

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Public not always privy to Haley's political travel

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160924/160929727/public-not-always-privy-to-haleys-political-travel>

Gavin Jackson

Last September, Gov. Nikki Haley flew to Kentucky in support of a Republican candidate for governor — but didn't tell South Carolinians she was leaving. Nor did Haley's public schedule that week show trips to three other states, including Georgia, the weekend historic rains began falling in the state. Since taking office in 2011, the Lexington Republican has opted against publicizing her political travel plans or participation in campaign events outside the state, essentially saying such trips are not of interest to the public. A review of nearly two years of Haley's flight logs, public schedules and annual ethics disclosures by The Post and Courier discovered unreimbursed expenses for security provided by state agencies and inconsistent disclosure of events Haley attends. She repaid some money owed the state and has started to publish her non-state business-related trips more regularly after inquiries from The Post and Courier. The trips, costs and scrutiny will rise alongside her national profile should Haley follow three of her predecessors in the Governor's Mansion to become the chairwoman of the Republican Governors Association, a key fundraising position. Critics say her habit of non-disclosure flies in the face of transparency and accountability — issues Haley campaigned on following the scandals that nearly removed her predecessor from office.

NOTE: "Some of the things she does don't relate to her official duties as governor," Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams said, "and she retains the right to not announce those things to the media — something she believes the public understands."

NOTE: Adams said quarterly reviews of travel reimbursements stopped after Haley's 2014 re-election and will now resume.

NOTE: Adams said it can be difficult to release details for certain events since the governor is not organizing the event: "It's up to those involved with those events to announce them and invite press if that's appropriate."

The State: SC is 'breaking the law' by ignoring poor schools <http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article103762406.html>

Jamie Self

Valerie Williams remembers as a child being distracted by raindrops falling from the ceiling of the classroom in her Denmark elementary school. Today, more than two decades later, the 1950s-era elementary school still has a leaky roof. Its boiler overheats classrooms in winter. And, in the summer, air-conditioning window units buzz in classrooms while the tar-patched roof melts, sending black tar oozing earthward over the awnings.

"When is it going to change?" said the 36-year-old Williams, whose three daughters — ages 17, 15 and 9 — attend the district's schools. Despite promises to improve public education for all students, South Carolina's GOP-controlled state government has not addressed the disparities between poor school districts — almost all in black communities and in Democratic areas of the state — and wealthy districts — most in white Republican communities — that have been decades in the making.

NOTE: At Gov. Nikki Haley's encouragement, lawmakers have spent more in recent years on reading coaches, technology and students in poverty. But this year, legislators failed to pass Haley's proposal — the first of its kind in nearly two decades — to spend state money to help poor districts build and renovate schools. For decades, districts have had to raise money locally to upgrade facilities — leaving wealthier districts with strong tax bases with a huge advantage in facilities over poorer ones.

NOTE: In an interview Monday with The State, Gov. Nikki Haley would not endorse creating a statewide approach to funding schools. Instead, the Lexington Republican said she wants to focus spending on programs that are needed, and work to ensure school districts are spending money wisely and consolidating resources when possible.

NOTE: Haley also touted recent increases in spending on students in poverty as “one of the best things we could have done” to make school funding more equitable.

NOTE: Meanwhile, the added money for reading coaches and technology in poor school systems – touted by Haley as “transformational” – has been too little, critics say.

NOTE: In January, Haley also asked lawmakers to approve borrowing up to \$200 million a year to send to districts to help renovate and build new schools.

NOTE: Haley’s proposal was vague and did not pass. However, lawmakers have vowed to take it up in January, during the next legislative session. Meanwhile, the state is doing another study, surveying the building needs of districts.

Times and Democrat: My experience at Palmetto Girls' State

http://thetandd.com/lifestyles/orangeburgers/my-experience-at-palmetto-girls-state/article_9df9f4ff-319a-5071-8464-f8637353066a.html

Allaisha Manigault

My experience at Palmetto Girls State was one that I will never forget. At PGS, we learned about the aspects of being in a government from people who have had or have a government position in South Carolina. We had the opportunity to vote and see how things work in a government and how people are involved in the government. There were assemblies each day for us to hear stories of people participating in the government. I had the opportunity to meet new people from other counties. We became close friends. They taught us songs and chants that I will always hold near to my heart. The parade was fun to walk in, and we were able to meet the boys from Palmetto Boys State. We heard inspirational words of encouragement from Gov. Nikki Haley. The thing that I liked most about PGS was that it was an environment where we could be ourselves without any judgment. The counselors made it known that they were available at any time if we needed to talk. Even though they knew us for only a short period of time, they grew to love us and helped us to become respectful young ladies. I’m sad that I did not have a longer stay, but I am happy that I got this opportunity to attend PGS because it is truly an experience that changed my life.

Charlotte Protest Shooting:

Associated Press: Charlotte police release video of shooting but doubts remain

<http://bigstory.ap.org/1c665c41a0394499ab1b96b18558db68>

Meg Kinnard, Jonathan Drew and Emery D. Dalesio

Newly released police video of a black man's fatal shooting, sought by protesters for days, isn't settling questions about whether the man threatened police with a gun before he was felled by a black officer. Police said Keith Lamont Scott had a gun, though residents have said he was unarmed. It's not apparent in the video if he's holding anything shortly before he was shot. The dramatic video released by Charlotte police shows officers with guns drawn surrounding the man just before the shooting. In the dashboard camera video released Saturday night, Scott could be seen slowly backing away from his SUV with his hands down. Four shots are heard in quick succession, and he crumples to the ground mortally wounded. After the police vehicle dashboard camera and police body-cam videos were released, a fifth day of protests against Scott's fatal shooting was largely peaceful. Police blocked off downtown streets late into the night as they had throughout the day, allowing demonstrators to take over roadways without confrontations with vehicles.

Associated Press: The Latest: Protests expected around Charlotte Panthers game

<http://bigstory.ap.org/813ed575a599440fabe0cc1ab8416ef2>

Police are taking special security precautions in anticipation of protests around a football game in downtown Charlotte. The city has declared the Sunday afternoon game between the Charlotte Panthers and Minnesota Vikings an extraordinary event. That allows them to ban backpacks and regular items that can be used as weapons, such as chains and box cutters. It also allows police more latitude to stop and search people within

an area for several blocks in all directions from Bank of America Stadium. There have been protests every day since Keith Lamont Scott was shot to death by Charlotte police on Tuesday. In his request for the declaration, Police Chief Kerr Putney wrote that he has intelligence that more protests and "acts of disruption" are planned during the game.

Charlotte Observer: Charlotte police release videos of shooting of Keith Lamont Scott

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/local/crime/article103973781.html>

Mark Washburn, Helen Schwab and Adam Bell

Video footage released Saturday shows Keith Lamont Scott taking four steps slowly backward with his arms at his sides when he is hit in a burst of four gunshots from police, then crumples to the pavement. From neither vantage point – a police dashboard camera and a body camera worn by one of the officers on the scene – can it be determined whether Scott is holding a gun. But police can be heard repeatedly shouting "Drop the gun!" at the 43-year-old Scott, who died from his wounds Tuesday as his wife stood nearby. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Kerr Putney released the videos Saturday after a tumultuous week of protests and two nights of street violence spurred by the shooting. In the dashboard video, a police SUV can be seen pulling into the parking lot where Scott's white SUV is parked. An officer in a red shirt is visible pointing his weapon at Scott's vehicle, whose tinted windows are up. In a deadly tableau lasting about three seconds, Scott, surrounded by officers at varying distances, then opens his door, steps out, turns and walks backward, hands at his side. Four shots are heard and he falls.

Charlotte Observer: Clinton, Trump postpone Charlotte visits at request of mayor, governor

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/politics-government/article103948401.html>

Jim Morrill

Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton have postponed scheduled visits to Charlotte after a televised plea from Mayor Jennifer Roberts and, in the case of Trump, a request from Gov. Pat McCrory. Clinton had announced a Sunday morning visit, likely to an African American church, after her campaign conferred earlier Friday with city officials. And Trump had earlier announced a Tuesday appearance, which would have been his first following Monday's first presidential debate. Both visits could have come during the state of emergency that has followed Tuesday's police shooting of Keith Lamont Scott and the violent protests that followed. City and Clinton campaign officials say the campaign had conferred with city staff about a Sunday visit before announcing it at around 4:30 p.m. Friday. Then later Roberts cautioned against the campaign visits during an appearance on CNN.

Aiken Standard: USC Aiken officials, SGA president speak on 'inappropriate' tweet made after Black Lives Matter demonstration

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160924/160929752/usc-aiken-officials-sga-president-speak-on-x2018inappropriatex2019-tweet-made-after-black-lives-matter-demonstration>

Maayan Schechter

USC Aiken officials, including the university's student government president, are hoping to get in front of what officials are calling "inappropriate" and many are calling a racially insensitive tweet made by a female university student following a Black Lives Matter demonstration at a South Carolina high school Friday. Officials said the university's social media team first became aware of the tweet, which uses a racial slur, calls Black Lives Matter a "joke," and threatens to blow up Westwood High School in Columbia. Demonstrations have been held nationwide this week following two officer-involved shootings of black men – one in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and another in Charlotte, North Carolina. Speaking to the Aiken Standard by phone Saturday, Leslie Hull-Ryde, the university's director of news and information, said officials took immediate action when they became aware of the tweet's context; the university's actions included engaging campus and state authorities, in addition to speaking with the high school.

Post and Courier: Young S.C. Democrat Justin Bamberg making name for himself in police-shooting cases

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160923/160929683/young-sc-democrat-justin-bamberg-making-name-for-himself-in-police-shooting-cases>

Maya T. Prabhu

ustin Bamberg stood before a sea of reporters in Charlotte shortly before watching footage of police shooting and killing Keith Lamont Scott. "There's too much talk," the 29-year-old attorney from Bamberg told reporters Thursday. "We're not going to deal in skepticism, we're here to find out facts." As a member of the team of attorneys representing Scott's family, the Democratic state lawmaker and son of two law enforcement officers was in a place he has been in twice in the past year and a half — representing the families of black men who have been shot and killed by police in high-profile cases. Bamberg has represented the families of Alton Sterling, who was shot and killed in Baton Rouge this summer, and Walter Scott, who was killed by a North Charleston officer last year.

WSPA: SC's Police Body Camera Law Would Not Release Shooting Video

<http://wspa.com/2016/09/23/scs-police-body-cam-law-would-not-release-shooting-video/>

Robert Kittle

The calls continue to grow louder for Charlotte-Mecklenberg Police to release their video of the shooting death of Keith Lamont Scott, but Police Chief Kerr Putney is refusing, saying it would jeopardize the investigation. If the shooting had been in South Carolina, the state's body cam law would not let the public see the video either. Chief Putney says his department has video from at least one body camera and one dashboard camera of the shooting. Scott's wife shot cell phone video of the incident, but it doesn't show whether Scott had a gun. Police say he did and refused to drop it, while witnesses say he was holding a book and didn't have a gun. Jay Bender, a media attorney in South Carolina and expert on the Freedom of Information Act, says he thinks Charlotte police are making a mistake by not releasing the video. "The police will always release video when it shows the police doing something good. So that means if the police don't release a video, it's because it implicates the police in illegal or unethical conduct," he says

NOTE: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley signed the state's body cam law in June 2015. State lawmakers passed it after Walter Scott was shot in the back and killed by a North Charleston Police officer. That officer, Michael Slager, said that Scott had wrestled away his Taser so he feared for his life. But a bystander's cell phone video showed Scott running away from Slager when he was shot.

Morning News: Pee Dee law enforcement agencies receive grants for body cameras

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_b1558f38-8299-11e6-8a18-47cbb18c676e.html

Jessica Imbimbo

Law enforcement agencies across the Pee Dee are receiving thousands of dollars in grant money from the South Carolina Department of Public Safety to fund body-worn cameras for their officers. After state legislation was passed in June 2015 requiring law enforcement officers to wear body cameras, agencies were able to apply to the Public Safety Coordinating Council for funding for cameras as well as maintenance and storage fees. Of the 169 agencies that applied for funding, 165 were approved to receive money. According to Sherri Iacobelli, communications director for the Department of Public Safety, the amount of money an agency received was based on the number of officers expected to use the cameras, the size of the agency itself and storage and maintenance requests. Nearly \$5.8 million was disbursed to agencies across the state, including a number of agencies in the Pee Dee.

Post and Courier: Charlotte should look to Charleston for inspiration, for faith

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160925/160929691/charlotte-should-look-to-charleston-for-inspiration-for-faith>

Brian Hicks

That could have been us. As we watch what's happening in Charlotte, that thought undoubtedly sends a cold chill through many Lowcountry residents. Little more than a year ago — after Slager, after Emanuel — that could have been us. On Tuesday Charlotte police shot and killed Keith Lamont Scott, a man raised in Charleston, in an incident that quickly turned into another sad national controversy. The protests began before the echo of gunshot faded. Before long, one demonstrator was killed, the military was called in and the city was under curfew. Because of people like Chris Singleton. On Wednesday night the Charleston Southern University baseball star Tweeted a picture of us standing in Marion Square, forming the shape of a heart. And another of us walking in unity across the Ravenel Bridge. That is how Charleston responded to tragedy little more than a year ago, as Singleton knows all too well. You see, his mother was one of the victims in the

Emanuel AME shooting.

The State: Churches host Sunday vigil in Lower Richland to ease racial tensions

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article104071666.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

In a time where tensions about race are frequently in the news and on people's minds, three Midlands churches are coming together to promote unity. Today at 6 p.m., New Light Beulah Baptist Church, Beulah Baptist Church and Lebanon United Methodist Church are holding a community prayer vigil. The event location is New Light Beulah Baptist Church at 1330 Congaree Road, Hopkins. Organizers said the goal is to pray for Lower Richland and come together as one to "ease the racial tension that is brewing in our community."

General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Lawmakers: 2017 legislative session won't be 'tainted' by corruption probe

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160924/160929718/lawmakers-2017-legislative-session-wont-be-tainted-by-corruption-probe>

Robert Behre and Gavin Jackson

South Carolina House leaders are optimistic that the current ongoing Statehouse corruption investigation won't dampen the legislative session that begins in January. House Speaker Pro Tem Tommy Pope, R-York, said if the 124-member House navigated the fallout from former Speaker Bobby Harrell's scandal successfully, he's confident they'll be able to do so again. That is if charges result from the current, recent reports of records request by the investigation's special prosecutor, David Pascoe. "Under Speaker Jay Lucas' leadership, we were able to get a lot done in the aftermath after Speaker Harrell's issues," Pope said. "I don't know that any outcome will affect our effectiveness." Pope said the Republican caucus is cooperating with investigators' requests to turn over caucus financial information dating back to 1995. The investigation remains ongoing since it restarted under Pascoe following a state Supreme Court ruling in July that allowed him to empanel the state grand jury to continue his investigation. The investigation was derailed when S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson fired Pascoe for, among other things, attempting to empanel the grand jury without his permission, despite being recused.

The State: SC supports me for governor, McGill says

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article103993736.html>

Jamie Self

Yancey McGill is wasting no time gaining a fundraising edge in his bid to be the 2018 Republican nominee for governor. The longtime long-time state senator and brief lieutenant governor, who raised \$155,000 in May and June, will hold a fundraiser Oct. 6 in Florence. According to the invitation, 45 couples and 15 other people are hosting the event – a "who's who" of Pee Dee politics, according to one Republican operative. The fundraiser is one of six that McGill has planned, he told The Buzz. "We've been all over the state in all 46 counties, and we've realized the support is there to be elected the next governor of South Carolina," McGill said, adding he is confident he can raise the \$5 million or more that he foresees spending to be competitive in June's wide-open GOP primary. The longtime long-time Democratic state senator from Kingstree temporarily filled a vacancy in the lieutenant governor's office when Republican Glenn McConnell resigned. After leaving office, McGill switched to the GOP, saying he had stayed with the Democrats because his district was Democratic even though he sided with Republicans on abortion and spending.

Post and Courier: TravelswithCourson

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160924/160929718/lawmakers-2017-legislative-session-wont-be-tainted-by-corruption-probe>

Robert Behre and Gavin Jackson

State Senate Education Committee Chairman John Courson, R-Columbia, and fellow baseball aficionado Sen. Greg Gregory, R-Lancaster, road tripped to Camden Yards in Baltimore last week. With Tervises full of tea, a tank of gas and "the same six CDs in the changer as were there 3 years ago" Courson's 2002 Buick Park

Avenue, with Gregory riding shotgun, made its way north on Interstate 95 on Wednesday. Gregory has been documenting the journey on Twitter (@KlughGregory) with the hashtag and a heaping of dry wit, "Well, I guess HB2 is off the front page of the Charlotte Observer for the first time this year," musing if Pedro at South of the Border will be voting for Republican Donald Trump and letting followers know that "Dixie" was played when crossing into "Yankee territory." The comments were interspersed with photos from baseball games, stops at museums, a railroad crossing and commentary of what life is like north of the Potomac River where a Southern drawl as distinct as Courson's isn't too common. "Courson again having communication problems," Gregory tweeted Friday. "'Restaurant' and his pronunciation of 'Mary-Land' (are) vexing (the) natives."

NOTE: An email from Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster asked supporters to join him and his wife Peggy for an upcoming fundraiser to benefit Republican North Carolina Lt. Gov. Dan Forest. The first-term lieutenant governor faces Democratic challenger former state Rep. Linda Coleman. The McMasters will host Forest at their Columbia home on Oct. 11 with tickets ranging from \$100 to \$5,100.

NOTE: McMaster joins Gov. Nikki Haley in support of top North Carolina candidates. Haley has helped raise money of N.C. Gov. Pat McCrory over the years and recently attended a fundraiser for him in late August. McCrory faces off against Democratic N.C. Attorney General Roy Cooper for a second term.

SC Agency News:

The State: SC's female inmates now more likely to be white – but it's unclear why

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article104013221.html>

Cynthia Roldan

The number of white women in South Carolina prisons is surging, but state officials aren't sure why. White female inmates in the past decade have come to outnumber their African-American counterparts – a trend that is not reflected as dramatically among the state's male inmates. In 2004, black women made up 53 percent of South Carolina's female inmates in prison, while white women made up 46 percent. Those numbers have steadily shifted since. Even in 2010, when the state had a prison overcrowding issue, of the 1,597 female inmates, 45 percent were black. By 2016, the makeup of the female prison population more closely reflects the state's demographics. As of June 30, black women imprisoned at the Department of Corrections stood at 33 percent, and white women totaled 65 percent. South Carolina's population, both male and female, is 28 percent black, according to 2015 U.S. Census Bureau estimates. Yet, South Carolina officials can't agree on what precipitated the change over the past decade. Most were dumbfounded when told of the shift. But they welcome the change.

Post and Courier: Jail deputies learn new ways to deal with mentally ill inmates

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160925/160929789/jail-deputies-learn-new-ways-to-deal-with-mentally-ill-inmates>

Angie Jackson

For 45 long minutes, Deputy Michael Walters tried to talk the suicidal inmate down from a ledge in his holding cell at the Cannon Detention Center. Running out of options, Walters offered a deal: "If you come down, I'll pray with you," he told the man. It worked. Walters recalls the intensity of the encounter subsiding as the two prayed together in the cell. He looks back on the exchange with the troubled young man as a lesson in empathy and understanding during his eight-year career at the Charleston County jail. Now Walters says he'll strive to approach all inmates battling mental illnesses with a similar degree of compassion and respect after a recent week-long training for jail deputies that focused on mental health crisis intervention. "Prior to this training ... because we didn't understand them, it would be a good chance that we would use force. And that force can be as simple as holding them down, putting them back in their room or restraining them," he said. "This (training) right here just helps us to have empathy and use compassion because it's a crisis."

The State: SC's 'cost effective' road spending?

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article103993241.html>

Jamie Self

Someone did not get the memo. Critics of spending more on South Carolina's roads system say it is not a lack of money, – but a lack of effective management – behind the state's subpar roads. But, according to a Reason

Foundation report, South Carolina's roads system ranks first for "cost effectiveness." You would think that S.C. roads chief Christy Hall would be pleased by that plaudit. She isn't. Hall said the state's road repair agency just maintains roads with less money – and that is not good news. "(S)pending the least per mile in the nation means that some needs are unmet and deferred maintenance is accumulating rapidly," Hall said. Spending little also comes with a cost – in human lives. South Carolina was among the worst four states for road fatality rates, according to the Reason report.

Aiken Standard: South Carolina lawmakers assist in DSS case tied to Murphy Village

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160924/160929761/south-carolina-lawmakers-assist-in-dss-case-tied-to-murphy-village->

Michael Smith

State lawmakers have fielded calls from several residents concerning the S.C. Department of Social Services initiating proceedings relative to the custody of children in Murphy Village, home to one of the largest communities of Irish Travelers in the U.S.S.C. Rep. Bill Hixon's phone was ringing off the hook Friday from constituents from the North Augusta community, which recently received attention in a separate case involving the indictment of nearly two-dozen North Augusta and Augusta residents on racketeering and fraud charges in August. Only the calls Hixon, a Republican who represents the area of North Augusta, answered Friday came from Murphy Village residents upset about DSS initiating proceedings to take several children into custody. Hixon said not all travelers are bad people, contrary to public perception. "They feel like they're being discriminated against," Hixon said. "I feel for them. They were crying and they were upset." S.C. Sen. Tom Young, R-Aiken, said he's also received calls from several residents relating to DSS initiating proceedings. Young chairs the DSS Oversight Committee.

Aiken Standard: Court date for Murphy Village fraud scheme case moved up

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160924/160929751/court-date-for-murphy-village-fraud-scheme-case-moved-up->

Maayan Schechter

A pre-trial conference has been moved to an earlier date for all 22 North Augusta-area defendants indicted in one of the largest racketeering cases inside of the Irish Traveler community of Murphy Village. According to court records filed Friday, attorneys and their clients are required to attend a pre-trial conference at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the U.S. District Courthouse in Columbia. Federal Judge J. Michelle Childs will oversee the hearing, court documents state. If defendants plan to enter a guilty plea, a hearing will immediately follow the same day. Any plea agreements will have to be filed by noon on the business day prior to the pre-trial conference, court records state. All cases in which a guilty plea is not entered will be scheduled for jury selection at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 12 in federal court. Defendants were originally scheduled for a pre-trial conference on Sept. 29, but on Sept. 22 filed papers asking the Court to move their court date to December, because the "charges in this multi-defendant case are complex and the discovery in this case is both substantial and voluminous." Twenty North Augusta residents and two Augusta residents were indicted last month on racketeering and fraud charges that the U.S. Attorney's Office in Columbia said occurred inside of Murphy Village, one of the largest communities of Irish Travelers in the country. The isolated community straddles Aiken and Edgefield counties in North Augusta.

SC Delegation News:

Post and Courier: Democrats take on Republican incumbents for Congress against odds and expectations

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160925/160929750/democrats-take-on-republican-incumbents-for-congress-against-odds-and-expectations>

Emma Dumain

For the first time since the Tea Party wave of 2010, all six South Carolina Republican incumbents in the U.S. House — and one in the U.S. Senate — will face a Democratic challenger on Election Day. It's an exciting development for Palmetto State Democrats, who still struggle to be taken seriously in a political environment dominated by Republicans. But to say these candidates face steep odds would be an understatement. Most lack the money to pay for the trappings of a typical campaign operation, with yard signs and radio spots, a

designated office and a few paid staffers. They also lack name recognition and ties to local politics. None has ever held elected office.

Aiken Standard: Congress faces continuing resolution to avoid government shutdown

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160924/160929744/congress-faces-continuing-resolution-to-avoid-government-shutdown->

Thomas Gardiner

Focus in the nation's capitol is turning to the continuing resolution needed to prevent a government shutdown as appropriations bills, including the National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, remain unpassed. A continuing resolution continues funding from the previous year's appropriations, extending the period of time for Congress to set the new budget, according to USC Aiken Political Science Professor Dr. Steven Millies, "The idea is, so far as possible, to permit the federal budget to continue operating at 100 percent, or as close as possible, like 70 percent, of previous budget funding," he said. If a continuing resolution isn't passed to continue funding the federal government, the nation could face a federal government shutdown, similar to the shutdown in 2013. Millies said the economic impact of a government shutdown can quickly trickle down into communities with large government employment, such as a military base or federal operations like the Savannah River Site.

SC Political News:

The State: Trump taps SC donors for ever-moving Carolina fundraiser

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article103993526.html>

Jamie Self

It has been a reluctant romance. But some top S.C. Republican fundraisers are coming around to Donald Trump. Spartanburg financial consultant Barry Wynn, a leading booster for the Bush presidential campaigns, said the GOP presidential nominee's folks reached out to him for the first time in recent weeks. The former S.C. GOP chairman said he would help raise money, but did not request any formal role on Trump's finance team. "Don't need one, don't want one," Wynn said, adding he is happy to help as Trump's aides strive to reach the GOP's Old Guard – to "bring in some of the wayward crowd." "The galvanizing force there is (that) people just can't imagine the Clintons back in the White House," Wynn said. Other top GOP boosters are keeping low profiles this go-around, too, only recently hearing from the Trump campaign. "I'm gonna vote for Donald Trump, and I'm going to contribute some," said Florence doctor Eddie Floyd, a top GOP fundraiser for George W. Bush and, this year, a supporter of the failed bids for the GOP nomination by U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham and Jeb Bush. "But I'm not actively involved in his campaign."

Associated Press: Actor Jeffrey Wright to address Democrats' annual fundraiser

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ZhMKHT7w

SC State Wire

Actor Jeffrey Wright will be the keynote speaker of the South Carolina Democratic Party's annual fundraiser next week. The party announced Saturday that Wright will deliver the address at Friday's Jefferson-Jackson Dinner at the Columbia Convention Center. It will be the last time the fundraiser will go by that name. Wright has won a Tony, an Emmy and a Golden Globe and appeared in more than 35 films, including "The Hunger Games." The party's events will continue Saturday with an issues conference. Last month, its executive committee voted to rename the fundraiser, starting next year. It's been called the Jefferson-Jackson Dinner since 1987. The vote made South Carolina's Democratic Party the latest to distance itself from slave-owning presidents Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson, who are considered the party's founders.

The State: ETV decision on debate costs it at least two pledges

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article103993481.html>

Jamie Self

Bucking ETV: S.C. Educational Television's decision not to televise election debates this fall apparently is unpopular enough that some ETV donors are sending their pledges elsewhere. Two S.C. residents sent 2nd District Democrat Arik Bjorn's campaign a combined \$290 that they said otherwise would have been donated

to ETV, according to letters Bjorn showed The Buzz. The letter writers said they hope redirecting the donations sends the network a message. ETV has caught flak since deciding not to show any debates this fall, including a planned 2nd District debate between Bjorn and U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-Springdale.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: Scoppe: Poor schools score a big win — by not losing

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scoppe/article103734126.html>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

IT WAS A BIG WEEK for the poor, rural school districts that have been fighting for 23 years to force the state to do more to provide a decent education for their students: They won a significant victory in the state Supreme Court — by not losing. On its face, Tuesday's order in the Abbeville v. South Carolina school adequacy case seemed pretty mundane: The court denied the school districts' request to order the Legislature to do more — and more quickly — to help the districts. It also denied the Legislature's request to stop monitoring what the Legislature is or isn't doing. Instead, the court praised the work lawmakers had done this year — particularly work by the House — and told the Legislature and the districts to report back in June on what they have accomplished. But up until it released that order, it seemed entirely possible that the court was about to wash its hands of the whole matter, leaving the Legislature to comply or not comply with the landmark 2014 ruling that ordered the state to provide the children in our poorest districts with the education they need to get good jobs and support their families and pay taxes and in other ways help make our state a better place for us all. Little wonder, then, that despite having all of his arguments about the Legislature's foot-dragging and counter-productive actions rejected, the school districts' lead attorney, Carl Epps, pronounced himself pleased by the order.

NOTE: The Abbeville decision has been tenuous from the start: It contained no enforcement mechanism and was signed by three justices but flatly rejected by the other two. A year ago, that same three-justice majority ordered the Legislature and Gov. Nikki Haley to jointly appoint a member to a panel it was creating to review an education "plan" that it ordered the state to present by Feb. 1, and the two dissenters in Abbeville I objected to that enforcement order.

Post and Courier: Trumps' S.C. foray: So far, not so great

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160925/160929642/trumps-sc-foray-so-far-not-so-great>

Editorial: Steve Bailey

Donald Trump loves to see his name on his properties — often in large, gilded capital letters. And he has made a fortune doing it. There is the Trump Tower, of course, the Trump Taj Mahal and the Trump Palace, to name just three. Sometimes he builds them, sometimes he just licenses his name to other developers. There are Trump golf courses, steaks, shirts and ties, water, energy drinks, cologne and vodka. Once upon a time there was a Trump University. But outside Trump's only property in South Carolina there is not so much as a sign, gilded or otherwise. No flag flies from the pole outside. A high chain-link fence, topped with barbed wire, rings the property, which is overgrown with weeds. The last tenant moved out last year, and filed a lawsuit charging a leaky roof cost it millions in ruined products. That smell blanketing the place is from a waste disposal facility next door.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: A property tax exemption for certain disabled homeowners, and former POWs

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160925/160929801/a-property-tax-exemption-for-certain-disabled-homeowners-and-former-pows>

David Slade

There are nearly 20,000 homeowners in South Carolina whose houses are exempt from property tax. The exemptions are unrelated to income or ability to pay, and are granted by the state Department of Revenue through sections of the tax code that benefit people who are totally disabled, those who were once prisoners of war, and the surviving spouses of persons who qualified or would have qualified. This is not a tax break you want to qualify for, given the requirements, but it's one that lots of people likely don't know about. The

standards for "total disability" vary, depending on the exemption, but being considered disabled for Social Security purposes does not count. Most of the property tax exemptions are tailored to veterans, firefighters and law enforcement officers. One is available to anyone with paraplegia (paralysis of the lower limbs), hemiplegia (paralysis of half the body), or similar ambulatory difficulties due to Parkinson's disease, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease) or multiple sclerosis.

Post and Courier: Electric bill: 'Look at whole picture,' utility CEO says of South Carolina nuclear project costs
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160924/160929712/electric-bill-look-at-whole-picture-utility-ceo-says-of-south-carolina-nuclear-project-costs>

David Wren

South Carolina Electric & Gas — the majority owner of the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station here — sought last week to shift the focus away from recent rate hikes and construction cost overruns, instead touting lower financing costs and a heftier tax credit payout that could be of bigger benefit to consumers. "While people talk about the cost increases, you have to look at the whole picture," said Kevin Marsh, chairman and CEO of SCE&G parent SCANA Corp. When those finance savings and tax credits are factored against the cost overruns, Marsh said, the utility is "close to where we said we would be" in terms of V.C. Summer's overall costs. One of the utility's biggest critics, disagrees, saying SCE&G is trying to take credit for financial benefits it had nothing to do with.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Charleston advocates raise funds and awareness at Hope Walk to End Domestic Violence
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160924/160929609/charleston-advocates-raise-funds-and-awareness-at-hope-walk-to-end-domestic-violence>

Gregory Yee

Michele Messer has a message of hope for anyone who will listen: Help is out there for victims of domestic violence. Messer told her story Saturday morning near the Charleston entrance of the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge where a group of at least 150 had gathered for a new event, the Hope Walk to End Domestic Violence. In February 2015, Messer was attacked by her ex-boyfriend. He bit her nose off and tried to kill her, she said. "Over the next year I went through three reconstructive surgeries and in that time I lost everything," Messer said. "I lost my home, my van, my stuff, everything. All I had was me and my kids and some clothes." Messer decided to relocate and was able to build a new life for herself and for her kids. "No matter how bad you think it is, no matter how much you think that you cannot get out of it or that you're not going to survive on your own, that's the only way that you can survive," Messer said. Messer was one of several speakers who shared stories or rallied the crowd before the event kicked off. Laurens Police Officer Michael Polson said he drove three hours to attend the Hope Walk in support of EA's Love for Life Foundation. The foundation, where he serves as a board member, is named after Emily Anna Asbill, a 19-year-old who was strangled in 2013 in Clinton, by her boyfriend, Polson said.

Associated Press: Families remember decades after worker killed their babies
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=vqiLJipf

SC State Wire

They are parents whose wretched loss cost them their faith in day cares, much of humanity and even God. Davis Daniel, 61, and Lindy McClarrrie, 51, share the pangs of losing their babies 23 years ago to Irmo day care owner Gail Cutro. Ashlan, Daniel's daughter, died Sept. 9, 1993, at age 4 months 18 days. McClarrrie's son, Parker Colson, died at age 4 months, 29 days. Cutro is in the state's women's prison, serving a life sentence for killing them. Daniel, a towering man who speaks softly and seldom, sat earlier this month in his den in Irmo trying to capture the devastation Cutro brought to him and his family over the loss of their little girl. "It was some rough times," said Daniel, who has had two heart attacks over the years. "I was real mad with God." He lives within a couple of miles of where Cutro ran her day care in the New Friarsgate subdivision. Daniel's home also is a short drive from where Ashlan is buried.

Associated Press: Man ticketed for accidental crash that killed pregnant woman

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ODmQIP8p

SC State Wire

A 20-year-old bicyclist who fatally struck a pregnant pedestrian in Pickens County has been ticketed for pedaling at night without a headlight. The Pickens County Sheriff's office says an investigation determined the July 22 collision in "extreme darkness" was an accident. Twenty-four-year-old Rose Higgins was walking with her boyfriend on a roadway, facing traffic, about 9:45 p.m. when Marvin Andrews struck her head-on. Authorities say Higgins and Andrews couldn't see each other before the crash. They don't know the bicycle's speed. Andrews is charged with operating a bicycle on the roadway at night without a headlight. A judge could fine him up to \$232.50. Higgins was 26 weeks pregnant. Her daughter was delivered by C-section after the crash. She died July 25. Higgins was pronounced dead the next day.

Associated Press: Father and son die in fiery, early-morning crash into home

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

SC State Wire

Kershaw County authorities say a 27-year-old driver ran a stop sign and crashed into a home, killing him and his father. Coroner David West says Maurice Millimer and his dad, 46-year-old Timothy Millimer, both of Blythewood, died in the fiery crash about 5 a.m. Saturday. Local media outlets report people inside the home called 911 and were able to get out without injuries. The home was about 200 feet from the intersection. The state Highway Patrol is investigating.

Associated Press: Coroner: Pedestrian possibly seeking help when struck by SUV

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=TLb1dyU3

SC State Wire

A pedestrian was fatally struck in Newberry County shortly after crashing his own truck. Newberry County Coroner Craig Newton told WYFF TV (<http://bit.ly/2dsIAMZ>) that 31-year-old Brandon Golston of Seneca was walking along a highway when a sport utility vehicle struck him about 4 a.m. Saturday. He died at the scene. Newton says Golston had crashed his truck about two-tenths of a mile away and may have been walking to get help when he was hit. State Highway 34 was closed and traffic was detoured for several hours while troopers investigated. The collision occurred about 6 miles east of Newberry. Lance Cpl. Tony Keller says a 20-year-old woman was driving the Mitsubishi SUV.

Associated Press: District arranging advanced heart tests for student athletes

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

SC State Wire

A rural Lexington County school district is making advanced heart tests available for hundreds of student athletes following the death of a high school football player in a neighboring district. Batesburg-Leesville educators are arranging for students to take echocardiograms next month following a parent's plea for the potential life-saving test. The State newspaper of Columbia reported Saturday (<http://bit.ly/2dpsgsl>). "A hidden condition is something a regular physical can't detect," said Michelle Peterson, whose 16-year-old son plays football and baseball for Batesburg-Leesville High. "We want to make sure everybody is aware of this. "The test, which uses ultrasound waves, recently determined her son has a thicker-than-normal heart. He's been cleared to continue playing but must avoid overexertion and drink lots of liquid, she said. Those results, coupled with last month's death of 14-year-old Lewis Simpkins, led Peterson's husband, Greg, to urge school board members to have athletes tested.

Herald-Journal: Gaffney churches seek to stop Sunday alcohol sales

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20160924/gaffney-churches-seek-to-stop-sunday-alcohol-sales?rssfeed=true>

Bob Montgomery

Gaffney church leaders are trying to rally enough opposition to defeat a Sunday alcohol sales referendum on the Nov. 8 ballot. "They've got six days to do that stuff," Pastor Joel Phillips of Northside Baptist Church said, referring to current laws that allow restaurants and stores to sell alcohol Monday through Saturday. "Can we have one? Just give us one day. Sunday is the Lord's day. I believe we should keep it sacred." Phillips has

placed a digital sign in front of his church with scripture from the Bible citing the evils of alcohol, and urging voters to reject Sunday alcohol sales. City council last month voted 4-1 to put the question to voters on the November ballot. Mayor Henry Jolly, a referendum supporter, said council was simply responding to a petition signed by several restaurant owners seeking to balance the economic playing field with other cities and counties nearby that allow Sunday sales. "It's not a vote for or against alcohol," he said. "It will not be this council, but the citizens of Gaffney who make that decision. They can vote it straight up or down."

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: As Clinton focuses on debate, Trump says he'd champion women

<http://bigstory.ap.org/1b5c03902b7145bda6c4e5479e4cb1d3>

Jill Colvin

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is arguing that he'll do more to help women from the White House than Democratic rival Hillary Clinton. At the same time, he's taunting her over the infidelities of her husband. As Trump campaigned in the battleground state of Virginia, Clinton stayed close to home in New York while preparing for Monday night's opening debate. She was spotted at a Westchester hotel near her home in Chappaqua, but her campaign would not comment on whether she was holding practice sessions at the hotel. Clinton and Trump were expected to meet separately on Sunday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has sought to project neutrality in this year's election. There were perceptions that he favored Mitt Romney over President Barack Obama in 2012. Trump told supporters at a rally Saturday in Roanoke, Virginia, that Clinton has not delivered for women and children.

Associated Press: Ted Cruz calls his decision to back Trump 'agonizing'

<http://bigstory.ap.org/4b961e61430b4605aa537d1add6efecd>

Will Weissert

Ted Cruz appears uncomfortable defending the man he says he'll vote for in November, Donald Trump. Addressing a policy forum organized by The Texas Tribune, the Texas senator said Saturday it was "agonizing" making the decision to back Trump, whom he once called a "pathological liar" and "serial philanderer." He denied he caved in to pressure from top Republicans nationally and in his home state, saying he would have faced an outcry no matter what. "Any path we took, if I supported Donald, if I didn't support Donald, the criticism was going to be there," Cruz told a packed auditorium. Cruz offered little defense of Trump's past comments on Muslim-Americans. He also said his two young daughters, while campaigning with him in the primaries, had felt the sting of Trump's comments about women. Asked whether he thought Russian President Vladimir Putin was a better leader than President Barack Obama, as Trump suggested, Cruz said, "I have no intention of defending everything Donald Trump says or does."

Associated Press: Clinton, Trump to meet separately with Israel PM Netanyahu

<http://bigstory.ap.org/97cfc3e1cceb4f719cf6878c89dd4b24>

Ken Thomas

Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump are meeting separately with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday in sessions that could set the tone for relations between the allied countries during the next presidential administration. Trump met Sunday with Netanyahu at Trump Tower, where he lives. Clinton also was expected to meet with the prime minister in New York on the eve of the first debate between the candidates. The Israeli leader has sought to project neutrality this time after perceptions arose that he favored Mitt Romney over President Barack Obama in 2012. The one-on-one discussions will follow what was likely Netanyahu's final meeting with Obama last week, capping what has been a sometimes rocky relationship between the leaders of the two allies. The Obama administration has opposed Israel's push to expand settlements in the West Bank while Netanyahu has been a leading critic of the U.S. nuclear agreement with Iran. More recently, Netanyahu has urged Obama to avoid pushing for a Palestinian state in his final months in office.

National News:

Associated Press: Marlins say Jose Fernandez has been killed

<http://bigstory.ap.org/d8a65392c58241d495ace8248e68d4fa>

Jose Fernandez, the ace right-hander for the Miami Marlins who escaped Cuba to become one of baseball's brightest stars, was killed in boating accident early Sunday morning. Fernandez was 24. The Marlins announced Fernandez's death, and the U.S. Coast Guard confirmed that Fernandez was one of three people killed in a boat crash off Miami Beach. In the statement, the Marlins say they are "devastated by the tragic loss of José Fernández. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this very difficult time." Chief Petty Officer Nyxolyno Cangemi told The Associated Press that a Coast Guard patrol boat spotted an overturned boat at 3:30 a.m. on a jetty near Government Cut. The bodies were discovered a short time later. Because the boat was on a jetty, the Coast Guard notified Miami-Dade police, which turned the investigation over to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Fernandez was on a 32-foot vessel that had a "severe impact" with a jetty, said Lorenzo Veloz of the Fish Commission.

Associated Press: Police: Washington shooting suspect 'zombie-like' at arrest

<http://bigstory.ap.org/c93596c5db8b4096b36fb611865ca49c>

Phyong Le and Gillian Flaccus

The 20-year-old suspect in the deadly Washington state mall shooting said nothing and appeared "zombie-like" when he was arrested by authorities nearly 24 hours into an intense manhunt, authorities said. As the small city absorbed the news, critical questions remained, including the shooter's motive. Island County Sheriff's Lt. Mike Hawley said he spotted Arcan Cetin from a patrol car Saturday evening in Oak Harbor, Washington, and immediately recognized him as the suspect who killed five people at the Cascade Mall in nearby Burlington. Hawley said at a news conference they had received information that Cetin, of Oak Harbor, was in the area. Cetin, who immigrated to the U.S. from Turkey, is a legal permanent resident who has been living in Oak Harbor, authorities said. He had been arrested once before in the county for assault, Hawley said.

Associated Press: Key developments in the New Jersey bridge lane-closing trial

<http://bigstory.ap.org/bc18336fbbfc4d6aa918bf224186971d>

David Porter

The first week's testimony in the George Washington Bridge lane-closing trial has been aimed at putting two former allies of New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie at the center of a plot to punish a local mayor who didn't endorse the Republican governor. But revelations about Christie's office behind-the-scenes and at the Port Authority that operates the bridge have gotten at least as much attention. Christie acquaintance David Wildstein testified the Port Authority, where he previously worked, was used by Christie's office as a source of political favors handed out to Democratic mayors whose endorsements Christie wanted. Wildstein is back on the stand this week. He's expected to tie his former boss, Bill Baroni, and former Christie deputy Bridget Kelly to a political revenge scheme against Fort Lee's Democratic mayor.

World News:

Associated Press: In battle for Iraq's Mosul, many forces with many motives

<http://bigstory.ap.org/3ba5858c09ee494ca5f74806e83ed20f>

Sussing George and Lee Keath

An unlikely array of forces is converging on the city of Mosul, lining up for a battle on the historic plains of northern Iraq that is likely to be decisive in the war against the Islamic State group. The tacit alliance — Iraqi troops alongside Shiite militiamen, Kurdish fighters, Sunni Arab tribesmen and U.S. special forces — underscores the importance of this battle. Retaking Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, would effectively break the back of the militant group, ending their self-declared "caliphate," at least in Iraq. But victory doesn't mean an end to the conflict. In a post-Islamic State Iraq, the enmities and rivalries among the players in the anti-IS coalition could easily erupt. The battle, expected near the end of the year, threatens to be long and grueling. If IS fighters dig in against an assault, they have hundreds of thousands of residents in the city as potential human shields. And as residents flee, they fuel the humanitarian crisis in Iraq's Kurdish region around Mosul, where camps are already overcrowded with more than 1.6 million people displaced over the past two years. Humanitarian groups are rushing to prepare for potentially 1 million more who could be displaced by a Mosul

assault.

Associated Press: N. Korean defectors sold as brides in China want kids back

<http://bigstory.ap.org/cd52b637ac964540841f213e694ad3c8>

Hung-Jin Kim

After fleeing North Korea to avoid extreme poverty and oppression, the young woman allowed a stranger to arrange a marriage for her with a rural Chinese farmer because she had nowhere to go. An even more painful decision came later. She said severe abuse by her husband, including once being tied to a post, and the constant fear police would send her back to the North to face torture and prison convinced her that she needed to flee to South Korea. She decided she had to make the risky journey alone, leaving behind the young daughter she had with her Chinese husband. "My heart has been torn apart," the 35-year-old said of the daughter she left in the northeastern Chinese town of Longjing nearly 10 years ago, when the girl was 4. "I heard from my Chinese husband that my daughter cried herself to sleep and searched for me until she turned 8." She asked to be identified only by her surname, Kim, out of fear that publicity about her past would destroy her life in the South, where she has remarried and has two other children.

Associated Press: China begins operating world's largest radio telescope

<http://bigstory.ap.org/b51775577335473b9dfa783b6e293965>

Gillian The world's largest radio telescope began searching for signals from stars and galaxies and, perhaps, extraterrestrial life Sunday in a project demonstrating China's rising ambitions in space and its pursuit of international scientific prestige. Beijing has poured billions into such ambitious scientific projects as well as its military-backed space program, which saw the launch of China's second space station earlier this month. Measuring 500 meters in diameter, the radio telescope is nestled in a natural basin within a stunning landscape of lush green karst formations in southern Guizhou province. It took five years and \$180 million to complete and surpasses that of the 300-meter Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico, a dish used in research on stars that led to a Nobel Prize. The official Xinhua News Agency said hundreds of astronomers and enthusiasts watched the launch of the Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Telescope, or FAST, in the county of Pingtang. Wong

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Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044