

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
To:
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Subject: Clips – Saturday, May 14, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

WIS: Hurricane preparedness summit highlights ongoing issues from last year's flood

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31970211/hurricane-preparedness-summit-highlights-ongoing-issues-from-last-years-flood>

Jack Kuenzie

We are just a few days away from the start of hurricane season. As always, state officials are ramping up their efforts to get ready. But this year, they have some additional experience to help them along.

Note: This year's version of the meeting were enhanced by the experience much of state government had in dealing with winter storms and especially last October's flood disaster. Haley says there were lessons learned in the wake of that crisis.

Note: "We need more shelters," Haley said. "I don't feel comfortable with the number of shelters that we have should. We have a hurricane, we want to make sure we have more shelters, so I'm working with Director Stenson. We're also going to start working with our Department of Commerce because we have distribution centers. We have businesses that have offered their places up and so making sure that we have additional shelters is something that I'm making a priority. Making sure that we have contracts for additional ambulances. Because we want to make sure that we have more than we have now. Probably another 100 to 200 ambulances would be helpful."

Note: Haley says state government needs to work on smoother coordination with volunteer non-profits so that the type of aid offered is the type that's actually needed. But it's not just the state looking at ways to be prepared. The governor and others say we all need to create family plans to deal with potentially life-threatening weather and understand the zones we live in and how to evacuate.

The Tennessean: Gov. Nikki Haley: Tennessee, South Carolina part of 'new South'

<http://www.tennessean.com/story/news/politics/2016/05/13/gov-nikki-haley-tennessee-republicans-gather-annual-fundraiser/84345700/>

Joel Ebert

As Tennessee Republicans gathered in Nashville on Friday for their annual fundraiser, they largely remained mum on the party's presumptive presidential nominee while highlighting the party's successes and outlining their vision of the future for the state and the country. Around 1,200 Republicans flocked to the Music City Center to attend the Tennessee Republican Party's Statesmen's Dinner, which featured South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley as the keynote speaker.

Note: In her speech, which covered a variety of topics ranging from education and employment to last year's shooting in Charleston that left nine dead, Haley urged the importance of listening to all citizens. Haley, who was born to Indian Sikh parents, stressed the need for tackling difficult issues such as racial discrimination to help the "new South" move forward and to invite new people into the Republican Party.

WKRN: Republicans hold annual Statesmen's Dinner, honor Sen. Fred Thompson

<http://wkrn.com/2016/05/13/republicans-hold-annual-statesmens-dinner-honor-sen-fred-thompson/>

Nick Caloway

The late Sen. Fred Thompson was honored as one of the legends of Tennessee politics at the TN GOP Statesmen's Dinner Friday night. Around 1,200 people attended the event at Nashville's Music City Center. South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley was the keynote speaker. Gov. Haley, the daughter of Indian immigrants, talked at great length about race relations in her home state and nationwide. She said the Republican Party

needs to change its approach and better serve minorities.

WZTV: Confederate Flag Supporters Gather Outside Republican Statesmen's Dinner in Nashville

<http://fox17.com/news/local/confederate-flag-supporters-gather-outside-republican-statesmens-dinner-in-nashville>

Mikayla Lewis

A unique protest took place outside the Music City Center Friday as the Tennessee Republican Party held its annual Statesmen's Dinner. The republican fundraiser's keynote speaker is South Carolina's Governor, Nikki Haley. A small group says they gathered last minute to stand against what the governor says she stands for. Elizabeth Coker says this grassroots group is protesting the Republican Party's keynote speaker. Coker said confederate flag supporters disagree with Haley's decision, that came following a 21-year-old killing 9 people inside a historic church.

Aiken Standard: Ribbon-cutting ceremony held at Aiken Horse Park

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160513/AIK0101/160519705>

Dede Biles

Bruce Duchossois' dream was to develop a state of the art equestrian center at the 66-acre Aiken Horse Park. He also wanted it to be a place that was aesthetically appealing with trees, shrubs and lots of green grass. Duchossois died in 2014, but members of his family said Friday that he would have been pleased with how everything has turned out. They were at the Horse Park's Bruce's Field for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and the \$25,000 United States Hunter Jumper Association International Hunter Derby.

Note: A prerecorded message from Gov. Nikki Haley also was played. "There is such a love for the equine industry in Aiken," she said. "It's part of the culture and part of the community. It's part of what makes Aiken so great, and we are so excited about all the opportunities Bruce's Field has to give. This really makes it another great day in South Carolina."

Sun News: CCU chairman pledges money toward football stadium project, asks others to join him

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/sports/college/big-south/coastal-carolina-university/article77536402.html>

Ryan Young

Wyatt Henderson, the chairman of the Coastal Carolina University board of trustees, said Friday it's important he and the trustees set an example as they ask supporters of the school to contribute to the stalled Brooks Stadium expansion project. Henderson said he and his wife Stacy have pledged at least \$25,000, and that he has other trustees on board to pledge donations once the football stadium project moves forward and final plans can be completed by the architects. That remains the hang-up, though, as university leaders see it.

Note: The website CoastalFans.com, meanwhile, launched a petition Wednesday night on Change.org asking for Gov. Nikki Haley to intervene with the CHE. That petition had more than 1,800 online signatures as of Friday afternoon.

Morning News: EDITORIAL: Haley's veto of farm aid a very bad idea

http://m.scnw.com/opinion/article_b43572c6-1986-11e6-9c76-73d7cda16a00.html?mode=jqm

Thumbs down to S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley for saying she will veto a state plan to provide financial aid to farmers. These farmers suffered \$330 million in losses because of the heavy rain and floods that hit the state hard in October. Earlier this month, the General Assembly passed a bill to give \$40 million to farmers for relief. The votes weren't close. Near the end of April, a bill passed in the Senate by a vote of 33-3. The bill sailed through the House on May 4 by a vote of 85-2.

General Assembly News:

Island Packet: Hunting Island supporters push for money to restore beaches

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article77552882.html>

Stephen Fastenau

Hunting Island supporters are rallying to ensure millions of dollars to restore the island's beaches remains in

the state budget. Earlier this month, S.C. senators allotted just \$20 million for S.C. beach renourishment projects for the fiscal year that begins July 1. That's half of the \$40 million that Gov. Nikki Haley and the S.C. House of Representatives proposed spending. The money would benefit a list of state beaches including Hunting Island, home to one of the state's most popular parks where beaches are grappling with aggressive erosion that takes away about 5 to 30 feet of beach per year.

Post and Courier: Beer coupons by phone proposal breezing through the Legislature

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160513/PC1603/160519728>

Cynthia Roldan

Beer and wine drinkers could soon buy brewskies and bottles at cheaper rates if a bill making its way through the Legislature expanding the use of coupons becomes law. Currently, beer enthusiasts can buy it cheaper through peel-off coupons that ship with beer packages or are available in stores. They can be cashed at the register for an immediate discount. But the "beer coupons" bill would quicken the process by allowing manufacturers or wholesalers to provide coupons electronically. Offers could be downloaded right into consumer cellphones.

Greenville News: Senate battle looms over moped safety bill

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/05/13/senate-battle-looms-over-moped-safety-bill/84193742/>

Tim Smith

A state senator plans to push a House-passed moped safety bill in the Senate's final weeks, but it could be blocked over objections that the bill would be too costly for the working poor. The legislation, years in the making, would require moped operators to be licensed, insured and for the first time fall under traffic laws that govern other vehicle operators. Sen. Greg Hembree, an Horry County Republican and former prosecutor, said he hopes those who have opposed moped regulation in the past will look at the bill's impact on safety.

WLTX: SC Senator Blocking Highway Safety Bill

<http://www.wltx.com/news/local/sc-senator-blocking-highway-safety-bill/190777757>

Robert Kittle

The South Carolina Senate and House have both passed a bill to improve safety in highway work zones, but one state senator is blocking its final passage because he says it would be unfair. The bill would increase the penalties and fines for speeding in highway work zones. The bill is called "Peanut's Law," after Kenneth "Peanut" Long, Jr. He was a highway work zone flag man working in Williamsburg County when he was hit and killed by a speeding driver in 2013. The driver got only a \$310 fine and four points on his license. Under this bill, someone who speeds in a work zone and kills someone could be charged with reckless vehicular homicide. Penalties would also increase if someone were injured, or just for speeding through a work zone without injury.

LGBT Laws:

McClatchy DC: Feds to schools: Let transgender students use bathrooms based on identity

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/white-house/article77374567.html>

Anita Kumar and Anna Douglas

Wading further into a spreading national debate, the Obama administration told all public school districts across the nation Friday morning that they should allow transgender students to use the bathrooms that match their gender identities. LGBT advocates billed the president's move as historic though the administration's letter does not mandate any actions and is considered guidance only for school officials. However, schools that do not abide could face a loss of federal aid, according to federal officials.

Associated Press: Reaction to President Obama's transgender directive

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=FmaKkKa7

Bruce Schreiner and Pat Eaton-Robb

Below are the reactions of state leaders, parents and students to guidance from President Barack Obama's

administration's directive that schools must permit transgender students to use restrooms consistent with their gender identity.

Note: In South Carolina last month, a high school student in Horry County was allowed to use the boys' bathroom after the Transgender Law Center threatened to sue, and the student's suspension in January over bathroom use was removed from his record. On Friday, Horry County School Board Chairman Joe DeFeo said the Obama directive is essentially moot because the issue is already before the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals. "I think we read it and continue doing what we're doing, and that's handling everything on a case-by-case basis," DeFeo told The Associated Press.

The State: States dig in against directive on transgender bathroom use

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

Joanathan Drew and Paul J. Weber

Politicians in Texas, Arkansas and elsewhere vowed defiance – and other conservative states could follow suit – after the Obama administration told public schools across the U.S. on Friday to let transgender students use the bathrooms and locker rooms that match their gender identity. In South Carolina, most Richland and Lexington county school districts declined to comment on the new guidelines from Washington. Others did not have direct answers as to whether transgender students currently use the restrooms or locker rooms of their choosing. One by one, conservative political leaders thundered against it and President Barack Obama.

WLTX: What Bathrooms Should Transgender Students Use?

<http://www.wltx.com/news/education/what-bathrooms-should-transgender-students-use/190635023>

Sonia Gutierrez

Federal officials sent public schools across America Friday guidelines on what bathroom should transgender students use in schools. The U.S. Department of Education says schools should let transgender students use the bathroom or locker room of their choice, even if it's not the one that corresponds to their birth certificate. There's been increasing debate recently about which bathroom transgender students should use, and this represents the first time the federal government has given specific guidance on a policy. This new rules state transgender students are not to be discriminated against and should be treated consistent with their gender identity.

The Herald: Rock Hill pastor seeks local restroom law to keep transgender people out

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article77522887.html>

Bristow Marchant and Anna Douglas

Just hours after North Carolina was sued over HB2 by the federal government, a Rock Hill pastor took his plea to local leaders, asking them to consider an ordinance that would prohibit people from using restrooms that don't match their biological sexes – even at private businesses. The Rock Hill City Council didn't vote or publicly debate the proposal from Joey Deese, senior pastor of Oakdale Baptist Church. He presented the idea during a citizen's hearing portion of the City Council's meeting, which doesn't guarantee the council will take up the issue in any way. Rock Hill Mayor Doug Echols declined to comment after the meeting.

The Herald: York County educators seek guidance on transgender restrooms

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/education/article77526282.html>

Jennifer Becknell

Education leaders in York County on Friday were waiting for guidance on a federal directive that schools should allow transgender students to use restrooms that match their gender identities. The Obama administration, wading further into a national debate, said it gave the directive Friday morning in a letter to all U.S. public school districts. Fort Mill schools Superintendent Chuck Epps said district schools will continue the current practice of working with students who have identified themselves as transgender and their parents on an individual basis.

News & Observer: NC's HB2 law inspires others to copy it despite tough federal stand

<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/article77505747.html>

Anna Douglas and Bristow Marchant

The high-profile legal spat over North Carolina's so-called bathroom bill may be inspiring – not deterring – some of the law's fiercest advocates to push for similar legislation in their own towns. Just hours after North Carolina was sued Monday over HB2 by the federal government, a pastor in Rock Hill, South Carolina, took his plea to local leaders, asking them to consider an ordinance that would prohibit people from using restrooms that don't match their biological sexes – even at private businesses.

Note: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley quickly turned down Bright's suggestion, saying the issue of where transgender people use the restroom isn't a problem in her state. Bright's bill ultimately failed to gather enough support to move through the legislature.

Savannah River Site/MOX News:

Post and Courier: U.S. Senate committee calls for \$340M for MOX construction

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160513/PC16/160519682>

Derrek Asberry

The federal government's attempt to terminate the Savannah River Site's unfinished plutonium recycling plant is proving difficult after a U.S. Senate committee authorized \$340 million on Thursday to support construction of the facility. The Senate Armed Services Committee joined its counterpart in the U.S. House by seeking construction funding for the plant in its version of the defense bill. The project — the mixed oxide fuel fabrication facility, or MOX — would meet an agreement with Russia by converting 34 metric tons of plutonium into commercial nuclear fuel.

Aiken Standard: Senate Armed Services Committee votes to support MOX project funding

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160513/AIK0101/160519710>

Thomas Gardiner

The Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication facility received a vote of confidence this week as the Senate Armed Services Committee voted to pass its version of the National Defense Authorization Act for the upcoming fiscal year. The Defense Act is passed by Congress nearly every year and outlines defense and national security spending. The Senate's version allots \$340 million for the continuation of the MOX program. The MOX program is part of a nuclear non-proliferation agreement with Russia to dispose of 34 tons of weapons-grade plutonium by developing it into commercial nuclear reactor fuel.

Aiken Standard: Chinese delegates visit U.S. nuclear sites with National Nuclear Safety Administration

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160513/AIK0101/160519715>

Thomas Gardiner

Delegates from multiple Chinese agencies were in Aiken and the CSRA this week for joint meetings with American nuclear organizations. The meetings were part of the U.S.-China Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Technology (PUNT) Agreement, which was put into place in 2002. Officials with the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Safety Administration met with the Chinese visitors May 10 and 11 at Savannah River National Laboratories. Agenda information was not immediately available, but according to past DOE reports, meetings under the PUNT Agreement cover subjects such as nuclear waste disposition and nuclear emergency management.

Wilson-Pascoe Dispute:

Post and Courier: Statehouse probe stalled while Supreme Court mulls who should control investigation

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160513/PC16/160519720>

Glenn Smith

An investigation into Statehouse corruption is stuck in limbo while the state Supreme Court tries to decide whether the probe should remain in the hands of a special prosecutor fired by the attorney general who appointed him. Many expected the high court to move swiftly to squelch the simmering feud between Attorney General Alan Wilson and 1st Circuit Solicitor David Pascoe. But seven weeks have passed since Wilson moved to dump Pascoe, and the justices haven't uttered a peep. Some legal observers have speculated the Supreme Court is dragging its feet to avoid issuing a contentious ruling before lawmakers vote on Justice

Donald Beatty's bid to lead the S.C. high court. The election for chief justice is scheduled for May 25, and Beatty is the lone candidate for the job.

SC Agency News:

Greenville News: Prisons battle wave of social media posts, cell phone use by inmates

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/05/13/prisons-battle-wave-social-media-posts-cell-phone-use-inmates/84198018/>

Tim Smith

So far this year, 66 state inmates have been disciplined for creating or assisting on social media sites, despite a ban on cell phones inside prisons and a lack of inmate access to computers. Those numbers are on track to slightly surpass last year's numbers of 131 disciplinary actions but are down from a peak of 218 in 2014, according to postings by the state Department of Corrections. Prison officials consider such access a serious issue because inmates can engage in criminal activity and because they use smuggled cell phones to post to the web.

Note: Bryan Stirling, the director of South Carolina's prison system, told a Federal Communications Commission's field hearing last month that the system has used every tool at its disposal to try and catch cell phones but he believes only a fraction of the devices are intercepted.

WACH: Road closures from October's floods down 92%

<http://wach.com/news/local/road-closures-from-octobers-floods-down-92>

Matthew Stevens

The SCDOT is continuing to make progress on flood damaged roads, bridges and dams. This past month the agency was reopened two more flood-damaged bridges in Richland County and Old Georgetown Road in Williamsburg County. "Seven months after the historic flood, we continue to prioritize the safety and efficiency of our road network," said SCDOT Secretary Christy Hall.

Associated Press: Director: Adult education critical for state's economy

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6vnA5PwR

Seanna Adcox

The director of South Carolina's education oversight agency says the state must ramp up efforts to educate and retrain adults, or jobs will vanish. A new report shows just 40 percent of South Carolina's adults ages 25 to 64 have an industry certification or degree beyond high school. Twelve percent lack even a high school diploma. Education Oversight Committee Director Melanie Barton says it's getting harder for businesses to hire people because the workforce isn't adequately trained. She fears businesses will move or cancel expansion plans if the numbers don't improve.

SC Political News:

Wall Street Journal: Hedge Fund Cash Flows To GOP Lawmakers Seeking To Loosen Government Grip on Fannie and Freddie

<http://blogs.wsj.com/moneybeat/2016/05/12/hedge-fund-cash-flows-to-gop-lawmakers-seeking-to-loosen-government-grip-on-fannie-and-freddie/>

Joe Light

Private shareholders of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have waged an intense lobbying campaign in an effort to drum up support for releasing the companies from government control and in the process restore some value to their shares. Few lawmakers have publicly sided with preserving the companies. But shareholders have been quick to contribute campaign donations to those lawmakers who have worked in their favor.

Note: In April this year, Rep. Mick Mulvaney (R., S.C.) introduced a bill of his own that would stop the sweep of Fannie's and Freddie's profits and allow them to build at the companies, setting a path for Fannie and Freddie to leave conservatorship. Publications including Politico reported that Mr. Mulvaney was working on such a bill in September last year. The same month, employees of Fannie and Freddie shareholder Perry Capital and lawyers from Gibson Dunn, which lobbies on Perry's behalf, together donated \$4,500 to Mr. Mulvaney's

campaigns.

Post and Courier: In recent Obamacare lawsuit victory, Republicans have Tom Rice to thank

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160513/160519726/in-recent-obamacare-lawsuit-victory-republicans-have-tom-rice-to-thank>

Emma Dumain

A federal judge on Thursday ruled the Obama administration was improperly funding a subsidy program of the Affordable Care Act, a victory for House Republicans who took the unprecedented action nearly two years ago to sue the White House. U.S. Rep. Tom Rice argues that he's partially to thank. The South Carolina Republican doesn't get much, if any, public credit for being the first member of Congress to broach the idea of filing a lawsuit against President Barack Obama on the grounds he was overstepping the limitations of the executive branch on health care, immigration and other issues.

Morning News: Florence's Pickle chosen as RNC national delegate

http://m.scnow.com/news/article_76af562e-195e-11e6-847e-639ab563fc1d.html?mode=jqm

Joshua Lloyd

The South Carolina Republican Party is sending 52 national delegates to Cleveland on July 18 for the Republican National Convention, and Florence's Bill Pickle was the 12th delegate chosen out of a field of more than 100. Pickle, host of Internet radio show "Inside the Pickle Barrel" and a former Florence County Republican Party chairman, joins South Carolina Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, Treasurer Curtis Loftis Jr. and Beaufort Sen. Tom Davis, among others. He said going to the national convention has always been on his radar, but this is the first opportunity he's had to make it happen.

South Strand News: 9 Georgetown County delegates on hand for SC Republican Convention

<http://www.southstrandnews.com/20160513/160519920/9-georgetown-county-delegates-on-hand-for-sc-republican-convention>

Max Hrenda

Although there were fewer delegates in attendance than in previous years, a Georgetown County Republican official said those who did attend the state convention in Columbia stood behind the party's presidential nominee, Donald Trump. Nine delegates from Georgetown County were on hand during the South Carolina Republican Convention, which was held Saturday, May 7, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center in Columbia.

Morning News: Florence political analysts size up likely Trump nomination

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_bedcbbd4-195d-11e6-82cf-8f1140117259.html

Joshua Lloyd

With New York business mogul and billionaire Donald Trump on the verge of clinching the Republican Party presidential nomination, GOP voters who aren't sold on a Trump presidency are left in an interesting quandary. Florence political analysts say Trump will get the delegate count needed soon and, barring a Republican National Convention rule change, he will become the GOP's nominee. They say this has left the traditional Republican Party in a state of confusion.

SC Elections:

Associated Press: Voter registration tops 3 million in South Carolina

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=c9cXsn3A

SC State Wire

More than 3 million people are now registered to vote in South Carolina with the deadline to get on the books looming. Saturday is the deadline to register for next month's state primaries. The South Carolina Election Commission reports that, as of May 5, there were just over 3 million registered voters in the state. That's almost 77 percent of the voting-age population. In 1990 only about 53 percent of the voting age population registered.

Greenville News: Sheriff candidate responds to accusations

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/elections/2016/05/13/sheriff-candidate-responds-accusations/84290854/>

Anna Lee

Former Greenville deputy Sam Manley said he's being falsely accused in a smear campaign as a candidate in the Greenville County sheriff's race. Manley is one of four ex-deputies challenging incumbent Steve Loftis in the Republican primary June 14. Addressing the audience at a public forum earlier this week, Manley said he was wrongfully terminated from the Greenville County Sheriff's Office in 2012 for what he described as a "minute policy violation."

Opinion/Editorial:

Post and Courier: Disclosure key to ethics reform

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160514/PC1002/160519662>

Editorial

The new ethics rules under legislative review would fill an important gap in public disclosure by requiring state lawmakers to list the sources of their income. Unfortunately, the rule wouldn't provide any detail about the amount, and that's a shortcoming that needs to be addressed. A report by David Slade in our Sunday newspaper points to a related area for legislative consideration. According to our report, a powerful Upstate House member, Rep. Brian White, R-Anderson, rented a 3,900-square-foot house from contributors in the nursing home field, which is regulated by the state. Bradley Moorhouse, who owns the house with his brother Brian, told our reporter it would be "totally inappropriate" to question if the house rental and campaign contributions were related or connected to business interests.

South Carolina News:

The State: FEMA money might insulate local taxpayers from brunt of flood recovery costs

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article77523142.html>

Avery G. Wilks

South Carolina has racked up an estimated \$275 million in expenses to fix the most pressing problems caused by last fall's historic floods, but one of the largest pots of available federal disaster aid might insulate Columbia-area residents from footing the bill. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is expected to pay about 75 percent – roughly \$207 million – of that bill through its public assistance program, which reimburses local and state agencies for up-front costs incurred while responding to disasters. Local officials say the reimbursements will help them avoid raising utility rates or property taxes to pay for recovery from the Oct. 4 deluge.

Associated Press: SC man accused of stealing \$131,000 in NY pension checks

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=GI09R8I9

SC State Wire

A Camden resident is accused of stealing \$131,000 in New York retirement benefits paid to a woman who died in 2010. New York authorities say 67-year-old Joseph Grossmann was arrested Thursday in Kershaw County and charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, punishable by up to 20 years in prison. Federal public defender Allen Burnside says Grossman was released the same day after promising to appear in a New York courtroom.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Solicitor targeted blacks while defense removed whites from death penalty jury, opponents argue

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160513/PC16/160519724>

Andrew Knapp

In picking the Charleston jurors who would vote to sentence a man to death in a now decade-old murder, a

prosecutor removed black people from the jury pool while a defense attorney targeted only whites, according to dueling court testimony this week. By highlighting how the man's lawyers threw out only white jurors during the 2009 trial, the S.C. Attorney General's Office sought Friday to show that 9th Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson had reasons other than race when she removed black people.

Post and Courier: Shooting tragedy, reconciliation draw members to new church

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160514/PC1204/160519706>

Bo Petersen

Paige and Brice Christian were well aware of the Emanuel AME Church shooting horror last year while they searched from Houston, Texas for a congregation to join here. As the bells of Charleston churches rang out on a Sunday in June the week after the horror, and people gathered in grief and healing in Marion Square in, the newly formed Awaken Church hosted a "Charleston United" worship and prayer among them. They were all one congregation come together to make a statement, said Brandon Bowers, the pastor, citing one of his favorite Bible verses, that "what the enemy intended for evil, God is using for good."

Greenville News: Clemson says banana hoax rumors false

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2016/05/13/clemson-says-banana-hoax-rumors-false/84350580/>

Ron Barnett

Rumors that the banana-hanging incident that sparked a nine-day sit-in at Clemson University was a hoax perpetrated by a black student to bring shame on the university are false, according to the university. Chief of Staff Max Allen responded late Friday to questions raised by students who alleged the university was covering up the truth behind the defacement of a banner depicting African American history. The university has not released the identity of the culprits, citing federal privacy law protecting students. They came forward to claim responsibility the day after the April 11 incident.

Morning News: Florence One students to be recognized by NAACP

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_c233be76-196a-11e6-9038-0bdeaf451ded.html

Shamira McCray

The top five African-American seniors at South Florence High School, West Florence High School and Wilson High School will be recognized Sunday by the Florence Branch of the NAACP at a special program. The Highway to Higher Education Program will be held at 5 p.m. Sunday at the New Ebenezer Baptist Church Strive Hard Recreational Center in Florence.

Independent Mail: Anderson County school district: Bullying not tolerated

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/anderson-county-school-district-bullying-not-tolerated--32bf1113-a1ab-7568-e053-0100007f7f7f-379437531.html>

Nikie Mayo

The day after media reports about a lawsuit filed against Anderson County School District 1, Superintendent David Havird issued a statement Friday saying officials there do not tolerate bullying. A teenage student at Powdersville Middle School has filed a lawsuit against the district, claiming that she was bullied by another female student repeatedly in 2015 and that school officials failed to protect her. According to the lawsuit, the bullying escalated to the point that the student plaintiff was attacked in a bathroom at a football game in late August 2015. The student who is accused of attacking her was suspended for five days, according to the lawsuit.

Greenville News: 2 students face charges after accidental shooting at Southside High

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2016/05/13/breaking-student-shot-southside-high-school/84321442/>

Rick Brundett, Nathaniel Cary and Anna Lee

A student was shot Friday morning in a crowded cafeteria at Southside High School, and two students face charges in the incident, authorities said Friday. Both students will be charged with unlawful carry of a firearm, disturbing schools and carrying weapons on school property, said Greenville County Sheriff's Lt. James Beaver.

One will be charged as a minor. The second is Braylin D'Andre Scott, 17, according to warrants. He will be charged as an adult, Beaver said.

Greenville News: School security questioned after Southside High shooting

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/education/2016/05/13/school-security-questioned-after-southside-high-shooting/84341676/>

Nathaniel Cary

The Sheriff's Office received a 911 call at 8:35 a.m. and immediately sent units that were in the area, who secured the scene, established a perimeter and began to investigate, said Lt. James Beaver. The FBI, SLED and Greenville City Police also responded, authorities said. But none of them could arrive in time to stop a shot from being fired. How could a student get past watching eyes with a gun and into a crowded school? And what could be done to keep this from happening again? And almost as quickly, parents began to ask whether Greenville County Schools should install metal detectors at its schools.

The State: Richland 2 won't allow release time for religious classes during school day

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article77529377.html>

Sarah Ellis

A proposal to allow students to go off-campus during the school day for religious classes is going nowhere in Richland 2, though some other Midlands school districts allow students to do so. The Richland 2 school board this week decided it was "uncomfortable moving forward" with a policy that could have allowed students to leave campus during study hall or elective class time to receive Christian-based instruction, possibly for high school class credit.

Independent Mail: Anderson County studies how to pay for bus routes

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/anderson-county-studies-how-to-pay-for-bus-routes-32bf1113-a1aa-7568-e053-0100007f7f7f-379445961.html>

Nikie Mayo

Two Anderson County bus routes are under the microscope as county officials map out their financial plans for the budget year that will begin July 1. The Orange Route allows riders to go from Walmart on Liberty Highway to the Tri-County Technical College Pendleton campus. The yearly operating cost of that route not covered by federal funds is \$110,000, said Rita Davis, the county's finance manager. Because that route goes to Tri-County Tech, the college will pay \$50,000 of the tab to keep it going, County Administrator Rusty Burns said at a finance committee meeting this week. That leaves the county \$60,000 to pick up.

Island Packet: Palmetto Hall trees coming down to help Hilton Head Island Airport

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/business/real-estate-news/article77483652.html>

Lucas High

After years of negotiations, a tree removal and trimming project is underway in the Palmetto Hall neighborhood to increase safety at the nearby Hilton Head Island Airport. "The trees on our property had grown to the point where they were affecting ... potentially the safety of the airport," said Jim Webb, chairman of the Palmetto Hall property owners association's airport committee. "So, (Federal Aviation Administration officials) said, 'Hey, we need to do something about this.'" Cutting down roughly 50 trees and trimming another 300 will help prevent planes from scraping the treetops that currently encroach into the FAA-designated flight slopes that planes follow as they fly in and out the airport.

Associated Press: Event gives Pat Conroy fans chance to celebrate his life

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=B4zXBYr

SC State Wire

Fans of noted author Pat Conroy have another chance to celebrate his life. The celebration of the author of such works as "The Price of Tides" and "The Great Santini" is scheduled for Saturday at 5 p.m. in Beaufort's waterfront park. It's free to the public. Local media outlets report the event will feature appearances by Conroy's wife and fellow novelist Cassandra King as well as other writers and scholars. Renowned singer Marlena Smalls will also sing some of Conroy's favorite songs.

Herald-Journal: New memorial at Spartanburg Sheriff's Office honors fallen officers

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160513/articles/160519823>

Daniel J. Gross

A new memorial unveiled Friday in front of the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office honors law enforcement officers who were killed in the line of duty. A dedication and wreath-laying ceremony marked the completion of the memorial, which began as an effort by several Spartanburg County businesses and organizations to show support for law enforcement. Faith leaders offered prayers during the ceremony for the safety of officers.

National News:

Associated Press: Pfizer says it's blocking use of drugs for lethal injections

<http://bigstory.ap.org/5f4ef9172ded4399a6123b25dbd1de4b>

Andrew Welsh-Huggins

Pharmaceutical company Pfizer said Friday it was blocking use of its drugs in lethal injections, which means all federally approved drugmakers whose medications could be used for executions have now put them off limits. "Pfizer makes its products to enhance and save the lives of the patients we serve. Consistent with these values, Pfizer strongly objects to the use of its products as lethal injections for capital punishment," the company said in the statement made public on its website Friday.

Associated Press: Photo controversy highlights black women in Long Gray Line

<http://bigstory.ap.org/ed0f18779a8a439c8d6d4811c36dfd48>

Errin Haines Whack

Self-expression is hardly a part of life for cadets at the United States Military Academy. So it was far from ordinary when 16 black women put their own spin on the traditional graduation photo, hoisting their fists in the air while posing in their dress uniforms, swords at their sides. A social media firestorm followed. So did an internal inquiry at the school. Some viewed the cadets' pose as a gesture of racial solidarity and strength. Others questioned whether it was a statement of support for Black Lives Matter.

Associated Press: For original Trump team, a moment to celebrate and reflect

<http://bigstory.ap.org/4089339e845344b3873fdc5470f1a993>

Jonathan Lemire

They were the core of the original Trump team, a small group of largely obscure political operatives who signed on a year ago for the seemingly quixotic presidential campaign of an oft-mocked celebrity businessman. Yet there they were in the lobby of the Trump Tower in New York City, sharing a very public embrace as Donald Trump's victory in Indiana made it clear he was on track to be the Republican nominee for president. The improbable had come to pass.

World News:

Associated Press: Italian woman, 116, seen as last living person born in 1800s

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/1dfb42b8a45442d4a5af68fd309cec9f/italian-woman-116-seen-last-living-person-born-1800s>

Brian Hendrie and Colleen Barry

Surrounded by relatives and friends, Italy's Emma Morano greeted with a smile the news that she, at 116, is now the oldest person in the world. Not only that, but Morano is believed to be the last surviving person in the world born in the 1800s, with a birthdate of Nov. 29, 1899. That's just 4 ½ months after Susannah Mushatt Jones, who died Thursday in New York, also at 116. Journalists on Friday descended upon Morano's home in Verbania, a northern Italian mountain town overlooking Lake Major, to document her achievement, but had to wait until she finished a nap to greet her.

Associated Press: AP Exclusive: Peace deal expected with armed Afghan group

<http://bigstory.ap.org/458b456cfd104829889cb39a5e082115>

Lynne O'Donnell and Karim Sharifi

The Afghan government is expected to finalize a peace deal with a notorious militant insurgent group within days, an official and a representative of the group said on Saturday. The deal is partially symbolic as the group in question, Hezb-i-Islami, has been essentially inactive for years. However it provides a much-needed success for the beleaguered administration of President Ashraf Ghani and potential template for ending Kabul's 15-year war with the still active and far more dangerous Taliban.

Associated Press: Hezbollah: Insurgents killed top military commander in Syria

<http://bigstory.ap.org/9c3c6fbabe254fa5bee11685e831e75f>

Bassem Mroue

The top commander of Lebanon's militant Hezbollah was killed in Syria by insurgent shelling, Hezbollah said Saturday, vowing to continue its involvement in Syria's civil war. Mustafa Badreddine became the highest ranking casualty for Hezbollah since the group joined Syria's civil four years ago. The group said the blast that killed Mustafa Badreddine near the Damascus International Airport was caused by artillery shelling by "takfiri" groups, a term Hezbollah uses to refer to Sunni extremists.

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Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044