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Subject: Morning Clips – Tuesday, June 5, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Aiken Standard: Gibson celebrates 100th birthday at Weeks Center

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160703/AIK0101/160709829>

Dede Biles

Mary Toole Corley Gibson was pretty in pink for the celebration of her 100th birthday at the H. Odell Weeks Activities Center on Sunday afternoon. She wore a pink dress that had a corsage made of pink roses pinned on it. In addition, Gibson had pink polish on her fingernails. "I have been obedient to the Lord," said Gibson of the reason for her long life. "God has blessed me for doing his will, not mine. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the good Lord. I also have good friends and a good family." Friends and family organized the party, which was held the day after Gibson's actual birthday on Saturday. Gibson's only surviving sibling, 93-year-old Clyde Toole, traveled with his wife, Blanche, from New Jersey for the celebration. Blanche was the mistress of ceremonies, and she placed a tiara on Gibson's head soon after her arrival at the H. Odell Weeks Activities Center.

NOTE: Gibson received congratulatory messages from President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley. There also was a proclamation that Aiken Mayor Rick Osbon and Aiken City Council member Lessie Price had signed. The document declared that Sunday was Mary Toole Corley Gibson Day.

Union Daily Times: Governor congratulates Sparrow

<http://uniondailytimes.com/features/health/6290/governor-congratulates-sparrow>

Charles Warner

A local entrepreneur was honored recently with a letter from Gov. Nikki Haley congratulating her on the opening of her chiropractic practice in the Town of Jonesville. Dr. Kat Sparrow is the owner/operator of Sparrow Family Chiropractic which she opened on March 1 of this year. Since opening her practice in March, Sparrow has been providing chiropractic care to a growing number of patients. Dr. Sparrow provides chiropractic care to both children and adults, emphasizing the total health and well-being of her patients. The opening of Sparrow Family Chiropractic was brought to the attention of Gov. Nikki Haley who sent Dr. Sparrow a letter congratulating her.

NOTE: I saw in The Union Daily Times that Sparrow Family Chiropractic has recently opened in Jonesville. Congratulations! It's a great day in South Carolina when we can celebrate new businesses and the entrepreneurs behind them. Michael and I thank you for your investment in the health and well-being of the community and the Palmetto State. Small businesses are the heart of our economy, and we are pleased to join your family, friends, and patients in wishing you success going forward. God bless.

WSPA: Documentary Highlights Church Response to SC Flood

<http://wspa.com/2016/07/04/documentary-highlights-church-response-to-sc-flood/>

Robert Kittle

A documentary on the volunteer work done by Mormons after the historic floods in South Carolina

last October highlights the work that churches of all denominations have done to help the state recover. Les Carroll, a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, was doing volunteer work in Columbia after the flood and saw the work his fellow church members were doing, so he decided to make the documentary. "I did it to sort of document what our church members were doing. But I also realized that there were a lot of people involved that came together, all faiths, all different groups and all different religious faiths came together and worked in this area, and it didn't matter what church you went to or anything like that. It was just all a matter of helping the people in our neighborhood," he says. Some of the homes in the Columbia neighborhood on which the documentary is focused are still not habitable. Rachel Larratt lives in the neighborhood, where water was at the roof line of several houses. "Basically we were sitting at the top of the hill going, what are we going to do when the water recedes? Because you're just, water's everywhere and you know it's dangerous and you don't know when it's going to come, how long it's going to stay, and when it's going to go away," she says.

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley gave an update last week on the state's progress on rebuilding after the flooding, saying church volunteers are still at work on homes. "What is amazing is we have had \$12 million in skilled work donated," she told reporters.

Savannah River Site/MOX News:

Aiken Standard: Nuclear waste acceptance criteria updated for WIPP shipments

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160704/160709794/nuclear-waste-acceptance-criteria-updated-for-wipp-shipments>

Thomas Gardiner

Starting today, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, along with other transuranic waste generating sites across the Department of Energy, will have to follow newly revised packaging and certification criteria that resulted from investigations into a 2014 radiological release at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, or WIPP. WIPP is a geological repository for transuranic waste located near Carlsbad, New Mexico. The site was shut down in 2014 following the radiological release and a salt truck fire, halting shipments from facilities like Savannah River Site. Materials sent to the site are typically things like gloves, tools and other materials that become contaminated during the handling of spent nuclear fuel or plutonium. The materials are packaged into containers like the TRUPACT-III. The new criteria will require those shipments to undergo inspection to ensure compliance with revised safety and content guidelines before being sent on to WIPP. The facility is a permanent disposition facility meant to hold the materials for 10,000 years until the material has effectively decayed.

SC Agency News:

Associated Press: Child abuse, neglect cases rise by 13,000 in 3 years in SC

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=0CO9jam1

SC State Wire

The number of child abuse and neglect complaints in South Carolina has increased by more than 13,000 in the past three years. The Department of Social Services received more than 40,000 complaints in 2015. The agency fielded just over 27,000 complaints in 2012. Centralizing where abuse allegations can be made through a toll-free telephone number and hiring more caseworkers has led to the increase in complaints, DSS Director Susan Alford said. "We don't want to miss a report. What we have to be careful of is maintaining our staffing levels to support that increase - we need to assure we have adequate numbers of highly trained intake workers, to do timely and effective screening of incoming calls, and we need to retain enough caseworkers to manage increased

caseloads.," Alford said in a statement to The Greenville News (<http://grnol.co/29bOeQH>).

Greenville News: As SC child abuse, neglect increases, officials wonder why

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/07/02/sc-child-abuse-neglect-increases-officials-wonder-why/86518820/>

Tim Smith

Six-month-old Mason had a big smile that showed in his photo. But in July 2015, his parents took the Laurens County boy to a hospital with severe head injuries. He was placed on life support but died the next day. Authorities said his father had admitted to abusing the infant and he was charged with homicide by child abuse. The mother was charged with unlawful neglect of a child. The father eventually plead guilty and was sentenced to 30 years in prison, court records show. The mother pled guilty and was sentenced to 30 days time served. Mason's death was among the more horrific examples of a pervasive problem in South Carolina that appeared to spike dramatically in 2015. Despite millions more dollars being spent in recent years on the state's child welfare agency and the hiring of hundreds of workers to combat child abuse and neglect, records reviewed by The Greenville News show complaints and investigations of abuse and neglect have been on a steady march upward.

Associated Press: SC hopes telemedicine will improve inmate care and cut costs

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=fshwRY5F

Meg Kinnard

South Carolina's prisons agency is taking a high-tech approach to inmate health care, a change officials say will both save money and cut down on potential security risks. The Department of Corrections and the Medical University of South Carolina are announcing a telemedicine partnership this week. Using tools including videoconferencing, doctors at the Charleston hospital can examine inmates remotely, doing routine exams and even diagnosing illnesses from hundreds of miles away. The partnership with MUSC Health, according to Corrections director Bryan Stirling, saves money in the costs of transporting inmates to hospitals, an effort that typically requires at least two officers, plus a driver. But, officials say, it also reduces possible security risks to physicians that come every time inmates are taken out of prison.

NOTE: "Every time the fence opens and an offender goes out, there's chances for bad things to happen," Stirling said in a recent interview with The Associated Press. "This will allow us not only to better serve this population, but also it's a public safety thing. Keeping them behind the fence just makes sense."

SC Political News:

Post and Courier: 'Healthier Statehouse' means lawmakers, lobbyists and staff shed almost 100 pounds

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160704/160709889/healthier-statehouse-means-lawmakers-lobbyists-and-staff-shed-almost-100-pounds>

Maya T. Prabhu

With a successful first year under their noticeably tighter belts, members of the South Carolina Legislature are hoping to expand their "Healthier Statehouse" initiative to state capitols across the country. The S.C. Hospital Association this year partnered with the Fitbit activity tracking company to help lawmakers — and other working Statehouse staffers — learn to make healthier food choices while encouraging them to be physically active. Starting with an initial enrollment of almost 200 lawmakers, lobbyists and staff members, the 57 participants who screened-out at the end of the

session lost a combined 98 pounds. That was a feat, as avoiding weight gain is difficult for just about everyone during the legislative session, said Easley Republican Rep. Neal Collins. "In orientation, they said 'Get ready to gain and lose 10 pounds each year,' " said Collins, who just finished his first two-year term in the House of Representatives.

The State: Millions for new SC prosecutors expected to hasten trials

<http://www.thestate.com/latest-news/article87530232.html>

Cynthia Roldan

South Carolina's criminal justice system will see changes in the coming months, as millions of dollars the Legislature approved to help lighten unmanageable prosecutor caseloads start to trickle into judicial circuits. The Legislature approved \$7.8 million in this year's state budget with the goal of adding an estimated 104 prosecutors statewide. The cash is expected to lower the burden on prosecutors, especially in poorer and rural districts, where the workload discrepancy is stark. Marion County, for example – largely rural and wedged between Florence and Horry counties – had one prosecutor with 933 cases when the S.C. Commission on Prosecution Coordination made its budget request to the Legislature earlier this year. Closer to home, Kershaw prosecutors tackled as many as 517 cases, while Richland County prosecutors had an average of 231. Though both counties belong to the Fifth Judicial Circuit, they differ in affluence and how much each can contribute to hire prosecutors.

Associated Press: SC still deciding how to spend \$8M for new prosecutors

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=b8KP8mUM

SC State Wire

Officials are still trying to decide how to spend nearly \$8 million South Carolina lawmakers approved to hire more than 100 additional prosecutors. The General Assembly approved the money to reduce caseloads. The State newspaper reports (<http://bit.ly/29iqSbs>) that the average prosecutor is handling 376 cases in the state. Commission on Prosecution Coordination Chairman Duffie Stone said juggling that many cases is hard - delaying trials and resulting in lost evidence and clouded memories for witnesses. Stone says imagine going into a doctor's waiting room and seeing 376 patients. Caseloads increase dramatically in poorer, rural districts. The Commission on Prosecution Coordination says one prosecutor in Marion County is responsible for 933 cases. The money will also put a prosecutor in Saluda, McCormick and Allendale counties, which currently have none.

The State: Meticulous planner gets ready for job as new chief prosecutor in Lexington

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article87625347.html>

Tim Flach

Rick Hubbard already is preparing the first steps he will take after becoming chief prosecutor in Lexington County and nearby areas in January. Known for meticulous planning, Hubbard said he is mulling "in my head on what I need to do" when he becomes the first new 11th Circuit solicitor in 40 years. Hubbard is set to take over after winning the Republican nomination for the position in a runoff election last week. His victory is tantamount to winning the post since no other candidate is on the Nov. 8 ballot, although a long-shot write-in effort could develop. He will replace his mentor as Solicitor Donnie Myers retires at 71 after a state record of 40 years in the job.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: First Wes Hayes, now Larry Martin: a Senate diminished

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article87316002.html>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

IT'S HARD TO think of a smart reform the Legislature has passed in the past decade that hasn't had Larry Martin's fingerprints all over it. It was the Pickens County Republican's tenacity and determination that brought ethics reforms back from the dead this year, and got us the income-source reporting and independent investigations of legislators that his fellow senators seemed to have killed last year, and the year before that, and the year before that. And although he had to accept some crippling amendments, it was Sen. Martin who pushed legislation through the anti-reform Senate to wrest appointment power of the state Transportation Commission away from small groups of legislators and give it to the governor.

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley said she wanted to use this year's Republican primaries to change the Senate, and boy did she succeed. Just not in a way that will benefit her, or any of the less ideologically reform-minded among us. We should be grateful that Sen. Martin was able to push through some ethics reforms this year, because the governor pretty much guaranteed us a 2017 Senate that wouldn't pass them.

NOTE: Gov. Haley did support the effort to get rid of one of the most disruptive senators, the guns-and-bathrooms fetishist Lee Bright, although it's unclear how much if any credit she deserves for that. Her only clear win was defeating Mr. Ethics, York County Sen. Wes Hayes, who was on her side far more often than not and whom she seems to have targeted so she could claim one victory.

Post and Courier: Sen. Martin's gracious example

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160705/160709763/sen-martins-gracious-example>

Editorial

Political campaigns and outcomes inevitably produce hard feelings. And in an election year when the tide of divisive animus is already running remarkably high, expect a flood of sore-loser bitterness in the wake of the Nov. 8 results — and not just in the presidential race. But last week, a longtime South Carolina legislator taught a sadly rare lesson in how to accept defeat at the polls with grace. Larry Martin, during his six terms in the state Senate, has earned a reputation for integrity, insight and bipartisan cooperation. Many politicians rejected by voters sulk. For instance, after Sen. Lee Bright, R-Spartanburg, narrowly lost his seat to former state Rep. Scott Talley in last week's runoff, he cast himself as the victim of a "negative campaign." Citing the backing of Mr. Talley by the state Chamber of Commerce and the Conservation Voters of S.C., Sen. Bright told the Spartanburg Herald-Journal: "Democratic groups flooded money in and they were able to win this race." Unlike Sen. Bright, Sen. Martin didn't whine over the voters' verdict. Instead, he offered impressive congratulations to Mr. Rice, telling The Greenville News: "I hand it to Rex and his campaign and wish him the very best. The people of the county have been very good to me for a number of years in their support of me and I hope they will be equally supportive of him."

Post and Courier: New leader will build on S.C. State success

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160705/160709765/new-leader-will-build-on-sc-state-success>

Editorial

One year ago, Gov. Nikki Haley and the state Legislature asked seven individuals from around the state to become the new Board of Trustees for South Carolina State University, an important higher education resource that was facing several serious challenges. I was honored to be invited to be one of those appointees and to serve as chair. The accreditation board, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on College, had put S.C. State on probation twice, leaving the institution in real jeopardy of losing its accreditation. And S.C. State's financial condition was in shambles. Now, one year later, S.C. State has balanced the budget, exceeded enrollment goals, increased alumni giving and faculty grants, and — most importantly — restored the university's

accreditation.

The State: Right to try, other people-friendly laws showed SC Legislature at best

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/op-ed/article87311207.html>

Opinion

Analyzing what our General Assembly accomplished (or did not accomplish) in 2016 might make you think that the session was dominated by a spirit of division. The wrangling over the roads bill, the difficulties with the ethics bills, the back and forth between the governor's office and the Legislature all received the bulk of the attention. But the Legislature took some small but important steps that reflect the sense of unity, community and compassion that was so evident in the wake of the hateful shooting a year ago at Mother Emanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston. Consider right to try, a bill that was passed with the teamwork and leadership of freshman Democratic Rep. Cezar McKnight and Republican Sens. Paul Campbell and Ray Cleary. Their work on this critical law is an example of what can be accomplished when the focus is not on political agendas but on helping real people.

Post and Courier: Polite rites can't erase Charleston's wrongs

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160703/160709780/polite-rites-cant-erase-charlestons-wrongs>

Editorial

We Charlestonians are proud of many things: our city's past, its beauty and the way of life we find worthy of defending. We are voted best of just about everything. For generations, just as Rhett Butler left Scarlett O'Hara at the end of "Gone with the Wind," he and others have come our way seeking the last place of graceful living in a fast-changing (and some would say declining) country. Some have argued that it is our density — the closeness of single houses — that has prompted us to act so civilly. And manners are taught here: Social graces are drilled into us as rigidly as Citadel cadets learn to march in formation. For many, Charleston was, Charleston is, and Charleston will always be not just America's most historic, but also America's most polite city. On these points, I have to politely — but vehemently — disagree.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Glorious Fourth: Fireworks to light skies across Carolinas

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

SC State Wire

It's the Fourth of July and that means dozens of fireworks displays in the skies across the Carolinas from the mountains to the sea. Some of the major displays include Kings Mountain in North Carolina where there will be music and actors will perform a scene from a Revolutionary War play. Among other places in North Carolina there will also be large fireworks displays at the US National Whitewater Center and at the Carowinds amusement park on the state border. In South Carolina there are major displays over Lake Murray, in North Charleston and at Patriots Point in Mount Pleasant. Fireworks are also planned at the popular Broadway at the Beach shopping and dining complex in Myrtle Beach.

Local News:

Associated Press: Charleston mayor, others to read Declaration of Independence

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

SC State Wire

Charleston's mayor and other dignitaries plan to celebrate Independence Day with a public reading of

the Declaration of Independence. Mayor John Tecklenburg and former Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley will join a dozen military veterans and other officials to read this nation's founding document. The reading began Monday morning at the Old Exchange Building on East Bay Street.

Associated Press: High-tech Fourth: Rockets' red glare, Drones swirling in air
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=E02CfD59

Bruce Smith

Fireworks have been around a thousand years; smartphones, drones and computers not quite so long. But all are coming together as the Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum puts a cutting edge on its Fourth of July celebration. "We want to be of the Top 10 best fireworks shows in the United States and we want to bring something new and exciting to everyone," said Bob Clark, a spokesman for the museum that is home to the World War II-era aircraft carrier USS Yorktown. The fireworks display over Charleston Harbor each year attracts upward to 30,000 people, some of whom pay admission to watch the display from the carrier flight deck.

The State: Salute from the Shore adds to Palmetto State celebrations on Fourth of July
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/military/article87600997.html>

Chloe Johnson

Locals and visitors clustered at the shore Monday for a two-fold Independence Day celebration that included a pride march by veterans and salute from the shore, the annual coastal flyover. North Myrtle Beach's eighth annual pride march had veterans carrying the American flag, the flag of South Carolina and a banner in honor of prisoners of war and the missing in action. Participants started from opposite ends of the beach, eight miles apart in all, and handed off the flags at various points as they slowly marched towards each other. Eventually, they met at the beach entrance next to the Horseshoe at Main Street. Onlookers clapped and cheered on the veterans as they passed.

The State: Remembering those who kept us free
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article87531072.html>

As South Carolinians celebrate America's independence on Monday, many will pause to remember the sacrifice of those who gave their lives to keep us free. In Columbia, in a city block bounded by Hampton, Wayne, Gadsden and Washington streets, Memorial Park pays eternal tribute to those who fought in several American wars, including World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam. "We like to think that this park is about memory," said Bud Ferillo, chairman of the Memorial Park Commission. He quoted author Herman Wouk, who wrote: "The beginning of the end of war lies in remembrance. "So this is about remembrance of the service to our country of South Carolinians in the wars of the United States in the 20th and 21st centuries," said Ferillo, a Vietnam War veteran.

Sun News: Bomb threat at North Myrtle Beach resort a hoax
<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article87473762.html>

A caller told police a bomb had been placed at a North Myrtle Beach resort Saturday night, but a search revealed no evidence of an explosive. A bomb threat regarding the Avista Resort at 300 N. Ocean Blvd. was called in to North Myrtle Beach Public Safety Dispatch around 9 p.m. Saturday, according to city spokesman Pat Dowling. North Myrtle Beach Public Safety personnel responded to the scene, as did Horry County Police with explosives detection dogs. However, no evidence of a bomb was found, Dowling said.

Associated Press: Officer shot, wounded during standoff in South Carolina
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=nMC5JEOq

SC State Wire

A South Carolina police officer is recovering after being shot during a standoff. Local news outlets report that officer Wayne Pavlischek was shot Monday evening in North Charleston. North Charleston Police Deputy Chief David Cheatle says police were called about a driver who tried to run over a pedestrian. Officials went to a home where the suspect's car was parked. Police say the suspect pointed a rifle from a second story window and fired, wounding Pavlischek, who was wearing a bullet proof vest. Cheatle says Pavlischek's vest stopped the bullet. He was taken to a hospital with minor injuries.

Associated Press: Man shot and killed by police in South Carolina identified

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

SC State Wire

The coroner's office has identified the man shot and killed by Spartanburg County deputies. Coroner Rusty Clevenger said fingerprints helped his investigators identify 63-year-old Alexis Mishtowt. Sheriff Chuck Wright said Mishtowt was heavily armed and pointed a gun at officers Friday evening at his home near Landrum. Wright says undercover officers called for uniform deputies after something went wrong during an investigation. He did not elaborate. Clevenger says the coroner's office has not been able to find any of Mishtowt's family members.

Associated Press: Police: Man wants cops to kill him after shooting girlfriend

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

SC State Wire

Authorities say a man who killed his girlfriend, then said he wanted police officers to kill him has been taken into custody after a short standoff. Laurens County deputies said 40-year-old Ronald Davis called 911 around 1:30 a.m. Sunday and said his girlfriend pointed a gun at him at a Fountain Inn home and he grabbed it away and shot her. About two hours later, Newberry County deputies surrounded a home near Newberry after finding Davis' car. Authorities say Davis told officers he wanted them to kill him, but gave himself up peacefully an hour later.

Associated Press: Clemson says education leads to more sexual assault reports

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

SC State Wire

Clemson University says a big jump in the number of sex offenses reported on campus happened after the school started an education and awareness campaign. The school reported 17 incidents of forcible sex offenses and dating violence at Clemson in 2014, after just two reports in 2012. But the increase came after Clemson started an education program and encouraged victims to come forward, Pickens County Advocacy Center Executive Director Shannon Lambert told the Anderson Independent-Mail (<http://bit.ly/29iXQb8>). The university's new interpersonal violence prevention coordinator said similar increases are happening at other universities that have made recent efforts to reduce sexual violence. But Megan Fallon said history has shown that in many places, the number of reports eventually decline.

The Herald: Officials say \$500K study to assess Rock Hill schools expected to save money

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article87518857.html>

Jennifer Becknell

Spending up to half a million dollars to study the condition of Rock Hill schools could save that much over the next five years, district leaders say. The Rock Hill district, with more than 3.4 million square feet of schools and office space, has some schools with original buildings nearly 70 years old, said

Deputy Superintendent Tony Cox. Cox said spending up to \$500,000 for a comprehensive study of schools could save that much in maintenance costs in one to five years. He also said it could find problems that must be fixed before they break. The Rock Hill school board unanimously agreed last week to move forward with the comprehensive facilities study, the first time such a study has been done.

Aiken Standard: Second Project Jackson lawsuit reaches conclusion

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160702/160709861/second-project-jackson-lawsuit-reaches-conclusion>

Michael Smith

With an official order expected soon addressing the issue of attorney's fees in a lawsuit challenging Project Jackson, separate litigation involving the North Augusta development has reached an end. North Augusta Riverfront Company LLC sued Steve Donohue in 2014, saying a lawsuit the North Augusta resident filed in 2013 hampered a property transaction pivotal to Project Jackson, creating a risk of "lost profits," the suit said. "As a direct result of Defendant's filing of the Lawsuit, Plaintiff is unable to consummate its prospective contract with Greenstone," the suit stated. Greenstone is the entity that's developing Project Jackson.

Associated Press: Zoo closes tadpole pond because of swimming children

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=HwH6TEKq

SC State Wire

A Columbia zoo is closing its tadpole wading pond because children and adults were ignoring the rules and letting kids swim in the water. The State newspaper reports (<http://bit.ly/29k2rdD>) the swimmers caused the bacteria levels in the shallow water to increase to dangerous levels. Riverbanks Zoo CEO Satch Krantz says the zoo built the tadpole pond to allow children to stand on the rocks or wade in the water and interact directly with nature. The tadpole pond opened in early April. Krantz says the zoo has gotten rid of the tadpoles and will rebuild the area as a splash pad, which will be run like a swimming pool with disinfected, circulated water.

Post and Courier: Parks in trouble amid popularity surge

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160703/160709897/parks-in-trouble-amid-popularity-surge>

Bo Petersen

On the 75th anniversary of publicly managed lands in South Carolina, and the 100th anniversary of the national parks, both are in trouble — underfunded and consequently understaffed, falling behind in maintenance, pressured by government leaders to pay for themselves to operate. On an annual budget of \$29 million, South Carolina Parks has about a \$100 million maintenance backlog, according to Phil Gaines, parks director, and the National Association of State Park Directors. That's despite spending \$30 million in the past five years for infrastructure work such as sewer-related facility overhauls and repaving. The bottom line is that with tighter budgets and legislators looking to cut nonessential services, parks and other public lands take a back seat to other industry when it comes to economic development — despite the economic value as well as quality-of-life return.

Post and Courier: Hanahan-based SPAWAR awards \$750 million contract for equipment to 21 companies

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160704/160709853/hanahan-based-spawar-awards-750-million-contract-for-equipment-to-21-companies>

Thad Moore

The Navy's Hanahan-based high-tech engineering center awarded a sweeping contract for new

equipment to 21 companies Wednesday, a deal worth as much as \$750 million over five years. The contract mostly covers the “command and control” equipment that Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Atlantic — better known as SPAWAR — might need. That includes things like GPS, video systems and processors. The deal, which includes 21 companies from around the country, is fairly routine, and SPAWAR’s last contract is set to run out this year, spokesman Jack O’Neill said. The Defense Department says 28 companies bid on the contract. None of the companies listed in the contract are from South Carolina though some have offices in the region.

Herald- Journal: Xytel invests \$1.6M in Spartanburg-based HQ

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160703/articles/160709974>

Bob Montgomery

If you've taken vitamins, had decaffeinated coffee or used biodegradable plastic, that product might have been made better with the help of a Spartanburg-made pilot plant. Helping oil, chemical and biofuel companies meet their needs is what Xytel in Roebuck is all about. Xytel makes fully automated pilot plants, or smaller prototypes of full-scale reactors that companies like Exxon, Eastman, Shell and Dow Chemical use in the manufacture or refining of their products. Founded in 1974 in Chicago, the company moved to Spartanburg County in 2003 where land was cheaper and operational costs lower, President and CEO Olivier Clause said. Clause, a native of France, has been in charge of Xytel since 2006. In April, Xytel moved up the road in Roebuck to its current 20,000-square-foot location at 4133 S. Church St. Ext. Its headquarters, design staff and manufacturing facility are all in one location. Clause said the move represented a \$1.6 million investment.

Herald-Journal : Report cites need for more white-collar jobs

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160704/articles/160709902>

Bob Montgomery

A lot has changed since blue-collar textile workers fueled the Upstate economy. In the 1980s and early '90s, some 25,000 textile jobs left the Upstate. Then along came BMW in the mid-1990s and everything changed. Soon, other large companies followed suit, choosing the Upstate as their home. An estimated 40,000 new jobs have been added since. In the past five years, Spartanburg County added 17,492 jobs with a growth rate of 14.2 percent, far exceeding the state (9.6 percent) and national (8.1 percent) figures. But it's not enough, according a consultant who is working on the Spartanburg Vision Plan for the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce, because most of the new jobs are blue-collar jobs, and for a truly diverse economy, more white-collar jobs are needed.

National News:

Associated Press: Party in the USA: America celebrates its independence

<http://bigstory.ap.org/de0dc898d06849ca83f2eee14eea0ec0>

From fireworks soaring above the Washington Monument to hot dogs being downed in New York City's frank-eating contest, Americans aren't shy about celebrating their nation's birthday. Many places are rolling out long-established Independence Day traditions on Monday (even if some of those traditions aren't as long-established as they sound). Rain was forecast in many cities, but revelers were trying not to let it dampen their fun. Some Fourth of July highlights from around the country...

Associated Press: Under fire as usual, Clinton ramps up her trust campaign

<http://bigstory.ap.org/bc465f1b67904d298b4b2935a3fadc98>

Laurie Kellman

The Clinton trust campaign is turning to powerful advocates, chief among them President Barack Obama, to vouch for the Democratic candidate shadowed by an FBI investigation on the brink of her presidential nomination. Clinton herself acknowledges that she has "work to do" to earn the trust of voters after nearly four decades in public life as she faces Republican Donald Trump in the general election. And she's called in help from advocates to attest to her "good heart," as Sen. Elizabeth Warren put it — whatever the results of the FBI probe into Clinton's private email server while she was secretary of state. On Sunday's news shows, Sen. Sherrod Brown, R-Ohio, and Labor Secretary Tom Perez — both potential running mates for the Democratic ticket — explicitly talked about Clinton and trust.

Associated Press: Clinton-related State Dept. records delays are mounting up

<http://bigstory.ap.org/01d398239bd04ed9841ffb8c23ebfa3f>

Stephen Braun

Just five months before the presidential election, the State Department is under fire in courtrooms over its delays in turning over government files related to Hillary Clinton's tenure as secretary of state. In one case, the agency warned it needed a 27-month delay, until October 2018, to turn over emails from Clinton's former aides, and the judge in another case, a lawsuit by The Associated Press, wondered aloud whether the State Department might be deliberately delaying until after the election. "We're now reaching a point where there's mounting frustration that this is a project where the State Department may be running out the clock," said U.S. District Court Judge Richard J. Leon. The judge said he was considering imposing penalties on the agency if it failed to meet the next set of deadlines he orders. Leon wondered aloud at one point whether he might impose penalties for again failing to deliver records on time. He mused about "a fine on a daily basis" or "incarceration."

Associated Press: Why Dump Trump effort faces likely defeat at GOP convention

<http://bigstory.ap.org/e685e045e0244a9c9ab80d6c4da0cc92>

Alan Farm

Despite a continuing effort and lots of noise by a band of insurgents, Donald Trump and the Republican Party are on track to defeat rebels trying to head off his nomination at this month's convention. Far from giving up, the "dump Trump" forces are seeking new supporters and spending money to run ads, hire staff and set up office space near the GOP convention site in Cleveland to try to prevent the real estate mogul from becoming the GOP presidential nominee. Here's why it will be hard for them to succeed...

World News:

Associated Press: Security ordered tightened as death toll in Baghdad hits 157

<http://bigstory.ap.org/d0803b65bb4545d1bca73621909b9a24>

Sinan Salaheddin

As the death toll from the weekend truck bombing in Baghdad climbed to 157, Iraq's embattled prime minister ordered new security measures, including abandoning the use of bomb-detection wands that U.S. experts pronounced worthless years ago. But security forces were still using the devices Monday evening, as a string of smaller bombings in the capital killed 16 people and wounded dozens more. Sunday's suicide attack by the Islamic State group was the single deadliest bombing to hit Baghdad in more than a decade of war and insurgency. Also Monday, five convicted terrorists were executed in Baghdad, the Ministry of Justice said in an announcement that appeared aimed at restoring faith in Iraq's security forces in the wake of the devastating attack.

Associated Press: Some former hostages being questioned over Bangladesh attack

<http://bigstory.ap.org/6c1166219aaa4dc5b082d817fa1ad5cd>

Some of the hostages rescued from the weekend attack on an upscale restaurant in Bangladesh's capital were questioned Monday by investigators searching for clues about the possible masterminds behind the gruesome attack that left 28 dead, including many foreigners. Authorities were still holding five of the 13 hostages rescued when commandos stormed the restaurant in Dhaka's diplomatic zone Saturday morning, killing six of the attackers and capturing one, according to officials. Bangladesh police chief A.K.M. Shahidul Haque said authorities would be interrogating two men, including a suspected militant, who were detained during Saturday's operation. He would not say whether either had been among those counted as hostages, only that they were being treated in a hospital for unspecified injuries.

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