic problems in Fort Lee" email from Christie's then-deputy chief of staff, Bridget Kelly, on Aug. 13, 2013, about a month before the town next to the bridge was engulfed in four days of epic traffic jams. Kelly, who is expected to testify in her defense, has previously said some of her emails and texts from that period were meant to be sarcastic and were taken out of context. But Wildstein, a former official at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey who has pleaded guilty, told jurors Monday he assumed it meant it was time to put the scheme in action to punish Fort Lee's Democratic mayor, Mark Sokolich.

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Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044