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Subject: Morning Clips – Tuesday, April 19, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: 'A Great Day' for Haley: Political advocacy group raises more than \$500,000
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160418/PC1603/160419332>

Gavin Jackson

A political advocacy group created to target political opponents of Gov. Nikki Haley in this year's elections has reported raising \$515,000 in donations from just a handful of contributors. A Great Day SC, named after Haley's signature catchphrase "It's a Great Day in South Carolina," has received money from six individuals and groups, according to an Internal Revenue Service quarterly report provided to The Post and Courier. No money has been spent on initiatives yet, but Haley's top political adviser, Tim Pearson, who is overseeing A Great Day, said he is encouraged by the early numbers. "As we get further into the legislative session and closer to Election Day, you'll see the group spend more aggressively," Pearson said in an email Monday. "And we will do so in any and every way available that will help move South Carolina forward."

General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: Senate leader proposes more cash for roads
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160419/PC1603/160419308>

Cynthia Roldan

South Carolina's Senate leader is once again working on a proposal that would get the state more money for roads. The [Senate's budget writing panel will discuss today](#) two proposals Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, has introduced that could raise millions for South Carolina's roads, after the chamber failed to pass a roads bill that would do more than just maintain the roads as they are. The bills call for pushing monies from fees to the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank, which leads new road construction projects and bridges. Leatherman has been pushing for increased roads funding since the House sent the roads bill to the Senate in the 2015 Legislative session. Most recently, he attempted to attach a proposal to the roads bill that would have increased the state's borrowing capacity to help pay for new construction.

The State: Senate panel to consider spending \$2.2 billion on roads
<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article72531757.html#storylink=apmobile>

Cassie Cope

A Senate panel will consider Tuesday proposals to spend roughly \$2.2 billion to fix congestion on heavily trafficked roads and replace crumbling bridges. Two proposals, sponsored by Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, would divert revenue from some fees collected by the state Department of Motor Vehicles and the amount of money raised by the \$300 cap on vehicle sales taxes. Those moves would raise about \$200 million a year, according to state Sen. Larry Grooms, R-Berkeley. The money then would be bonded through the controversial S.C.

Transportation Infrastructure Bank, allowing the state to borrow about \$2.2 billion for road projects, Grooms said. Because bonded money must be used on projects that last longer than their debt payments, the money could not be used on some maintenance projects, including filling potholes. As a result, it would be spent on new construction to expand crowded roads or to replace crumbling bridges.

The State: South Carolina considering law to block bans on plastic bags

<http://www.thestate.com/latest-news/article72545937.html#storylink=apmobile>

Sammy Fretwell

Plastic bags that shoppers use to carry groceries home from the store are an increasing menace to marine life and a general litter problem across South Carolina, say some scientists and conservationists who support curbing the use of the handy carriers. Many sea creatures eat plastic bags, or the remnants of the bags, that get into the ocean, thinking the floating trash is food. That then clogs their digestive systems, which can kill animals or reduce their abilities to grow and reproduce, bag critics contend. Toxins in the fiber of plastic bags also threaten sea life, they say. Without a ban or limits on plastic bags, the ocean off South Carolina will remain fraught with unnatural perils for sea turtles, shrimp and other creatures, according to the S.C. Coastal Conservation League and the Conservation Voters of South Carolina, two leading environmental organizations. Banning or limiting plastic bags, however, has plenty of detractors. Boosters of the plastic bag industry say industrial plants that produce the bags provide hundreds of jobs and pump up the economy of South Carolina and other states. And, they note, many people depend on the bags to carry an array of products bought at stores.

LGBT Laws:

The State: Transgender bathroom bill a no-show in SC Senate

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article72509002.html#storylink=apmobile>

Andy Shain

Chances are dwindling for a vote on a S.C. bill that would limit the bathrooms and locker rooms that transgender men and women could use. Senate General Committee chairman Kevin Bryant, R-Anderson, said the bill's main sponsor, Sen. Lee Bright, R-Spartanburg, did not ask to have his proposal discussed at a committee meeting Wednesday. The meeting would be the first chance to discuss the bill after two days of emotional testimony last week. Bright said he is trying to win support from a majority of the 17-member General Committee to send his proposal straight to the Senate floor. He said he has backing from four senators on the committee. Bryant, a co-sponsor of the bill, said Monday getting the proposal through the Senate before the May 1 "crossover" deadline to get legislation to the House would be difficult.

Greenville News : Bryant: personhood bill may be pushed over transgender bill

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/04/18/bryant-personhood-bill-may-pushed-over-transgender-bill/83188538/>

Tim Smith

The Upstate chairman of the committee that could take up a bill regulating the transgender use of public bathrooms says while he still thinks the bill can pass, he is more interested in having the Senate debate a bill giving rights to the unborn. Sen. Kevin Bryant of Anderson, chairman of the Senate General Committee, told The Greenville News on Monday he is prepared to move the transgender bill out of committee and onto the Senate calendar but knows whether the bill moves as

the result of a vote at a committee meeting or polling committee members without a meeting, it still will draw a procedural objection by opponents that will require a vote of the Senate for the measure to be heard. Given the choice between focusing his efforts on persuading the Senate to take up the transgender bill or a bill establishing legal rights for the unborn beginning at conception, also known as the "personhood" bill, Bryant said he would prefer to focus on the personhood bill.

Associated Press: Pearl Jam cancels North Carolina show over new LGBT law

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/9719675c696d47c881298edbd91db80f/pearl-jam-cancels-north-carolina-show-over-new-lgbt-law>

Two rock bands have become the latest to cancel concerts in North Carolina because of the state's new law on LGBT rights. In a statement issued Monday on the band's website, Pearl Jam called the law "a despicable piece of legislation that encourages discrimination against an entire group of American citizens." The statement says the band has communicated with local groups and will give them money to oppose the law. Pearl Jam was scheduled to perform April 20 at PNC Arena in Raleigh. Earlier Monday, the rock group Boston also announced plans to cancel concerts because of North Carolina's new law regarding the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Guitarist Tom Scholz announced the group's decision on its Facebook page. Concerts were scheduled for Charlotte, Greensboro and Raleigh early next month.

Savannah River Site News:

Aiken Standard: Melter 2 at Defense Waste Processing Facility doubles the waste turned to glass

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160419/AIK0101/160419468>

The "heart" of the Defense Waste Processing Facility at the Savannah River Site continues to set records in turning radioactive waste into glass. Melter 2, the second melter installed in the facility, is now 13 years old and has poured just more than 10.4 million pounds of glassified waste. Melter 1 poured about 5.2 million pounds of glass during its seven-year run at the facility. Twenty years ago in March, the first high-level waste at SRS was converted into glass at the facility, the nation's only operating vitrification facility. The facility is the workhorse of liquid waste operations at SRS. A melter is a 65-ton, teapot-shaped vessel that treats high-level radioactive waste being stored in SRS waste tanks by blending it with a borosilicate frit to form a molten glass mixture. The mixture is poured into stainless steel canisters, which are decontaminated and stored safely on-site until a permanent storage facility is identified.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: SC DOT audit underscores need to put governor in charge

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article72440132.html#storylink=apmobile>

Cindi Ross Scope

THE LATEST AUDIT of the state Transportation Department offers something for everyone. It supports the argument that the agency needs much more money to patch the potholes in our potholes and repair our crumbling bridges — while also supporting the argument that the agency is wasting the money it has and inflating the cost of bringing our road system up to decent repair. It supports the argument that we need to get more money out of the gas tax — along with the argument that we need to steal more money from the general fund to pay for roads. But on one crucial matter, the Legislative Audit Council report is unambiguous: We're not directing our limited road funds to our most critical needs. This is not a revelation, but it's a crucial reminder as the House and Senate enter

negotiations that could result in much-needed reforms to the agency — or in nothing.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Freedom to tell tales? Tour license dispute before judge

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:4ec39e8f0d9b4a28b09d4635df43ec82>

Bruce Smith

The latest round in the controversy over licensing tour guides in historic cities is scheduled to play out in a federal courtroom in South Carolina. A judge holds a hearing Tuesday on a lawsuit challenging Charleston's tour guide licensing ordinance. The suit contends requiring guides to have city licenses violates First Amendment protections of freedom of speech. Attorneys for the city say that requiring guides to pass a written exam is simply about regulating business. City Council agreed last week to drop a requirement that would-be guides also pass an oral exam. Other federal courts have split on the issue of tour guide licenses and free speech. A federal appeals court upheld a New Orleans license requirement although another court tossed out the District of Columbia's licensing rule.

The State: Three killed on S.C. roadways over the weekend

<http://www.thestate.com/news/state/south-carolina/article72458427.html#storylink=apmobile>

South Carolina Department of Public Safety officials said there were three road deaths reported over the weekend. Officials said all three occurred on U.S. routes, S.C. roads and secondary roads. In one of the deaths, officials said a seat belt was used, while one other did not use a seat belt. The other person killed was a bicyclist. As of Sunday, 251 people have died on state highways, compared to 270 highway deaths during the same time period in 2015. Of the 171 motor-vehicle occupants who have died in 2016, 80 were not wearing seat belts. Thirty-five pedestrians have been killed compared to 34 during the same time period in 2015. Twenty-seven motorcyclists have been killed compared to 24 in 2015. Nine bicyclists have died in 2016 compared to eight this time in 2015.

Aiken Standard: South Carolina schools change up grading system

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160418/AIK0101/160419461>

Larry Wood

The State Board of Education has made it easier for B+ students from South Carolina to compete with A students from other states for college admission and scholarships. Last Tuesday, the board unanimously approved a recommendation to adopt a 10-point grading scale beginning in the 2016-17 school year for all high school courses. Many states, including Georgia and North Carolina, already use the scale. In those states, a student making a 90 in each class would have a cumulative GPA of 4.0, or an A average. A South Carolina student with the same grades would have a 3.0, or a B average. State schools Superintendent Molly Spearman said the change will allow South Carolina students to compete fairly for college entry and scholarships – both academic and athletic – and also will benefit military families and other students transferring into South Carolina schools. South Carolina currently uses a seven-point grading scale. Locally, Aiken County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Sean Alford said he supports the new grading scale “wholeheartedly” and “applauds Spearman and the state board for visionary thought and bold action.

Local News:

The State: Richland County Sheriff Lott offers suspects Mother's Day gift

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article72555327.html#storylink=apmobile>

John Monk

It might almost be a poem: "Do your momma proud on Mother's Day – get your warrant served in a civilized way!" That's Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott's invitation to hundreds, maybe thousands, of suspects out there who have outstanding arrest warrants. Normally, a deputy will swoop down on a fugitive and take him or her to the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center for booking. It usually results in a short stint in the clink until the person can post bond. But on May 7 – the day before Mother's Day – Lott has organized an event where people with outstanding arrest warrants can have it served, get a court date and post bond, all without going to jail. "We're doing this at a church," Lott said, "because we want people to understand that it's not a scam, not some trick we're trying to pull on them."

The Herald: Sex, race, politics, money in Chester Co. sheriff sex lawsuit trial

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article72520637.html>

Andrew Dys

Sex, race, money and politics were at the fore Monday in the sex-charged civil trial in Chester where a white female former deputy accuses Chester County's first black sheriff of forced sex and retaliation. Alex Underwood, elected sheriff in 2012, vehemently denies the allegations made by former Maj. Mary Anne Tolbert, who claims in 2013 that she had sex with Underwood because she was in fear for her job. Underwood sat silently all day in court, with several deputies and his wife, Magistrate Judge Angel Underwood, behind him in support of what Underwood and his lawyers say is a "false" story cooked up by Tolbert after she did not get appointed chief deputy. Tolbert sat with her husband and also said nothing Monday.

Independent Mail: State asked to investigate fight between inmates, officers at detention center

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/oconee-officers-out-of-hospital-after-fight-with-inmates-30c3526c-bbc1-4422-e053-0100007ffcb0-376092941.html>

Mike Ellis

Oconee County Sheriff's Office investigators asked state investigators on Monday to look into a fight at the Oconee County Detention Center that sent two inmates and two officers to the Oconee County Memorial Hospital. In a statement, Sheriff Mike Crenshaw said he has seen video footage of the incident that occurred on Sunday afternoon, and he believes his deputies will be seen as the victims in the fight. Crenshaw said he has asked the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division to investigate the fight. The two officers have been treated and were released on Monday.

Associated Press: Meeting seeks end to police profiling, black student arrests

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=mBiW0r9H

Bruce Smith

Just over a year after a black motorist was shot and killed by a white police officer, an audience of about 2,500 people gathered at a North Charleston church Monday calling for an end to police targeting blacks in routine traffic stops and arresting students on school campuses. North Charleston Mayor Keith Summey and Police Chief Eddie Driggers did not attend the meeting sponsored by the Charleston Area Justice Ministry, an organization of nearly 30 church congregations. A city spokesman said that when they met with the group previously, they were simply rebuked. The Rev. Megan Gray of Cokesbury United Methodist Church said that during the past five years, there have been 130,000 traffic stops in North Charleston in which no tickets were issued. In nearby Charleston, there were 127,000 stops while in Columbia, a city of similar size, there were only 33,000 so-called no-contact stops. Gray said that blacks are pulled at twice the rate of whites for such reasons as taillights being out, driving too close to the white line or having window tint that is too dark. "These stops significantly diminish community trust, which makes it tougher for our officers to do their jobs well and safely," she said.

Post and Courier: 1 North Charleston councilman at Nehemiah Assembly addressing discrimination, police practices

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160418/PC16/160419315>

Melissa Boughton

Eleven public officials from North Charleston were invited to a gathering Monday night to discuss racial discrimination and police practices. One city councilman attended. Thousands of people turn out every year for the Nehemiah Action Assembly, where public officials are confronted by the interfaith Charleston Area Justice Ministry about issues such as youth unemployment, juvenile incarceration and wage theft. This year was no exception as about 2,000 people filled the sanctuary at Mount Moriah Baptist Church on Rivers Avenue. The Justice Ministry tackled racial discrimination and called for the North Charleston and Charleston police departments to reduce the practice of investigatory stops and hire an external, independent police auditor to produce a one-time audit of the departments' policing practices.

Greenville News: Clemson sit in will continue until Thursday, students say

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/04/18/clemson-sit-continue-until-thursday-students-say/83207742/>

Mary Willson

Clemson University students are in their sixth day of a sit-in, in order to protest alleged racism on campus. Monday afternoon, administrators and a newly hired Diversity Officer met with the students in a highly-anticipated conversation. Although, according to Pickens County reporter Ron Barnett and others on scene, students left "disrespected" and will continue the protest until Thursday.

Greenville News: CU protesters dissatisfied after meeting

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2016/04/18/cu-protesters-dissatisfied-after-meeting-administration/83207984/>

Ron Barnett

Leaders of a student group that has been staging a sit-in over what they say is a lack of racial inclusion on the Clemson University campus left a meeting with administrators Monday afternoon dissatisfied with what they heard and vowed to continue their demonstration until at least Thursday. In the sixth-day of a protest that started after unnamed students hung a bunch of bananas on a black history banner in front of the Calhoun mansion, more than 200 students remained on the front steps of Sikes Hall, the administration building, while a half dozen of their leaders met with President Jim Clements and other top administrators for nearly two hours. They emerged from the meeting saying they felt "disrespected" and that the administrators were "talking in circles."

Island Packet: Superintendent Jeff Moss to appear before State Ethics Commission over nepotism complaints

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article72521497.html>

Rebecca Lurye

Beaufort County School District superintendent Jeff Moss will go before the State Ethics Commission in August to discuss the hiring of his wife to a school district job and could face penalties if found guilty of violating S.C. ethics laws. Moss' hearing on three counts of alleged ethics violations is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Aug. 17 at the ethics commission in Columbia, according to a notice, which was sent to Moss on April 13 and released by the agency on Monday. The public cannot attend the hearing unless Moss requests that it be made open by Aug. 7. The complaint was filed in September by Beaufort resident Kimberly Morgan, one of about 20 people who spoke out against the hiring of

Darlene Moss, Jeff Moss' wife, as the district's new innovation director during a September school board meeting. Darlene Moss resigned less than a week after starting the \$90,000 job.

Independent Mail: School officials: Good economy leaves less subs for districts

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/school-officials-good-economy-leaves-less-subs-for-districts-30c40b67-d84b-3e05-e053-0100007fa3b0-376130621.html>

Frances Parrish

Anderson County school districts are finding it increasingly difficult to fill daily substitute teacher needs, a problem that could hinder students' education. "Any time a teacher isn't there, instruction is affected," Crescent High School Principal Devon Smith said. "Today, with technical learning and high stakes testing, every day a teacher is out is a lost day. They only have 180 days to teach." In four of the Anderson County school districts, officials said sometimes it's difficult to find substitute teachers despite having lists with anywhere from 50 to more than 100 names on them. "We are always going to have a need," said Lance Radford, District 2 assistant superintendent. "That will never go away. They are extremely valued folks and if you don't have a good quality sub, things can go bad." Some school officials equate a lack of substitute teachers to the economy — Anderson County's unemployment rate is 5.1 percent.

The State: Columbia officials pledge to stay on top of fixing flood-damaged road

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article72554057.html#storylink=apmobile>

Avery G. Wilks

Columbia officials' promises Monday to stay on top of repairs to the flood-damaged bridge on Lost Creek Drive eased frustrations for some residents of the neighborhood just north of Harbison State Forest. More than 50 Chestnut Hill Plantation residents pressed officials to explain why repairs are incomplete more than six months after the Oct. 4 storm. The bridge closure blocks the southern entrance to the neighborhood, leaving just one other entrance for the neighborhood's 650 families. Repairs have been complicated by weather, regulations and discovery of unexpected damage to the bridge foundation, city officials responded during the hour-long grilling. "I'm glad to hear it's moving," said Richard Pitt, 57, who has lived in the area two decades. "I think it's taken too long to get moving."

The State: National solar company opens office in Columbia

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article72503482.html#storylink=apmobile>

One of the nation's leading solar companies has opened an office in Columbia, two years after the Legislature changed the state's solar laws to encourage growth of the industry in South Carolina. Sunrun Inc. held a ribbon cutting ceremony Monday in the Capital City. The new office includes a warehouse for equipment to help make delivery of solar panels faster, spokeswoman Becky Loya said. The Columbia office is the company's first in South Carolina, although Sunrun has plans to open an office in Greenville soon, Loya said. The company has been operating in South Carolina since last year. U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., spoke at the event Monday. State Rep. James Smith, a Columbia Democrat and solar energy supporter, said the presence of companies like Sunrun shows that the change in South Carolina law is paying off.

The State: Greenview families soon to have \$3 million aquatic center

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article72501717.html>

Clif Leblanc

The new public aquatic center in the Greenview neighborhood reminds some residents of joyous summer days from their youth. For others, the \$3 million upgrade restores their faith in people. Carol

Gaskins watched from her home as the pool and surrounding park where she frolicked as a child became eyesores as aging residents moved or passed away and trouble crept in. She is overjoyed with the facility in one of Columbia's first African-American suburbs that will open May 28 after a two-year overhaul. The pool not only will be refurbished, but will also feature a kiddie pool, a water slide and a picnic area. "It's gorgeous," the 49-year-old Gaskins said of the water park that includes a lap pool, new bathhouses and other features that she can see from her home overlooking Greenview Park. "It's a totally different place now."

Herald-Journal: Cherokee project to bring 177 jobs, \$2.5M investment

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160418/articles/160419625>

Bob Montgomery

Cherokee County Council agreed to award tax breaks to an unnamed company that is planning to create 177 jobs and invest more than \$2.5 million. Council emerged from a 15-minute closed session Monday night to give initial approval to a 30-year tax break. The company will be taxed at 6 percent instead of the standard 10.5 percent rate, said Jim Cook, executive director of the Cherokee County Development Board. Acting County Administrator Holland Belue said two more readings are required by council before the tax breaks become official. The name of the company will be released by the S. C. Department of Commerce after the third reading next month, he said.

National News:

Associated Press: Houston recovering from yet another deadly flood

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:9fc7a67d94414fc3b3dec5024ee65853>

Michael Graczyk and Nomaan Merchant

As more than a foot of rain deluged the nation's fourth-largest city, inundating homes, shutting down major highways and leaving at least five people dead, Houston's mayor said there was no immediate solution. Heavy flooding has become nearly an annual rite of passage in the practically sea-level city, where experts have long warned of the potential for catastrophe. "I regret anyone whose home is flooded again," said Sylvester Turner, the city's mayor, on Monday. "There's nothing I can say that's going to ease your frustration. We certainly can't control the weather." "A lot of rain coming in a very short period of time, there's nothing you can do," he added. Flash flooding and more rain are possible Tuesday, a day after some areas saw water levels approaching 20 inches. Scores of subdivisions flooded, schools were closed, and power was knocked out to thousands of residents who were urged to shelter in place.

Associated Press: Freddie Gray, 1 year later: What has changed in Baltimore?

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:1eead9f7fffd4987b6bbc6bc58c38bec>

Juliet Linderman

When Freddie Gray died April 19, 2015, and riots erupted, Baltimore and its residents were forced to confront issues that had plagued them for decades, community leader Ericka Alston said. "I think for Baltimore as a community, that day really changed our lives forever," said Alston, who founded Kids Safe Zone in a poor, crime-ridden neighborhood just blocks from where Gray was arrested. Gray's death — a week after he was injured in a police transport van — became a focal point in the national debate over police treatment of African-Americans. When the smoke cleared, Baltimore looked much the same: Debris from rioting was hauled off, but blocks of dilapidated homes still stood vacant. Violence continued. And the city still has a pervasive problem of economic disparity, a lack of job opportunities for young black men, and a dearth of resources for disenfranchised children. But change has been cropping up. The police commissioner was fired, and the department is rolling out

body cameras. Community activism, advocacy and grassroots organizing are more visible throughout Baltimore. Criminal cases against the officers charged in Gray's death are progressing.

Associated Press: Trump, Clinton look for wins on home turf in New York

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:11c8efd4f9854d9d91bb2d45151e4277>

Julie Pace and Jonathan Lemire

Competing on home turf, Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton hoped to emerge victorious from Tuesday's primaries in New York, contests that offer big delegate hauls and an opportunity for the front-runners to inch closer to their parties' nominations. Even before the New York results were in, Clinton's campaign was declaring the Democratic race virtually over and warning rival Bernie Sanders that he risks damaging the party's eventual nominee if he keeps up harsh criticism of the former secretary of state. Trump and Clinton were hoping to win in part on the strength of their local ties. Clinton was twice elected senator from New York, while Trump was born in Queens and lives in a building bearing his name in Manhattan. "We love this city," Trump said Monday in brief remarks to reporters in the lobby of Trump Tower. "You look at the other folks that are running, they couldn't care less about New York."

World News:

Associated Press: Rescuers race to find survivors from Ecuador's big quake

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:d073d11fedc54eb2b2e97fdc30d0d13d>

Cristian Kovadloff and Allen Panchana

Rescuers are in a race against time to find survivors from a powerful 7.8-magnitude earthquake as the death toll from Ecuador's strongest earthquake in decades has risen above 400. On Monday, teams from Ecuador and neighboring countries fanned out across the country's Pacific coastline to look for the dozens of people still missing. In the port city of Manta, a group of about 50 rescuers working with sniffer dogs, hydraulic jacks and a drill managed to free eight people trapped for more than 32 hours in the rubble of a shopping center that was flattened by Saturday night's quake. The first rescue took place before dawn, when a woman was pulled headfirst from a nearly 2½-foot (70-centimeter) hole cut through concrete and steel. Firefighters applauded as she emerged from the debris, disoriented, caked in dust and complaining of pain but otherwise in good health.

Associated Press: Cold rice balls, no flush toilets at quake-hit Japan shelter

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:15fdeb032ca64b7fb548e51ec2c7339d>

Mari Yamaguchi

In this mountainous Japanese town known for its hot springs, prized beef and Jersey milk cows, more than 2,000 people have taken refuge from earthquakes at school gymnasiums and community centers, surviving on rock-hard biscuits, cold rice balls and bread. There is no running water to bathe or flush toilets. Many elderly evacuees rest on futon mattresses they brought from home. The bedding covers the floor, and there is no privacy. "Now I realize I haven't taken a bath since we came here," said Yachiyo Fuchigami, a 64-year-old woman in a hilltop gymnasium in the town of Minamiaso on the southern island of Kyushu. She is among some 100,000 people who left their homes after two shuddering earthquakes on successive nights last week — late Thursday and early Saturday — knocked over hundreds of buildings and killed at least 45 people.

Associated Press: Brazil president defiant after impeachment vote, won't quit

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:57fe79335ca1470fb224a82a5468e9a6>

Jenny Barchfield

Expressing outrage over the congressional vote to open impeachment proceedings against her, President Dilma Rousseff says she will not resign and vows to keep fighting the forces arrayed against her. The defiant comments came at a Monday news conference at the presidential palace, which was Rousseff's first public appearance since the Chamber of Deputies voted 367-137 the previous night to send the impeachment proceedings to the Senate for a possible trial of Brazil's first female president. The proceedings against Rousseff are based on accusations that her administration used illegal accounting tricks that allowed government spending to shore up flagging support before elections. Rousseff has said previous presidents used such fiscal maneuvers without repercussions and calls the accusations against her an act of "violence against democracy." She says the claims against her are really a flimsy cover for Brazil's traditional ruling elite to grab power back from her left-leaning Workers' Party, which has governed for 13 years.

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