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To:  
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, April 6, 2016

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## Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, April 6, 2016

Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: The Latest: Haley: Feds must let prisons nix cell signals

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6jU2IESh](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6jU2IESh)

SC State Wire

Gov. Nikki Haley is imploring federal officials to give her state the power to block out signals from cellphones that inmates have illegally in prison. During a hearing Wednesday afternoon in Columbia with Federal Communications Commission Commissioner Ajit Pai, Haley pointed out that South Carolina has tried multiple pathways to try to combat the cellphone problem, which she says has allowed inmates to plot and organize riots behind bars. The state has tried using dogs trained to sniff out contraband, more aggressive searches and even specialized technology to block out some signals but not others. What's needed, Haley said, is the technology to block out cell signals in areas where inmates have contraband phones. That way, Haley says, inmates' phones become useless, and they become less dangerous. "This is something that has a solution to it," Haley said. "Allow us to jam our prisons. ... Something has to change." Haley and South Carolina's prisons director need FCC permission to use the blocking technology.

Associated Press: SC officials seek federal help on inmate cellphone dangers

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:6a4e2a7b7de74b3caa09cab4986bc441>

Meg Kinnard

South Carolina officials on Wednesday renewed their call for federal help in dealing with the dangers of cellphones behind prison walls, telling Federal Communications Commission officials they need permission to block cell signals altogether to keep both prison employees and the public at large safe. "Every day and every night, I hold my breath," Gov. Nikki Haley said during a hearing in Columbia with officials from the FCC and cellphone industry, saying she dreads getting a call that a cellphone-orchestrated prison riot has occurred. At Haley's invitation, FCC Commissioner Ajit Pai spent the day in the state, gathering information in what Pai has said he hopes will be an effort to rejuvenate agency action on cellphones. Haley and South Carolina prisons officials have long spoken of the dangers of cellphones, which are smuggled by the thousands into the state's institutions. Officials say they're thrown over fences inside hollowed out footballs, whisked in by corrupt employees or sometimes even dropped by drone. Corrections Director Bryan Stirling and his predecessor, Jon Ozmint, have sought permission to jam cell signals at the state's prisons, but a 1934 law says the FCC can grant permission to jam public airwaves only to federal agencies, not state or local ones.

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley calls attorney general dispute 'embarrassing mess'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160406/PC1603/160409637>

Cynthia Roldan and Gavin Jackson

Wilson fired Pascoe, a Dorchester County Democrat, last week in a dispute over who has the proper authority in moving the Statehouse probe to a grand jury — Pascoe as the appointed prosecutor or Wilson as the attorney general who, by statute, oversees the panel. In a written statement, Wilson

said he was unaware of the controversial email sent by Piper. "When I learned of the email, I asked Mr. Piper to please refrain from sending emails or texts on matters regarding the office, even to trusted friends on his own time," Wilson stated. "All future discussions involving Mr. Pascoe's actions should take place in a court of law." The dispute over the firing is likely to be decided by the S.C. Supreme Court. It represents the latest twist in a probe of potential wrongdoing by unidentified lawmakers whose names are in a redacted State Law Enforcement Division report about possible Statehouse corruption. Wilson had recused himself from the case and "firewalled" his office from any involvement in investigating lawmakers whose names are redacted in the report.

Greenville News: Lockheed gives to state's flood relief efforts

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/04/06/lockheed-gives-states-flood-relief-efforts/82706636/>

Lockheed Martin demonstrated its support of South Carolina's flood relief efforts with a gift of \$25,000. Representatives of the company presented a check to South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley in response to the major flooding that hit the state in late 2015. The funds will be used specifically to support flood recovery costs to return military veterans and their families to their homes. Headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, Lockheed Martin is a global security and aerospace company that — with the addition of Sikorsky — employs approximately 126,000 people worldwide and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture, integration and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products and services.

Note: Haley has led the effort to raise funds for One SC, the organization established by the state to help South Carolinians rebuild and repair their homes that were damaged or destroyed during the flood. "We have neighbors and families who are still in need as we continue to rebuild a stronger South Carolina, and we are grateful for the continued generosity and kindness of so many across the state and country," said Haley.

WACH: Lockheed Martin donates \$25,000 to SC flood recovery efforts

<http://wach.com/news/local/lockheed-martin-donates-25000-to-sc-flood-recovery-efforts>

Matthew Stevens

Lockheed Martin has made a contribution to the flood relief efforts in South Carolina. Representatives presented a \$25,000 check to Governor Nikki Haley that will be used to help military veterans and their families return to their homes. "Our hope is that this gift will not only help restore the tangible losses caused by the flood, but will also provide encouragement to those who were impacted to know that neighbors are working together to rebuild our communities," said Don Erickson, Lockheed Martin Greenville Operations site director.

Note: The gift from Lockheed Martin is part of the One SC foundation established by Haley. "We have neighbors and families who are still in need as we continue to re-build a stronger South Carolina, and we are grateful for the continued generosity and kindness of so many across the state and country," said Haley.

General Assembly News:

Greenville News: Bright files bill that would restrict transgender bathroom access

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/04/06/bright-files-bill-would-restrict-transgender-bathroom-access/82718578/>

Amanda Coyne

S.C. Sen. Lee Bright, R-Spartanburg, has filed a bill that would bar transgender people from using public bathrooms, changing rooms and locker rooms that do not correspond with their biological sex.

and prevent local governments from passing legislation allowing it. The bill closely mirrors North Carolina's House Bill 2, which caused PayPal to withdraw from a project that would have created 400 jobs in Charlotte. Bright's bill would ban local governments from passing bills allowing transgender and other LGBT people from allowing them to use facilities designated for the gender with which they identify, as the North Carolina law does. The staunch social conservative is currently facing a four-way primary contest for his senate seat.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley said South Carolina did not need a law like this one when asked at a press conference Wednesday. "We passed a law back in 1999 that dealt with religious liberty and it basically reflected the federal law, and it works just fine," Haley said. "In South Carolina, we are blessed because we don't have to mandate respect or kindness or responsibility in this state, and that law has worked perfectly."

Independent Mail: Bill based on N.C. "bathroom" law introduced in S.C. Senate

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/bill-based-on-nc-bathroom-law-introduced-in-sc-senate-2fd62d6f-7f17-7a2a-e053-0100007fc017-374791411.html>

Kirk Brown

A bill based on North Carolina's controversial "bathroom" law was proposed Wednesday in the South Carolina Senate. Sen. Lee Bright, a Spartanburg County Republican, introduced legislation that he says is based on a bill that North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory signed into law last month requiring transgender people to use public bathrooms that correspond with their birth gender. Sen. Kevin Bryant, a Republican from Anderson, said he is co-sponsoring Bright's bill. Supporters say the North Carolina law will protect women and children, but the measure has sparked a backlash from critics who say it excludes gay and transgender people from legal protections. Citing its opposition to the law, PayPal said this week that it is canceling plans for a facility in Charlotte that would have resulted in 400 new jobs. In brief remarks on the Senate floor, Bright said, "Men and women sharing the same bathroom is just beyond me." "I want to stand with North Carolina" in promoting "common decency and common sense," Bright said.

The State: SC bill would ban transgender people from using bathrooms of their choosing

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article70332857.html>

Andy Shain

South Carolina would ban transgender people from using public bathrooms, showers or changing rooms of their choice under a bill introduced in the state Senate on Wednesday. If passed, the proposal from one of the Senate's staunchest conservatives, Lee Bright, R-Spartanburg, would prevent local governments from requiring businesses to accommodate transgender customers or workers who want to use bathrooms of their choosing. Bright also proposed mandating that government-run parks, museums and schools designate bathrooms, showers and changing rooms for use only by people based on their biological gender. Bright's bill comes on the heels of several measures in the South that curb transgender and gay rights, including ending employment protections and allowing businesses to not serve people based on the owners' religious beliefs.

Post and Courier: Anti-gay rights bill similar to what became law in North Carolina, just filed in South Carolina

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160406/PC1603/160409611>

Cynthia Roldan

A conservative South Carolina lawmaker from the Upstate has introduced a bill that's similar to the recently signed North Carolina law which prevents local governments from passing local laws that

require businesses provide bathrooms for transgender people. The bill was offered Wednesday by state Sen. Lee Bright, R-Roebuck.

The Herald: SC senator introduces transgender restroom bill modeled on NC law

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/state/south-carolina/article70347177.html>

Bristow Marchant

A controversial law blocking LGBT rights passed by the North Carolina legislature last month has caused a backlash from gay rights activists and the nation's business community. It also may have served as inspiration for one South Carolina senator. State Sen. Lee Bright, R-Spartanburg, has introduced legislation modeled on North Carolina's controversial law prohibiting local LGBT non-discrimination ordinances. If the South Carolina Legislature approves S.1203, filed Wednesday, local governments in South Carolina, like their North Carolina counterparts, will not be able to pass ordinances allowing transgender individuals to use the public restroom that aligns with their gender identity.

Sun News: Road project opponents to pay hefty fees under proposed law

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article70316712.html>

Audrey Hudson

Legislation moving through the state House and Senate would require that environmental groups using the legal system to object to road construction provide a sound basis for their claim before those projects are halted. Lawmakers supporting the bill, which includes almost all of the Horry County House delegation, say the legislation is needed to prevent the process from being abused to easily block road projects, including International Drive. "I started talking to folks on the coast, and they told me how any individual can just file an automatic stay against a project to slow it down for whatever reason," said state Rep. David Hiott, R-Pickens, chairman of the House Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee. "They could get a stay on a project which could prolong it and cost developers quite a bit of money," Hiott said. Hiott's bill in the House has 60 cosponsors, including nine of Horry County's 10 House representatives. Hiott says he's been promised the bill will get a hearing in the Judiciary Committee following the Easter recess, from which members are returning this week.

Sen. Shane Massey News:

Associated Press: Massey of Edgefield chosen to lead Republican SC senators

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=9SYfAppH](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=9SYfAppH)

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina's Republican senators have chosen Edgefield Sen. Shane Massey to lead their caucus. The chamber's controlling party unanimously elected the 40-year-old attorney Wednesday following a closed-door luncheon. No other senator was publicly considered. Massey replaces Sen. Harvey Peeler of Gaffney, who stepped down Tuesday after 11 years as majority leader. Massey says it's important for the "face of this caucus" to be younger, energetic and excited to lead on conservative issues. Massey faces a primary opponent in June. If voters re-elect him, he faces re-election as Senate majority leader in January.

The State: S.C. Senate Republicans elect Massey as new leader

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article70288137.html>

Cassie Cope and Andrew Shain

State Sen. Shane Massey, a rising star in the state GOP, was elected Senate majority leader Wednesday. The new head of the Senate Republican caucus, the 40-year-old Massey, an Edgefield attorney, succeeds Harvey Peeler, a Cherokee Republican who stepped down suddenly Tuesday. Peeler had led Senate Republicans for 11 years.

Post and Courier: Sen. Shane Massey elected by Republicans as new Senate Majority Leader

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160406/PC1603/160409618>

Cynthia Roldan

The Senate's new majority leader said Wednesday that ethics reform will be one of the chamber's top priorities. Sen. Shane Massey, R-Edgefield, was elected in a Republican caucus meeting that lasted fewer than 60 seconds. There was no opposition. The vote was taken just after the caucus met for lunch in a closed-door meeting. Massey said he was ready to be the younger face of the caucus and to lead on conservative issues. "I don't come into the job thinking it's going to be easy," he said. "No rose-colored glasses here. It's a tough job. But we've got some real issues that we've got to address in this state."

Greenville News: Shane Massey elected SC Senate majority leader

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/04/06/shane-massey-elected-sc-senate-majority-leader/82708474/>

Tim Smith

Sen. Shane Massey, an Edgefield Republican and one of the youngest faces in the Senate, is now the leader of Republicans in the chamber. Massey, 40, was elected Wednesday as Senate majority leader to succeed Sen. Harvey Peeler of Gaffney, who stepped down Tuesday from the position he held for 11 years. "I think it's time for a new generation to step up," Massey said minutes after he was elected. "I think it's important that the face of this caucus is someone who is younger and energetic and really excited to lead on conservative issues. I think I'm equipped to do that." Massey had vied for the job with Sen. Larry Grooms, a Berkeley County Republican and chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee.

Aiken Standard: Shane Massey elected Senate majority leader

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160406/AIK0101/160409667>

Christina Cleveland

South Carolina Sen. Shane Massey, R-Edgefield, has been chosen as the next Senate majority leader following the immediate resignation of Sen. Harvey Peeler, R-Gaffney, on Tuesday. Massey was first elected to the Senate in a 2007 special election and is seeking re-election this fall. The vote for the post was taken up Wednesday. Other senators who had reportedly expressed interest in the position, which will lead the chamber's Republican caucus, are Sens. Ronnie Cromer, of Prosperity and Larry Grooms, of Charleston.

Wilson-Pascoe Dispute:

The State: Attorney General Wilson responds to top aide's smear effort

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article70162807.html>

John Monk

Shortly before 10 pm Tuesday, after The State posted this story on its Web page, Wilson's press secretary emailed The State this statement: "As Mr. Piper stated earlier I was unaware of his email exchange with Mr. Moore." "When I learned of the email, I asked Mr. Piper to please refrain from sending emails or texts on matters regarding the office, even to trusted friends on his own time. "All



future discussions involving Mr. Pascoe's actions should take place in a court of law." End of statement

WIS: Complex intricacies makes Pascoe-Wilson dispute difficult to explain

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31660400/complex-intricacies-makes-pascoe-wilson-dispute-difficult-to-explain>

Jeremy Turnage

Attorney General Alan Wilson says he was "unaware" a member of his staff had asked the state's Republican Party chairman to help attack a prosecutor investigating public corruption. That development came Wednesday in the ongoing dispute between Wilson and special prosecutor David Pascoe. Wilson's actions have also sparked criticism from some legal experts who say he should not have publicly questioned Pascoe's competency. This story has a lot of moving parts involving politics as well as legal issues...

SC Agency News:

Post and Courier: Child fatality review teams would quickly identify at-risk homes

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160406/PC1603/160409620>

Maya T. Prabhu

As many as 800 children die each year in South Carolina and lawmakers are considering creating local review committees to study those deaths and, potentially, the need to remove other children from dangerous homes. Laura Hudson, with the S.C. Crime Victims' Council, told a Senate panel Wednesday that county coroners need the ability to properly identify suspicious child deaths within a week so they can address any danger at the home. The teams would be made of representatives from the coroner's office, law enforcement, child abuse professionals and the S.C. Department of Social Services. Teams would report findings to the State Child Fatality Advisory Committee. "DSS wanted to ensure that they got information rapidly so they can see if they had any involvement in that case, because then they would launch an internal investigation," Hudson said.

SC Elections:

Associated Press: Gambrell wins GOP runoff in SC Senate 4

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=A8htc4GK](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=A8htc4GK)

SC State Wire

State Rep. Mike Gambrell of Honea Path is the winner of the state Senate District 14 GOP runoff election. Media outlets report Gambrell received about 58 percent of the vote on Tuesday to defeat Williamston Town Councilman Rockey Burgess in the district in Anderson, Greenville and Abbeville counties. Gambrell has no opposition next month in the special election to fill the unexpired term of the late of Sen. Billy O'Dell who died in January. Gambrell and Burgess meet again in June in the GOP primary for a full Senate term. The winner of that primary then faces Williamston Democrat Mark Powell in November.

WACH: Five seeking council seat previously held by Kelvin Washington

<http://wach.com/news/local/five-seeking-council-seat-previously-held-by-kelvin-washington>

Matthew Stevens

The race to fill the vacant Richland County Council seat formerly held by Kelvin Washington has five hopefuls in the running. Governor Nikki Haley removed Kelvin Washington from his position March 26 for failing to pay his taxes. Washington is also facing felony DUI charges after a crash in Hopkins in

February that left one man seriously injured. According to the South Carolina Election Commission, five Democrats have filed for the District 10 seat, including former District 10 councilwoman and Washington's mother-in-law Bernice Scott. Along with Scott, Helen Taylor Bradley, Jerome Miller, Dalhi Myers and Mary Kirkland are running for the seat. The primary election will take place May 31, with any necessary runoffs happening June 14. The special election to fill Washington's seat is slated for July 19.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: Scope: Wilson, aide crossed line in attacking Pascoe

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article70317972.html>

Editorial: Cindi Ross Scope

WE PUT OUR attorneys general in a difficult position. We require them to be politicians in order to become attorney general, but once they are elected, we expect them to be impartial prosecutors, running what you could almost call a quasi-judicial office. I get that. I also get that Attorney General Alan Wilson was enraged, perhaps justifiably, over what he saw as a deceptive and misleading court document filed by First Circuit Solicitor David Pascoe in an effort to initiate a State Grand Jury investigation. By law, only the attorney general can do that. But none of that excuses the attempt by Mr. Wilson's deputy chief of staff to launch a political smear campaign against Mr. Pascoe after Mr. Wilson removed the solicitor from the investigation. Nor does it excuse Mr. Wilson's own attacks on Mr. Pascoe.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: June 27 trial set for friend of alleged church shooter

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=sLODt41V](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=sLODt41V)

SC State Wire

A late June trial has been set for Joey Meek, the friend of the man charged in the mass shootings at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston.

Federal prosecutors allege Meek did not tell investigators all he knew about Dylann Roof's plans to kill nine black parishioners last June. Court documents show U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel has set Meek's jury trial for June 27 through July 8. On July 11, Roof goes on trial in state court on nine counts of murder in a case in which the state is seeking the death penalty.

The federal government has not decided whether it will seek death against Roof in federal court where he faces charges of hate crimes and other counts. No date for Roof's federal trial has been set.

Post and Courier: Trial for Dylann Roof friend Joey Meek set for June 27 in Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160406/PC16/160409641>

Andrew Knapp

The trial for Joey Meek, the man accused of knowing about Dylann Roof's planned attack on Emanuel AME Church and doing nothing about it, has been scheduled for 9 a.m. June 27. Meek, 21, faces up to eight years in prison if convicted of misprision of a felony and lying to federal authorities. His trial in U.S. District Court in downtown Charleston could last until July 8, a scheduling notice filed late Tuesday by Judge Richard Gergel stated. That's three days before Roof's death penalty trial on murder, attempted murder and firearms charges is scheduled to start in state court.

Associated Press: New case managers will walk SC flooding victims through recovery

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article70273822.html#storylink=apmobile>

Avery G. Wilks

South Carolina residents still recovering from last fall's historic storm now can get more extensive long-term help through a new case management system. A \$6 million Federal Emergency Management Agency grant will pay for 42 case managers who will speak one-on-one with residents and connect them with recovery organizations that can help. Case managers from Heart & Hands Disaster Recovery, a New Jersey-based nonprofit, will work with each survivor to develop a long-term recovery plan and help them stay on track. Flood survivors can dial 2-1-1 to have their information entered into the system. "It's more of a one-on-one service," said Falon Alo, executive director of Hearts & Hands. "Long-term disaster recovery is a complex system that will morph and change as time goes on. There are different resources available today than will be available a month from now and six months from now."

Local News:

Post and Courier: Two more Boeing workers arrested on tax-evasion charges

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160406/PC16/160409628>

Dave Munday

Two more Boeing employees have been arrested on tax-evasion charges. That makes 13 employees arrested this week after S.C. Department of Revenue investigators said they fraudulently claimed they were exempt from state taxes and didn't file returns even though they knew they owed money. The two workers were arrested Wednesday morning on three charges each of willful attempt to evade or defeat tax. Each charge carries a \$10,000 fine and/or up to five years in prison. Their bail was set at \$15,000 each. More Boeing workers who deliberately failed to pay taxes are expected to be arrested, according to the Revenue Department.

Sun News: Retired Myrtle Beach judge indicted in \$600 million Social Security fraud scheme

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article70241512.html>

Elizabeth Townsend

A retired Myrtle Beach administrative law judge, a lawyer and a psychologist were charged in a federal indictment on Wednesday in a Kentucky courtroom for their involvement a scheme to fraudulently obtain more than \$600 million in federal disability payments for thousands of claimants. David Black Daugherty, 81, of Myrtle Beach, Eric Christopher Conn, 55, and Alfred Bradley Adkins, 44, both of Pikeville, Kentucky, were charged in an 18-count indictment returned Wednesday in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky.

Greenville News: Seneca tried to get Clemson professors fired for speaking out in Hammond Case, emails show

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2016/04/06/seneca-tried-get-clemson-professors-fired-speaking-out-zach-hammond-case-emails-show/82661134/>

Ron Barnett

While they were working to help the city of Seneca deal with the media onslaught in the aftermath of the Zachary Hammond shooting last year, Complete Public Relations also was drafting a letter to the president of Clemson University suggesting he fire two professors who spoke out against the city. That was just one chapter revealed in a three-month-long chain of emails between the Greenville PR firm and the city that the city's lawyers tried to shield from public view. Several of the 830 emails also show how the public relations consultant was evasive in answering some of the many questions from news media, including The Greenville News' inquiry about whether the police department had any



photos of the scene of the July 26, 2015 incident in which the 19-year-old Hammond was shot and killed by a Seneca police officer.

Greenville News : Attorney: Simpsonville had multiple FOIA violations in police chief suspension  
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/golden-strip/2016/04/05/attorney-simpsonville-had-multiple-foia-violations-police-chief-action/82659450/>

Nathaniel Cary and Scott Keeler

Not only did Simpsonville City Council's vote to take vague "action" against an "employee" at an emergency meeting Monday throw the city's residents into confusion over the job status of its police chief, it also may have been illegal. Simpsonville's council violated the fundamental provisions of the state's Freedom of Information Act because it never disclosed the action taken or the position of the employee the action was taken against, said Jay Bender, the state's top media law attorney who represents the South Carolina Press Association. It also violated FOIA by not properly disclosing the reason it went into executive session, Bender said. The city's longtime attorney, David Holmes, couldn't be reached for comment Tuesday. Attempts to reach Mayor Janice Curtis were unsuccessful Tuesday evening.

Associated Press: Orangeburg hospital makes job cuts, leaves some unfilled  
[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=hzkPEHi9](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=hzkPEHi9)

SC State Wire

An Orangeburg hospital is eliminating just over 30 jobs, reducing hours for 27 other employees and leaving an additional 30 positions vacant in order to save money. The Times and Democrat of Orangeburg reports (<http://bit.ly/1YeWw9b> ) the Regional Medical Center is making the moves to ensure the hospital can continue to serve the community in the future. Hospital President Tom Dandridge said in a statement that the plan is expected to save about \$5 million a year. He says the cuts are across the board and adds that while no services or programs are being eliminated, the hospital will have to operate more efficiently with a smaller staff.

Associated Press: Dozens attend meeting on lead in drinking water  
[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6oB4un1c](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6oB4un1c)

SC State Wire

Residents of two York County neighborhoods are concerned after testing found the amount of lead in their drinking water exceeded federal standards. More than 100 people from the River Hills neighborhood in Lake Wylie attended a public meeting on Tuesday but local media outlets report they didn't get all their questions answered. While state and local officials spoke in general about lead monitoring and local water sources, there was no representative at the meeting from Carolina Water Service which directly supplies water to almost 9,000 Lake Wylie residents. The Department of Health and Environmental Control is conducting studies to determine why lead levels may were elevated. David Baize, acting chief of DHEC's water bureau, said tests in several communities in upstate South Carolina have shown elevated lead levels in recent years, But he said those readings have not correlated with an increase in lead levels found in patients' blood.

Associated Press: Aiken County deputy arrested on child molestation charges  
[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=OE4VLsXS](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=OE4VLsXS)

SC State Wire

An Aiken County deputy has been fired after being arrested on child molestation charges. News outlets report that Detention Deputy Robert Beard was arrested Tuesday on a warrant obtained by the Richmond County Sheriff's Office. Authorities say Aiken County was notified last week that Beard

was the subject of a Richmond County investigation. He had been placed on administrative leave March 28, pending the outcome of the investigation. Beard is also being investigated by South Carolina Law Enforcement Division for incidents that authorities say happened in Aiken County. No other details into the investigation have been released. Beard had been with the Aiken County Sheriff's Office since 2014.

#### National News:

Associated Press: GOP's social, fiscal conservatives at odds over gay rights

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:3c42963c209348f69e57b634e9e8f9fb>

David A. Lieb

Republican lawmakers upset about the Supreme Court decision legalizing gay marriage have advanced measures in about a dozen states this year that could strengthen protections for those who refuse on religious grounds to provide services to same-sex couples. The bills could benefit court clerks, photographers, florists, bakers, wedding-hall operators and others who say gay matrimony goes against their beliefs. For a party already being torn apart by the presidential contest, the state legislative efforts have exposed deep rifts between the GOP's social conservatives and its pro-business wing. Business leaders worry that such measures will allow discrimination and scare away companies and major events. So far, only a few proposals have become law. Those include narrowly tailored protections shielding Florida clergy from having to perform same-sex weddings and college religious organizations in Kansas from losing aid.

Associated Press: Chaos in Cleveland? Odds of contested convention increase

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:c03b3970a2804aa2882c19bdaa3c2005>

Nancy Benac

The chances of a contested Republican national convention just got higher with Donald Trump's loss to Ted Cruz in Wisconsin. Despite his wide lead in the delegate count, Trump isn't scooping up delegates fast enough to ensure he'll win a majority during the primaries and caucuses. A look at what's known — and, more importantly, unknown — about how a contested convention might work...

Associated Press: A top haven for tax cheats that may surprise you: the US

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:6352562d2bf2487d8e7894f9aa8936a9>

Paul Wiseman and Marcy Gordon

The U.S. lambastes and strong-arms countries that help drug lords and millionaire investors hide their money from tax collectors. Critics say it should look closer to home. America itself is emerging as a top tax haven alongside the likes of Switzerland, the Cayman Islands and Panama, those seeking reform of the international tax system say. And states such as Delaware, Nevada, South Dakota and Wyoming, in particular, are competing with each other to provide foreigners with the secrecy they crave. "There's a big neon sign saying the U.S. is open to tax cheats," says John Christensen, executive director of the Tax Justice Network. America's openness to foreign tax evaders is coming under new scrutiny after the leak this week of 11.5 million confidential documents from a Panamanian law firm. The Panama Papers show how some of the world's richest people hide assets in shell companies to avoid paying taxes.

#### World News:

Associated Press: Politicians, celebs in spotlight over offshore accounts

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:067090bf7b0845b18922a8c9dc0c3b55>

Frank Jordans and Ken Moritsugu

The fallout from a massive leak of records on offshore accounts dragged a growing number of leaders and celebrities into the spotlight Wednesday, with a Bollywood actor, a race car driver and Ukraine's president among those denying they evaded taxes. The reports center on millions of documents detailing how the rich and powerful use shell companies in low-tax states like Panama or the Cayman Islands, sometimes giving them fanciful names like "Goldfinger" or "SkyFall." The suspicion that such accounts are used to skirt taxes prompted a rush of denials, statements and, in some cases, media blackouts. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko was the latest high-profile politician to face scrutiny over the issue, denying he had meant to evade taxes by putting his candy company offshore.

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