

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 8/29/2016 8:10:18 AM
Subject: Morning Clips – Monday, August 29, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Greenville News: Democratic senator wants DDSN placed in governor's cabinet

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/08/28/democratic-senator-wants-ddsn-placed-governors-cabinet/89330940/>

Tim Smith

A state Senate Democrat said he plans again to file legislation placing the state Department of Disabilities and Special Needs in the governor's cabinet to increase accountability. Sen. John Scott of Columbia, who serves on the Senate Medical Affairs Committee, told The Greenville News he has lost faith in the agency and believes change is needed. "We don't want to be harsh but we do want this agency to come into compliance," he said. Scott may find support among Republicans for the legislation, said outgoing Sen. Mike Fair, a Greenville Republican who also serves on the Medical Affairs Committee. "That probably could happen," Fair said. "The whole matter of reform was something, at least in our time, that was started by Carroll Campbell. Republicans since then more often than not have been for continued reform, which usually makes the cabinet larger but makes the agency smaller." Sen. Harvey Peeler, a Gaffney Republican who chairs the Senate Medical Affairs Committee, said he likes the idea. "That's not a bad idea," he said. "I need to take a look at the specifics. But that's not a bad idea. Matter of fact, I think it's a good idea."

NOTE: Rob Godfrey, a spokesman for Gov. Nikki Haley, said, the governor "believes more accountability would be a good thing for DDSN."

SC Political News:

Post and Courier: It's fantasy football draft weekend and the Statehouse is interested

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160827/160829534/its-fantasy-football-draft-weekend-and-the-statehouse-is-interested>

Schuyler Kropf, Brenda Rindge and Emma Domain

Co-workers around South Carolina will begin drafting their fantasy football teams this weekend, and some Statehouse lawmakers want to see the hobby fully and legally sanctioned. State Sen. Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg, said he will reintroduce his "Fantasy Contests Act" in January that codifies fantasy sports in South Carolina. Hutto has been in contact with industry representatives — they widely support the idea because it would help cement their niche here long term — said his bill would impose a number of oversights: verifying players are 18, preventing site operators from participating in the games they offer and requirements for audits, among other stipulations. The bill wouldn't include taxing the games, Hutto said, but is designed to recognize the games by statute while providing a level of consumer protection for something conducted on the largely unregulated internet. Sanctioning fantasy sports, however, may not be so simple a topic for some lawmakers. It's sure to rekindle the debate that popped up in recent legal fights over so-called kitchen table poker and video gaming.

The State: Loftis ethics hearing will be closed

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article98357582.html>

Jamie Self

A Sept. 8 hearing on whether S.C. Treasurer Curtis Loftis committed ethics violations will be held in secret.

Loftis, a Lexington County Republican, is accused of using his office to help a long-time friend and business associate get a job representing the state in a lawsuit. Hearings before the State Ethics Commission are held in executive session unless the accused requests a public audience. Ethics Commission Director Herb Hayden said last week that he has received no request from Loftis to open the hearing. Loftis did not respond to email requests from The Buzz on whether he intends to open the hearing.

Post and Courier: New mug shot law not yet easing burden for those found innocent of crimes

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160828/160829402/new-mug-shot-law-not-yet-easing-burden-for-those-found-innocent-of-crimes>

Maya T. Prabhu

A new mug shot law that was supposed to bring relief to those who have been arrested and cleared of wrongdoing appears to need more work, the bill's sponsor said. People who have been arrested and either had their charges dismissed or were found innocent can ask private mug shot publishing companies, such as www.mugshots.com, to remove any photos and information from their website within 30 days of receiving notice. If the company does not remove the information, a person has the ability to sue. But Sen. Paul Thurmond, R-Charleston, said companies either are making it difficult to be served with legal documentation or refusing to comply outright. "We're finding that companies will not accept service," he said. "If they don't accept service then you can't get that time-clock started. That has been a wrinkle and some people that I have heard from are pretty frustrated."

The State: Steady 'til November? Clinton maintains polling lead over Trump

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article98544062.html>

Bristow Marchant

A strange election year took another strange turn last week, as Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump spent a whole day accusing each other of harboring bigoted views. Trump outright said of Clinton, "She's a bigot," while talking to CNN, blaming her for the problems of non-white, inner-city communities. The same day, Clinton accused Trump of drawing supporters from the "emerging racist ideology" of the "alt-right" with rhetoric critical of Mexicans, Muslims and other groups. In an attempt to counter that image, Trump has sought to soften his stance on immigration and reach out to black voters, including a speech in majority-black Jackson, Miss., where Trump turned the stage over to the man who led the campaign to get Great Britain to leave the European Union. For her part, Clinton spent the week disputing an Associated Press report on the number of Clinton Foundation donors she met with while at the State Department. Meanwhile, top Republicans called for Clinton to be investigated by a special prosecutor.

SC Agency News:

The State: SC tax agency collects \$178 million in unpaid fees, fines

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article98516642.html>

Cassie Cope

The S.C. Department of Revenue collected \$178 million last year for unpaid debts that Palmetto State residents they owed to another state agency or a local government. That amount, collected through two programs, is \$17.1 million more than the agency collected in the previous fiscal year. The two programs allow the Revenue Department to collect unpaid fines or fees owed to local governments or other state agencies, including colleges. "Unpaid liabilities hurt any organization and leave the burden on those who do pay their fair share," said Revenue Department chief Rick Reames. The Setoff Debt program allows the Revenue Department to offset an S.C. residents' tax refund by the amount that person owes a local government or state agency. That program collected \$163.4 million in the fiscal year that ended June 30. That is up \$13.6 million from the year before. The second program, called Governmental Enterprise Accounts Receivable (GEAR), allows the Revenue Department to act as a collection agency to collect a debt —putting a levy on a debtor's bank account or a lien on their house. GEAR often is used if a debtor is not owed a tax refund. GEAR collected \$14.5 million in the state's fiscal year that ended June 30, up \$3.5 million from the fiscal year before.

The State: How spending too little on SC roads costs hundreds of lives

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article98358507.html>

Cassie Cope

Grayson Lee, 19, was driving to Columbia from Charleston when her car ran off Interstate 26, slamming into a tree. Lee was thrown from her Ford Mustang, dying nearly two years ago on Sept. 2, 2014, her mother Amy Lee recalled. "It was instant," Lee said of her daughter's death. Grayson Lee is one of 4,534 people who died on S.C. roads since 2011. Hundreds of those deaths could have been prevented if the state spent more to make its roads safer. But the S.C. Department of Transportation says it doesn't have the money it would need to save those lives. The Palmetto State had the nation's deadliest roads in 2014, based on miles traveled. In part, that was attributable to years of spending little to maintain S.C. roads and bridges – clearing ditches, patching potholes and replacing damaged signs. The Transportation Department estimates it needs an extra \$943 million a year to make the state's deteriorating roads safer. The sticking point is where that money would come from. A key part of the solution, advocates say, is raising the state's gas tax – the third lowest in the nation – to provide more money for roads. That tax has not been raised in 30 years.

NOTE: However, for two years, South Carolina's GOP-controlled Legislature and Republican Gov. Nikki Haley have turned efforts to get the roads agency more money for repairs into a political football. But, when S.C. lawmakers return to Columbia in January, they yet again promise to look at a long-term funding solution to fixing the Palmetto State's crumbling roads.

SC After Recent Violence:

Associated Press: Lawyer's at center of race, gun debate on 2 Charleston cases

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=X0QKnBBH

Bruce Smith

Andy Savage keeps in his law office a sealed plastic bag with the blood-splattered clothes that Felicia Sanders wore sheltering her granddaughter from a fusillade of bullets that killed nine black parishioners at Charleston's Emanuel AME Church. Down the hall, his colleagues met recently with another client, Michael Slager, the white former North Charleston police officer charged in the death of a black motorist in a shooting captured on an explosive cellphone video. Many would say Savage is on conflicting sides in these high-profile cases. On one hand, he represents the three survivors and families of five black parishioners who died in the church shooting, and is suing the federal government over the sale of a gun to a white man in the case; on the other, he's defending a white officer charged with murder after a black motorist was shot eight times in the back. As the cases go to trial in the coming months and Charleston finds itself at the intersection of national debates over race, guns and the judicial system, Savage is in the middle. But to him, the cases are simply about justice for his clients.

Sun News: Well-armed criminals prompt police to ask for stronger armor

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article98360317.html>

Audrey Hudson

A nationwide increase of violence directed toward law enforcement – plus high-profile active shooter situations – has Horry County Police officials investigating the need for their officers to be outfitted with ballistic armor vests to protect against rifle rounds. "It's the next layer of protection for our officers," said Lance Winburn, interim chief for Horry County Police. "Our officers wear vests underneath their shirts and those protect against what we carry, handguns," Winburn said. "But more and more, watching the news and looking at what the trends are and a lot of our gang members locally, we've got information they are employing higher powered weapons now." More than 200 vests would be needed to outfit the entire department. Winburn said they are still in the planning stage, looking at the cost of such a purchase and how it could be funded.

Herald-Journal: Spartanburg community cookout celebrates unity

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20160828/spartanburg-community-cookout-celebrates-unity?rssfeed=true>

Chris Lavender

Hundreds of Spartanburg County residents enjoyed a fun-filled Sunday afternoon at Barnet Park during a community cookout. "Let's Unite!" featured dancing, free hot dogs and the opportunity to learn more about

local services. The event also provided a chance to meet candidates running for political office in November. "It was really important for us to come out and be here because I think events like this bring together people," said Chris Fedalei, the Democratic candidate running against U.S. Rep Trey Gowdy in the 4th Congressional District. "With everything going on in the world today we need to bring people from different backgrounds together." Representatives from the Spartanburg Police Department, Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office and Spartanburg Fire Department mingled with the crowd as well. Lt. J.T. Harlow of the Sheriff's Office showcased a helicopter used in daily operations. It's one of two helicopters used by the Sheriff's Office. The helicopters' uses include chasing bank robbers and suspects wanted in burglaries. Harlow said they also help find lost or missing children. The helicopters were used previously in the Vietnam War and were refurbished to meet law enforcement's needs.

WYFF4: Hundreds in community, officers celebrate unity in Spartanburg

<http://www.wyff4.com/news/Hundreds-in-community-officers-celebrate-unity-in-Spartanburg/41411372>

Corey Davis

Hundreds of families enjoyed a community cookout and joined with Spartanburg area officers to promote unity. Families were treated to a fun-filled afternoon of free food and activities in Barnet Park Sunday. Organizers said there was a deeper message behind the event. "No matter whether you're black, white, Republican, Democrat, wealthy or poor, we're all here together unifying and enjoying each other's company," Spartanburg County Clerk of Court Hope Blackley said. Blackley said the event promoted a sense of community and togetherness. "They want to be able to love their family, have safe communities and enjoy their time. That's not a color thing. That's just a human thing," Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright said. A diverse ground spent the afternoon interacting with police officers and sheriff's deputies. "I think that we need to celebrate the great things that are happening and to focus on building our relationships," Charlianne Nestlen said. Republican South Carolina Congressman Trey Gowdy also joined in on the effort, along with other elected officials.

Opinion/Editorial:

Post and Courier: Overdue campaign against college overspending

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160828/160829420/overdue-campaign-against-college-overspending>

Editorial

The Commission on Higher Education might have lost the battle over the expansion of Coastal Carolina University's football stadium, but it isn't giving up on its campaign against higher ed overspending. CHE chairman Tim Hofferth restated the commission's commitment to heightened oversight of the state's 33 public universities and colleges, following the decision by the State Fiscal Accountability Authority to allow CCU to proceed with the \$31.8 million project. "We are absolutely committed to doing everything we can to ensure the health of our universities and to protect the interests of South Carolina's students and taxpayers," Mr. Hofferth said in a news release from the CHE. "We're going to be asking more questions, requesting more information, and looking harder into the details of these projects so that they receive the most complete vetting process possible before coming to a vote. The days of 'rubber stamping' requests that come before the CHE are over." It will be easier said than done, as the stadium project demonstrated, but Mr. Hofferth's and the CHE's renewed commitment to financial oversight and accountability is fully warranted.

NOTE: The CHE rejected CCU's plan four times after determining that it was a potential risk financially. So CCU got its allies in the Legislature to insert two budget provisos that allowed them to proceed anyway. Gov. Nikki Haley vetoed the budget provisos but the Legislature overrode her vetoes. Subsequently, CCU obtained project approval from the legislative Joint Bond Review Committee.

NOTE: And on Tuesday, it was approved by the Fiscal Accountability Authority (formerly the Budget and Control Board) by a vote of 3-2. Gov. Haley and Treasurer Curtis Loftis voted against the project, while Comptroller General Richard Eckstrom joined the two legislative budget chairmen, Sen. Hugh Leatherman and Rep. Brian White, in voting for it.

The State: Scope: Who's to blame for Clyburn road projects? Maybe not who you think

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article98165602.html>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

AS POTHOLES on the interstates threaten to swallow up small cars and the shoulders on two-lane roads crumble into oblivion and capacity on major thoroughfares slows to a crawl, the state Transportation Department is about to embark on its new priorities: prettifying a block of Columbia's South Main Street and Sumter's North Main Street and completing other "enhancements" that one transportation commissioner deemed beautification projects in Orangeburg, York and Anderson counties. All but the small Upstate projects were requested by U.S. Rep. James Clyburn, and the whole package was approved by the S.C. Transportation Commission after it "went back and forth over whether to put the total allocation of \$23 million toward six low-priority projects, or toward top agency priorities," as The Associated Press put it. The State's Cassie Cope reports that the only one of the projects that even makes an appearance on one of the Transportation Department's many priority lists is the one involving Columbia's eight-block South Main Street. Did I mention that South Main Street runs a total of eight blocks, and is known more as a pedestrian crossing than an artery to anywhere? Which makes you wonder how incredibly unimportant the other projects must be.

Greenville News: Editorial: DDSN needs to improve data tracking

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2016/08/28/editorial-ddsn-needs-improve-data-tracking/89272928/>

Editorial

The state agency that cares for South Carolina's most vulnerable adults should take steps to improve the way it tracks and responds to allegations of abuse and neglect, and so-called "critical incidents" involving the people for whom it is responsible. The Department of Disabilities and Special Needs serves about 30,000 people with intellectual disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries and autism. Although the rate of allegations of abuse, neglect or exploitation in its residential facilities had been declining for about five years, it has now stabilized at 9.9 per 100 individuals, according to a recent report in The News. The raw number of allegations increased to 456 in 2016 from 437 the year before. Data showed that over the past three years, there have been 1,276 such allegations at residential facilities; another 196 at day services run by DDSN and 379 at the agency's regional centers. Despite the volume of allegations just 22 were classified as "substantiated" during the period. Still, 199 staff members at facilities involved in the allegations were fired for misconduct, or policy or procedural violations.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Tropical depression moving into the Gulf of Mexico

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=uN0SxvL0

SC State Wire

A tropical depression that formed in the Florida Straits was moving into the southeastern Gulf of Mexico early Monday and the U.S. National Hurricane Center said it could soon become a tropical storm. The depression's maximum sustained winds were near 35 mph (55 kph) with some strengthening expected during the next two days. Forecasters said it could become a tropical storm later in the day or overnight. As of 5 a.m. EDT, the depression was centered about 155 miles (245 kilometers) west southwest of Key West, Florida, and was moving west near 9 mph (15 kph). The depression was expected to bring 3 to 5 inches of rain over the southern Florida peninsula and the Florida Keys through Wednesday that could cause flooding and flash flooding. Meanwhile, another tropical depression that formed west of Bermuda was moving toward the coast of North Carolina. That depression is expected to become a tropical storm overnight and threatens to bring wind and rain to eastern North Carolina. The depression was centered about 230 miles (370 kilometers) southeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, and was moving west-northwest near 10 mph (17 kph). A tropical storm watch was in effect for North Carolina's coast from Cape Lookout to Oregon Inlet. Farther east, Hurricane Gaston has weakened a little as it drifted northward in the middle of the Atlantic.

Associated Press: Red Cross seeks SC volunteers for hurricane training

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=A0anNK1W

SC State Wire

The American Red Cross is seeking volunteers in South Carolina help when people have to leave their homes

during a hurricane. Spokeswoman Jennifer Heisler tells the Post and Courier of Charleston (<http://bit.ly/2bJONmy>) that up to 500 people would be needed to staff 22 shelters in the Lowcountry. So the Red Cross will hold an eight-hour boot camp Wednesday at the organization's office in North Charleston. Training will involve interactive case studies and classroom instruction. Participants will also learn how to assist individuals, families and communities in preparing for and recovering from a catastrophe. Part of the training includes dealing with the emotional side of a disaster.

Post and Courier: South Carolina aerospace industry cruising, but workforce concerns remain

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160828/160829502/south-carolina-aerospace-industry-cruising-but-workforce-concerns-remain>

David Wren

South Carolina's aerospace industry — buoyed by Boeing Co.'s 787 Dreamliner campus in North Charleston — accounts for \$19 billion in annual economic impact. But industry experts say plenty of work remains to overcome shortfalls in workforce training and educational opportunities. A pair of new studies released during last week's South Carolina Aerospace Conference & Expo show just how far the sector has come since Boeing's arrival in 2009. About 100,000 jobs, both private and military, now are tied to the industry, with private-sector employees earning an average of \$70,000 per year — 31.2 percent higher than state manufacturing jobs as a whole and 69.3 percent more than South Carolina's average wage. "This year's research shows a clear indication that the industry is diversifying and trending towards sustainable growth," said Joey Von Nessen, a research economist with the University of South Carolina and author of a report updating the industry's economic impact.

Associated Press: Fort Jackson Army commander promoted to 2-star general

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

SC State Wire

The commander of the Army's largest training installation is getting promoted to the rank of major general. Brig. Gen. John "Pete" Johnson receives his second star representing the insignia of his new rank Monday evening during a ceremony at Victory Field at Fort Jackson. Johnson took command of the U.S. Army Training Center and Fort Jackson on June 24. It is the largest basic combat training center in the Army. Roughly 54 percent of all soldiers and 61 percent of all female soldiers train there each year. Johnson is an infantry officer who graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1985. He has commanded troops in Hawaii and Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and on multiple deployments that included Iraq, Afghanistan, and Panama.

Local News:

Associated Press: Man accused of killing ex-girlfriend, her father

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=QRrIOg55

SC State Wire

A man has been arrested after deputies say he shot and killed his ex-girlfriend and her father in Richland County. Richland County sheriff's deputies tell news outlets that 25-year-old Willie Wilson was taken into custody Sunday on murder charges in the deaths of 24-year-old Magaith J. Dolo and 55-year-old Dunber P. Dolo. Deputies say the suspect broke into his ex-girlfriend's home and killed both her and her father. Magaith Dolo's body was found in the residence and her father's body was discovered on the front lawn of a home. Richland County Coroner Gary Watts says both died from the gunshot wounds. Deputies say the shooting was part of an ongoing domestic dispute between the suspect and his victims. It's unclear whether Wilson has an attorney.

Associated Press: Easley man accused of stabbing roommate to death

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=HP6W9MIn

SC State Wire

Deputies say an Easley man stabbed his roommate to death following an argument over money. Citing arrest warrants, local media outlets report 58-year-old Richard A. Hagins was taken into custody early Sunday and charged with murder in 53-year-old Jeff L. Chandler's death. Pickens County sheriff's spokesman Hashe says in

a statement that deputies received a call Friday night about a stabbing at an Easley home. County coroner Kandy Kelley says Chandler died of a stab wound to the chest. Hashe says Hagins and the victim argued over money before the stabbing. He says two other people were inside the home at the time and a knife believed to have been used in the slaying was found at the scene. It's not immediately clear if Hagins has an attorney.

Post and Courier: Support group to hold event in North Charleston on International Overdose Awareness Day
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160828/160829558/support-group-to-hold-event-in-north-charleston-on-international-overdose-awareness-day>

Melissa Boughton

A local group will host an event at Riverfront Park this week to bring awareness to overdoses in the Lowcountry. The Charleston chapter of Grief Recovery After a Substance Passing, or GRASP, had its first meeting in December and now has about 30 members. It was created to help families and friends who have lost a loved one to a drug or alcohol overdose. On Wednesday, GRASP members are hosting an event for International Overdose Awareness Day that is open to the public and will include singing, a lighting of candles and a guest speaker to address addiction. Members of the group will also plant two trees in the North Charleston park in memory of the loved ones they have lost. "What it means to me (to have this event) is to get Charleston to realize this is happening," said Joette Schulte, a local GRASP founder. "We are the Holy City, but it doesn't mean our people aren't dying from drug overdoses. People have got to realize this is happening every day."

Post and Courier: Local child suffers from rare 'tick paralysis' after trip to Edisto

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160828/160829492/local-child-suffers-from-rare-tick-paralysis-after-trip-to-edisto>

Lauren Sausser

To hear 4-year-old Ari Huckels tell it, her trip to the hospital this summer sounds more like a sleepover than a medical emergency. "I got to play Barbies in there," she said. "My worst part is when I got that straw in my hand." By "straw" she means IV. Her mom explained that the needle was used to deliver medicine to her bloodstream, almost like a straw. Several weeks after the ordeal, Ari still remembers how much it hurt. What she doesn't remember so clearly — and her parents can't forget — is the peanut-sized tick that had embedded itself in Ari's scalp, nearly paralyzing her. In late July, following a trip to Edisto, Ari developed a rare disorder called "tick paralysis," which, if untreated, may cause respiratory failure. According to the U.S. National Library of Medicine, "Children with tick paralysis develop an unsteady gait followed several days later by weakness in the lower legs. This weakness gradually moves up to involve the upper limbs." That's just what happened to Ari — although her initial symptoms certainly stumped her parents and doctors.

Associated Press: Detailed molds help ease loss of limbs for children

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=65J0tm61

SC State Wire

Born with a deformed left leg, Sonn was forced to walk on the top of his foot, a painful condition that meant getting around was tough. The solution, doctors decided, was to amputate and fit him with a prosthetic. But losing a limb, even a deformed one, is no small obstacle for a child to overcome. So Shriners Hospital for Children in Greenville, where the 14-year-old Haitian boy is being treated, gave him something to remember it by - a detailed mold of his left foot. "He loves it. And he loves to show it to people," said Lacey Kaiser, whose Greenville family is hosting Sonn through Childspring International. "I didn't know how he would feel when he woke up and saw that his foot was gone," she told The Greenville News. "But I think it has helped him a lot psychologically to not grieve the loss of that foot." Sonn was born with a rare condition called Type IV tibial dysplasia, said Dr. David E. Westberry, a pediatric orthopedic surgeon at Shriners. It affects the leg bone, ankle joint and foot, he said, leaving the leg bone too short and the ankle joint abnormal.

Associated Press: Renovated museum highlights SC school for deaf, blind

<http://bigstory.ap.org/f60b403f5b3946d4a5e200782038fc05>

A newly renovated museum on the campus of the S.C. School for the Deaf and the Blind traces the history of the school and highlights the accomplishments of its students.

The Herald-Journal of Spartanburg reports (<http://bit.ly/2bta3b2>) school alumni recently came together to finish the remodel of the Cedar Springs Museum that includes photos, films, building models and artifacts. The exhibits include items from the school's first graduation ceremony in 1949, class rings dating back to 1930, Braille machines from the 1940s, and old 16mm films and photos. Glenda McCary is president of the School for the Deaf alumni association. She says the remodeling project let the museum emphasize the history of the school and the accomplishments of alumni who have transformed communities.

Post and Courier: Grapevine: Folks clamoring to work at, learn about Volvo's South Carolina plant

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160829/160829506/grapevine-folks-clamoring-to-work-at-learn-about-volvos-south-carolina-plant->

Volvo's popularity in Berkeley County is setting attendance records and breaking the Internet. The Swedish automaker, which is building a \$500 million manufacturing plant off Interstate 26 near Jedburg, last week announced a slate of new job openings for the facility, which is scheduled to open in 2018. When the county added the positions to its BerkeleyMeansBusiness.com industrial recruiting website on Aug. 23, the overwhelming response crashed the servers. A website that normally gets between 300 to 500 visits daily was swamped with than 24,000 hits in the two days after the job listings went live. "Thousands of people were going to the site at the same time," said county spokesman Michael Mule. "The site normally does pretty well, but nothing to that magnitude." Word of the job openings spread quickly after Mule posted a notice to the county's Facebook page. That notice has since been shared nearly 400 times. It's not the only indication that interest in the car factory is at a fever pitch.

Post and Courier: Dorchester County sued over insurance payments

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160828/160829530/dorchester-county-sued-over-insurance-payments>

Brenda Rindge

Dorchester County Council and as many as 100 employees are being sued over a unique wrinkle in the county's benefits program. The lawsuit alleges that three council members — Chairman David Chinnis, George Bailey and Willie Davis — and up to 100 other public officials, appointees or employees received illegal payments after they opted out of the county's health and dental benefits plan. Since 1987, the county has deposited their insurance premiums — about \$350 per month, according to the lawsuit — into an annuity for county employees and officials who chose not to participate. Some employees received reimbursements for separate insurance, according to the lawsuit. In all, the county's practice amounted to more than \$300,000 annually in taxpayer money. The lawsuit, which seeks repayment of the money, was filed in Dorchester County last month by lawyers Mike Rose and Andy Gowder on behalf of some residents, the Dorchester County Taxpayers Association and the S.C. Public Interest Foundation.

The State: Lexington County looks to end upkeep of little-used roads

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article98516972.html>

Tim Flach

Lexington County is looking at giving up care of 18 lightly traveled roads, many of them in the Chapin area. County Council members are considering the move after public works director Wrenn Barrett described the roads as mostly short, narrow lanes with no more than two homes on them. The roads appear to be "quasi-private driveways," Councilman Kent Collins of Lexington said. Overall, 19 homes are on the roads, with none on half of the routes, officials said. A few are entrances into hunting clubs, businesses and a church. One road that county officials no longer want is a 1.1-mile route near Pelion named for Delano Kneece. The road is used mainly by vehicles from his farm, Kneece said. "We've already been taking care of it," Kneece said, adding he will abide by "whatever they want to do." All landowners along the routes must agree to the change before it can be adopted. "If we get back objections, we won't pursue it," said Joe Montgomery, special projects manager for county roads. The 6.8 miles in the package slated for elimination total 1 percent of the 653 miles of unpaved roads for which the county is responsible for maintenance. The change would turn over the roads to landowners for upkeep and allow each to be closed to public use.

The State: In comeback after October flood, Soda City Comic Con doubles in size

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article98481812.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

Soda City Comic Con 2016 was the first ever comic con for 5-year-old Alisabeth Campana of Irmo, and she took it all the way – dressing up as Rey from “Star Wars: The Force Awakens.” Along with her parents and fellow “Star Wars” fans Chris and Rachel Campana – 33 and 26, respectively – the young cosplayer made it out to both days of the convention. “Everybody’s stopping to say she’s awesome,” Rachel Campana said of her daughter. “Everybody’s trying to take her picture.” The family wanted to go out last year, they said, but couldn’t make it due to October’s flood, blocking many of Columbia’s roads. A lot of people ran into that problem, according to Donald Brock Jr., one of the convention’s founders. About 3,000 people made it out for the convention’s launch in 2015, Brock said. That number was left in the dust in this year’s event, which had more than 6,500 attendees at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center over the course of Saturday and Sunday. “We have plans to grow it next year,” Brock said. “We want to take over more space in the convention center, have multiple events in and outside of the convention. We’ll throw a bunch of stuff against the wall, see what sticks and see what doesn’t.”

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: Trump plans detailed immigration talk as questions remain

<http://bigstory.ap.org/428681f59b0c40e9af1f973dd30bc1ca>

Laurie Kellman

Donald Trump says he'll deliver a detailed speech on his proposal to crack down on illegal immigration on Wednesday in Arizona — but it's anyone's guess what he might say. The announcement came late Sunday in a tweet by the GOP presidential nominee after days of wavering — and at least one canceled speech — on a question central to his campaign: Whether he would, as he said in November, use a “deportation force” to eject the estimated 11 million people in the U.S. illegally. On Sunday, led by vice presidential running mate Mike Pence, Trump’s surrogates fanned out across the televised talk shows to reiterate other parts of his proposal but none could answer that question. And they wouldn’t say whether it was worrisome that such a consequential proposal remained unclear so close to the Nov. 8 election. In one case, the chairman of the Republican National Committee refused to speak for the GOP nominee at all. “I just don’t speak for Donald Trump,” Reince Priebus said Sunday.

Associated Press: On Syria, Democrats look to deflect the conversation

<http://bigstory.ap.org/7d52c009f1bd425689c5cd48d2be09f9>

Vivian Salama

In his speech at the Republican National Convention, Donald Trump made six references to the conflict in Syria, pointing to the war-ravaged nation as a source of much of the world’s turmoil, particularly immigration and extremism. A week later at the Democratic convention, Hillary Clinton made not one reference to Syria. The conflict in Syria remains a major conundrum for both President Barack Obama and Clinton, his former secretary of state. With a firm reluctance to enter another U.S. war in the Middle East, the United States has focused its military efforts on fighting the Islamic State group in northern Syria and in Iraq while pursuing so far failed diplomatic efforts to end the civil war. Now entering its sixth year, the Syria conflict has killed more than a quarter million people, displaced some 11 million, and has turned the once-cosmopolitan, secular country into a hive of factions with dangerously competing interests.

Associated Press: Clinton proposes plan to address mental health treatment

<http://bigstory.ap.org/640b85862fff4dfb85677544ca240c40>

Ken Thomas

Hillary Clinton is rolling out a comprehensive plan to address millions of Americans coping with mental illness, pointing to the need to fully integrate mental health services into the nation’s health care system. Clinton’s campaign released a multi-pronged approach to mental health care on Monday, aimed at ensuring that Americans would no longer separate mental health from physical health in terms of access, care and quality of treatment. The Democratic presidential nominee’s agenda would focus on early diagnosis and intervention and create a national initiative for suicide prevention. If elected, Clinton would hold a White House conference on mental health within her first year in office. Clinton’s proposal would also aim to enforce mental health parity

laws and provide training to law enforcement officers to deal with people grappling with mental health problems while prioritizing treatment over jail for low-level offenders.

National News:

Associated Press: False report of gunman at Los Angeles airport causes panic

<http://bigstory.ap.org/b4a5a29b45084c87991b4dd0381be373>

Andrew Dalton

Reports of a gunman opening fire that turned out to be false caused panicked evacuations at Los Angeles International Airport on Sunday night, while flights to and from the airport saw major delays. A search through terminals brought no evidence of a gunman or shots fired, Los Angeles police spokesman Andy Neiman said. The reports were spurred by loud noises only, and police were still investigating to find the source of them, Neiman said. Airport officials said that a person wearing a Zorro costume was detained during the incident, but it wasn't yet clear whether the person had any connection to the evacuation. The incident stirred chaos as hundreds of people rushed from terminals on to sidewalks or the tarmac. And it left a mess with three terminals shut down, roads closed and flights held in the air and on the ground. All terminals and roads into the airport had been reopened by 11 p.m. PDT, about two hours after the initial reports, officials said. But massive backup faced travelers in their cars and in security lines. Passengers who fled had to be rescreened through security.

Associated Press: Memorial Mass for 2 nuns killed in their Mississippi home

<http://bigstory.ap.org/837e58f3524342c399f9fc78e21ae4f1>

Emily Wagster Pettus and Rebecca Santana

A memorial Mass will be held Monday for two 68-year-old nuns who were killed in their Mississippi home, even as authorities continue to investigate the stabbing. A man from about 15 miles away has confessed without giving a reason, according to the sheriff. The Mass will be at the Cathedral of St. Peter the Apostle in Jackson, about an hour's drive from Durant, the town of 2,500 where Sisters Margaret Held and Paula Merrill lived until last week. They both worked at a health clinic for the poor in nearby Lexington, where they also led Bible study at a church. And more than 300 people came Sunday to St. Thomas Church to say farewell. About 145 people filled the church to capacity, and there was an overflow crowd outside, where 160 folding chairs were set up and still people had to stand to watch on a monitor as Bishop Joseph Kopacz of the Jackson Diocese led the service.

World News:

Associated Press: Released tape rekindles memory of 1988 Iran mass execution

<http://bigstory.ap.org/cbb4cef79970438fa1edcc1300253d5a>

Jon Gambrell

The scratchy, echo-filled tape recording carries the voice of a man who once was in line to become Iran's supreme leader, talking about one of the darkest moments of the country's post-revolution history still not recognized by its government. The recording has Grand Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri condemning Iran's execution of thousands of prisoners at the end of the country's bloody war with Iraq in 1988. He warns those gathered they've committed "the biggest crime in the history of the Islamic Republic," while criticizing them for misleading the country's then-ailing supreme leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. The criticisms by Montazeri, who lived for years under house arrest and died of natural causes after Iran's disputed 2009 presidential election, long ago surfaced in his own memoirs and writings. But the furor ignited by the release of the tapes by his family this month expose the lingering, unhealed wounds of the chaotic years that followed Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, as well as politics now at play in the greater Middle East. "All advice and criticism from my father was for saving the ruling system — which he had paid so much for," his son, Ahmad Montazeri, recently wrote online.

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Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236
Office: 803-734-8044