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To:
Date: 4/28/2016 8:54:01 AM
Subject: Morning Clips – Thursday, April 28, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Transferring Guantanamo Bay Detainees to the Homeland: Implications for States and Local Communities

Panel I- The Honorable Nikki R. Haley

APRIL 28, 2016 10:00 AM- LIVE STREAM

<https://homeland.house.gov/hearing/transferring-guantanamo-bay-detainees-homeland-implications-states-local-communities/>

Associated Press: Gov. Haley heads to Washington to discuss Guantanamo closure

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

Meg Kinnard

Gov. Nikki Haley is going to Washington to voice her concerns over the possible transfer of Guantanamo detainees to sites including South Carolina. The governor is among those testifying Thursday before the U.S. House Homeland Security Committee. The panel discussion is focused on implications for state and local communities if the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, prison is closed. The second-term Republican has been outspoken in her opposition to the transfer of remaining detainees. A Naval brig near Charleston is among possible transfer sites already surveyed by a Defense Department team. Legislation introduced Monday on Capitol Hill would maintain a ban on transferring prisoners from Guantanamo to the United States. The longstanding congressional prohibition has kept President Barack Obama from fulfilling a campaign pledge to close the facility.

Greenville News (Opinion): Nation needs Haley's leadership

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/contributors/2016/04/28/commentary-nation-needs-haleys-leadership/83539528/>

Jordan Morales

Gov. Nikki Haley, daughter of Indian immigrants and our state's first female governor, stepped in front of the cameras as the nation watched and said "We are not going to allow this symbol to divide us any longer... The fact that it causes so [much] pain is enough to move it from the capitol grounds. It is, after all, a capitol that belongs to all of us." Not long after, the legislature voted to take the Confederate flag down. Through her leadership, the state was unified and the flag was removed. It was inspiring. And then there was her response to the State of the Union address. At a time when several GOP candidates for president were attempting to win through a divide-and-conquer strategy, her words were a far cry from the heated rhetoric that was consuming the primary season. The tone of her speech was one of unity and coming together, of optimism and opportunity. Our presidential candidates could certainly take a page out of Haley's book and learn about the kind of Republican we need to be if we want to grow the party and fix the problems the country has.

The Winthrop Poll: Gov. Nikki Haley

<http://www.winthrop.edu/winthroppoll/default.aspx?id=9804>

Governor Nikki Haley's approval rating was strongly positive among South Carolinians at 59%. While her support among mostly Democratic African Americans is somewhat lower, more than half (51%) approve of how she is doing her job as governor. "Support among the mostly Democratic African American population for a Republican governor may seem surprising, but it is likely that esteem for her rose among black South Carolinians because of the strong stance she took to remove the Confederate battle flag from the S.C. Statehouse grounds last year," said Huffmon.

The State: Winthrop Poll: SC weighs race relations after Confederate flag's removal

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article74378062.html#storylink=apmobile>

Jamie Self

A majority of S.C. residents – black and white – continue to think it was the right decision to remove the Confederate battle flag from the S.C. State House grounds. But on some matters concerning race, white and black S.C. residents expressed more disagreement, according to a new Winthrop Poll released Thursday. While white South Carolinians said the economy is the most important issue facing the United States, blacks said that issue is racism, mentioned more frequently than politicians and government, jobs and unemployment or education.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley's approval rating remains high at 59 percent among South Carolinians, with 63 percent of whites and 51 percent of blacks saying she's doing a good job.

Post and Courier: Blacks, whites agree on Confederate flag removal, new S.C. poll out today shows

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160428/PC1603/160429388>

Schuyler Kropf

A majority of South Carolina residents continue to believe it was the right decision to remove the Confederate battle flag, a poll by Winthrop University out this morning shows. The results show that 57 percent of whites and 87 percent of blacks favored the decision. And heading into election season, African-American residents in the state believe that racism is the most important problem facing the country, the survey found. Whites said their top issue is the economy.

Aiken Standard: Aiken men invited to Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160427/AIK0101/160429504>

Dan Brown

Men are invited today to take part in the annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event to promote awareness for sexual assault prevention. The International Men's March to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault and Gender Violence presented by the Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Persons happens today in downtown Aiken. Registration begins at 6:15 p.m. with the walk beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Aiken County courthouse on Park Avenue in downtown Aiken.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley proclaimed April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month saying "Sexual assault affects thousands of South Carolinians not only as victim survivors, but also as family members, loved ones, friends, neighbors, or coworkers of a victim."

General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Lawmakers approve roads funding, alimony and prostitution bills

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160427/PC1603/160429393>

Gavin Jackson

The South Carolina Senate sent a one-time, \$2.2 billion infrastructure bond bill to the House late Wednesday, salvaging months of debate over roads funding. The bill, which Senate leaders admit is

just a step in tackling all the state's road needs, was one of several bills that cleared the Senate and House ahead of a pivotal deadline for legislation this week. Bills need to be approved by either chamber before May 1 in order to have any shot in becoming a law before the end of the legislative session in June.

Associated Press: SC Senate passes ethics reform after 4-year push

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

Jeffrey Collins

After four years of fighting, the South Carolina Senate approved a bill allowing independent ethics investigations of lawmakers. The bill was one of two passed Wednesday. The other proposal requires lawmakers to disclose almost all sources of private income - but not how much they are paid. Gov. Nikki Haley and the House have pushed for ethics reform since 2012, only to see their attempts stop at the Senate door. The push for ethics reform began in 2012 after Haley was cleared of allegations she illegally lobbied for employers while she was a House member. The governor agreed the laws were too vague. Haley's spokesman said in a statement that ethics reform has never been about the governor or the Legislature.

Note: "Today, four years in the making, was a huge step forward. Now it's time for the legislature to finish the job, bring this home, and show South Carolina that all our elected officials truly work for them," spokeswoman Chaney Adams said.

Post and Courier : Senate passes bills aimed at reforming state ethics laws

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160427/PC1603/160429396>

Maya T. Prabhu

Hoping to increase the public's trust in lawmakers, South Carolina's senators unanimously passed two bills that will reform the state's ethics laws. Following months of debate, the bills create an independent panel to investigate potential misdeeds by lawmakers and would require those same legislators to disclose who pays them — but not how much they receive.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley's office praised the Senate for passing the bills, as she has championed ethics reform for several years. "Today, four years in the making, was a huge step forward," Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams said. "Now it's time for the Legislature to finish the job, bring this home and show South Carolina that all our elected officials truly work for them."

Associated Press: SC House leaders like Senate bill to borrow \$2B for roads

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=2y3xz2HU

Jeffrey Collins

The main lawmaker working to get a roads bill through the House said he likes a bill passed Wednesday by the Senate that would borrow about \$2 billion for a decade of highway projects and bridge replacement in South Carolina. Rep. Gary Simrill said that a stable, long-term source of money for road building and repair needs to be found. But borrowing money now helps deal with critical needs like bad bridges and frees up money for the Department of Transportation to work on other projects like repaving highways.

Associated Press: The Latest: SC Senate passes \$2B borrowing bill for roads

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ZGJjYw9j

SC State Wire

The South Carolina Senate has passed a road plan that would borrow around \$2 billion over the next decade to repair hundreds of bridges and finish major interstate projects. Wednesday's 34-4 vote sends the bill on to the House, where leaders have appeared receptive to the plan. The proposal

uses \$200 million in fees and revenue from the sales tax on vehicles to issue bonds. The Department of Transportation says that will also free up to an additional \$2 billion that the agency can use to pave roads and meet other needs. A conference committee that is already dealing with separate House and Senate plans to change how the DOT runs will likely add the funding proposal for one big roads bill.

Greenville News: Senate gives final OK to road-funding bill, House next

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/04/27/house-senate-panel-ties-road-funding-and-dot-reform/83593062/>

Tim Smith

The Senate has given its final approval of a bill that could pour \$3 billion onto the state's crumbling infrastructure but its ultimate passage will depend on passage of changes to the way the state's highway agency is run. The 34-4 vote came hours after House and Senate negotiators agreed to tie the issues of road funding and governance reform so that ultimately the two contentious issues will be considered as one package before final legislative approval.

WLTX: SC House Democratic Leader Slams Republicans for Not Passing Gas Tax Hike

<http://www.wltx.com/news/local/sc-house-democratic-leader-slams-republicans-for-not-passing-gas-tax-hike/156611978>

Robert Kittle

South Carolina House Democratic Leader Todd Rutherford slammed Senate Republicans Wednesday for not passing a gas tax increase to fix state roads and bridges. "We had the opportunity to raise the gas tax in South Carolina to pay for the roads. What did we do this year? We passed. And why did we pass? Because Republican leadership lacks the backbone to get the job done," he told reporters at the Statehouse. He says Republicans were afraid to pass a gas tax increase, even though it's badly needed, because it's an election year and Republicans are more worried about losing their jobs than doing their jobs.

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: Senate panel hears Century Aluminum bill

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160428/PC1603/160429385>

Gavin Jackson

A Senate panel will hear testimony on a bill about Century Aluminum, similar to a House version that died last week in an attempt to save hundreds of jobs. The bill by Sen. Larry Grooms, R-Charleston, would allow the Mount Holly smelter to buy all of its electricity on the open market, reimburse state-owned utility Santee Cooper for transmission costs and keep 300 jobs in Berkeley County. "My commitment to Santee was to look for a legislative solution that doesn't negatively impact any of Santee's customers," Grooms said. "So I introduced a piece of legislation that would allow Century purchase 100 percent of power off system. But with the caveat that if doing so would harm Santee Cooper or customers Century Aluminum would have to reimburse Santee. So there's a clawback provision in the bill."

The State: Teens could land 10 years in prison under proposed dating-violence bill

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article74284967.html#storylink=apmobile>

Glen Luke Flanagan

Teenagers who commit violence with a romantic partner could be sentenced to up to 10 years in prison under a bill discussed Wednesday by a Senate subcommittee. Making violence in teen dating situations a felony is needed to address a history of domestic violence in South Carolina, advocates say. Half a dozen students from Ridge View High School in Richland County spoke in favor of the bill

– called the Teen Dating Violence Prevention Act.

The State: Proposal to raise SC's minimum wage killed

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article74291572.html#storylink=apmobile>

Jeff Wilkinson

A South Carolina Senate subcommittee on Wednesday killed a bill that would have raised the minimum wage in the Palmetto State to \$15 an hour by 2020. Filed by state Sen. Marlon Kimpson, D-Charleston, the bill would have raised the minimum wage from the federally mandated \$7.25 a hour by increments until it reached \$15. The bill would have then required automatic increases in the future tied to inflation. The bill was turned back by a 3-2 vote along party lines.

Post and Courier: Moncks Corner House lawmaker resigns amid sexual harassment allegation

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160427/PC1603/160429452>

Cynthia Roldan and Schuyler Kropf

State Rep. Edward Southard of Moncks Corner resigned from the House on Wednesday, just days after learning that a sexual harassment allegation involving a female Statehouse page had been filed against him. Reached later Wednesday, Southard again questioned how the alleged harassment incident against him was made public so quickly, raising the concern that Republicans in leadership were out to get him through a leak. He also described the incident with the female page to The Post and Courier as stemming from him asking one of them to help him create a PowerPoint presentation on his Statehouse laptop computer, saying he was not technology-savvy. He said there were about 150 people on the floor at the time and "there's no witness at all to what she said."

Savannah River Site News:

Aiken Standard: Defense Authorization looks at MOX funding

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160427/AIK0101/160429479>

Thomas Gardiner

The U.S. House Armed Services Committee took up the National Defense Authorization Act for the fiscal year 2017 Wednesday to consider spending and regulatory requirements for programs under the Department of Defense. Included in the session were considerations for the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility, or MOX construction, a National Nuclear Security Administration, or NNSA, project. The NNSA has called the project past-deadline and over-budget. Past authorizations have allotted construction funds since 2003 when Savannah River Site, or SRS, was chosen as host for the MOX facility.

Aiken Standard: Animals thriving in area where Chernobyl nuclear disaster occurred

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160428/AIK0101/160429467>

Dede Biles

The area in Eastern Europe surrounding the site of the deadliest nuclear accident in history is teeming with animals. Thirty years after the disaster, large populations of gray wolves, roe deer, European elk, Eurasian wild boar, raccoon dogs and other creatures are thriving in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone that covers 1,621 square miles in Belarus and Ukraine. Using techniques and technology developed at the Savannah River Site, Beasley has been working with other scientists to study the effects of high levels of radiation on animals living in the Belarus portion of the Exclusion Zone. Some of the research that Beasley has been involved in used data from helicopter surveys of large mammals, which showed that they became more abundant after the Chernobyl catastrophe in 1986.

LGBT Laws:

The State: SC transgender bathroom bill dead

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article74310252.html#storylink=apmobile>

Jamie Self

A bill to prevent transgender men and women from using the bathroom or locker rooms of their choice is dead for the year. Sponsored by state Sen. Lee Bright, R-Spartanburg, the legislation will miss Sunday's crossover deadline for bills to pass from one legislative chamber to the other. Bills that do not have that deadline have almost no chance of passing this year. Lawmakers head home for the weekend after Thursday's session. And, as of Wednesday, Bright only had four of the nine votes needed to bring his bill directly to the Senate floor for a vote. With his bill certain to fail, Bright was planning another way to advance his agenda Wednesday.

Note: Republican Gov. Nikki Haley also has said the bill was unnecessary and "going nowhere" this year.

Sun News: Transgender student's bathroom ban could lead to lawsuit against Horry schools

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/education/article74282447.html>

Claire Byun

Horry County Schools may be facing legal action after a transgender student was banned from using the boys' bathroom at Socastee High School, according to a letter from the Transgender Law Center. The legal center – which works to change laws and policies "so that all people can live safely, authentically, and free from discrimination regardless of their gender identity or expression" – sent an email to Horry County Superintendent Rick Maxey last Thursday threatening legal action if a transgender high schooler was not allowed to use the bathroom consistent with his gender identity. The student, identified as "R," was banned from the boys' room in October 2015, according to the letter from the center's staff attorney Alison Pennington.

SC Agency News:

WIS: SLED, law enforcement agencies meet to discuss body cam policies

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31833613/sled-law-enforcement-agencies-meet-to-discuss-body-cam-policies>

Caroline Patrickis

South Carolina law enforcement agencies across the state are meeting for an update on police body worn cameras. Body cameras have been favored for their ability to provide insight into police interactions with the public. On Wednesday, 232 agencies in the state have been approved by SLED to deploy the device. SLED Chief Mark Keel says now that most agencies around the state are complying with the new policy, the next step will be the funding. Statewide, the funds requested for the body worn cameras is over \$9 million. The government has only approved \$3.4 million.

Note: "That has been a concern from the beginning because again we don't know exactly what those costs are," Keel said. "We know the cost of the cameras -- that's a more definite cost -- but the storage, not knowing how many hours of video or what the storage process is going to be because cameras are different. That is the concern law enforcement agencies have is the storage aspect."

Aiken Standard: SCDOT improving Vaucluse Road, Bypass 118 intersection

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160427/AIK0101/160429473>

Christina Cleveland

The S.C. Department of Transportation has begun work at the intersection of Vaucluse Road and Bypass 118 in Aiken in an effort to reduce the number of crashes in the area. Jeff Terry, SCDOT assistant district construction engineer for District 7, told the Aiken Standard DOT will be widening the intersection, adding turning lanes and upgrading signals at the location for a safety improvement project. Terry said the agency's Safety Office in Columbia identifies intersections that could use improvements based on accident history, geometry and current standards.

The Herald: DHEC clears York Co. turkey manure farm; neighbors raise stink

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article74281707.html>

Bristow Marchant

Environmental regulators have settled an investigation into storage of turkey manure at a York County farm that left neighbors fuming about the smell, even as officials continue to look into the impact of the litter on residents' drinking wells. Boyd Farms will not face any fines after the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control completed its review of the property. Several neighbors had complained about the smell of the manure, which they say had been sitting out for months prior to DHEC being alerted to its presence.

Times and Democrat: 'Support network' key in career; S.C. official credits administrative professionals

http://thetandd.com/news/local/support-network-key-in-career-s-c-official-credits-administrative/article_1c6a1cb7-8afc-5ee9-b990-400c30f465ca.html

Gene Zaleski

From a labor and employment lawyer in New York, to the White House, to the head of the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce. Cheryl Stanton says despite one's desires, life can sometimes lead a person along a different path. "I started getting the recognition that I needed to stop planning my life and recognize opportunities when they come to you and take them when they come to you," Stanton told about 240 administrative professionals gathered at the Orangeburg Country Club for the 11th Annual Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce's Administrative Professionals Day Luncheon.

SC Political News:

Associated Press: US Senate considers bill for Charleston Harbor deepening

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Eilqmn2w

SC State Wire

A bill to authorize the deepening of the Charleston Harbor shipping channel so it can handle a new generation of larger container ships is now before the U.S. Senate. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports (Ahttp://bit.ly/1SBRYQ) that the Water Resources Development Act would make the project eligible for \$225 million in federal money. State lawmakers have already set aside \$300 million for the work. The bill is being debated Thursday by the Senate's Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Herald-Journal: Gowdy bill seeks to combat synthetic drug use among teens

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160427/articles/160429669>

Bob Montgomery

A bill introduced in the U.S. House is seeking to end the rising use of deadly synthetic drugs among young people. The Synthetic Drug Awareness Act, co-sponsored by U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy of

Spartanburg, would require the U.S. surgeon general to report to Congress on the public health effects of synthetic drug use among those ages 12 to 18. "This report from the Surgeon General is critical to providing Congress with the information we need to better counter the rapid rise of synthetic drug use among young people today," Gowdy said in a statement.

Post and Courier: Clyburn takes aim at Citadel's Confederate flag

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160427/PC1603/160429427>

Emma Dumain

The fight over the Confederate flag — and its place in South Carolina — has returned to Capitol Hill. On Wednesday, as the House Armed Services Committee began its hours-long slog through over 100 amendments to the fiscal 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, panel Democrats were quietly preparing to force a vote to deny Reserve Officers' Training Corps funds to any military university that displays the Confederate flag. The only university that currently falls into this category is The Citadel.

Post and Courier: Congressional committee votes to keep Confederate flag at Citadel, setting up a larger fight

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160428/PC1603/160429384>

Emma Dumain

In the early hours of Thursday morning, the U.S. House Armed Services Committee voted to keep the Confederate flag flying at The Citadel. The rejection of a Democratic effort to force the military institution to take down the banner atop Summerall Chapel potentially paves the way for a bitter, extended fight on the issue, which is being championed by U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C.

The Hill: Lawmaker pushes DHS for timeline in improving employee satisfaction

<http://thehill.com/regulation/labor/277901-lawmaker-pushes-dhs-for-timeline-in-improving-employee-satisfaction>

Lydia Wheeler

Rep. Mick Mulvaney (R-S.C.) pressed an official at the Department of Homeland Security for a timeline on when the agency will improve its employee satisfaction scores. The agency came in last in a 2015 ranking of the best large places to work in the federal government. "If I wanted to skip all the rhetoric and get to the bottom line, when is it going to get better?" Mulvaney asked during a House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing Wednesday. "When can we expect you to be in the top half?" Testifying before the committee, Angela Bailey, the chief human capital officer at the DHS, said leadership officials have taken steps in the past year to improve agency scores.

Post and Courier: Clear the runway for 'flight sharing'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160428/PC16/160429426>

Frank Wooten

A Wednesday front-page story reported on 1st District Rep. Mark Sanford's worthy effort to expand "flight sharing" information. As Washington-based Post and Courier colleague Emma Dumain wrote, Sanford "wants to require the Federal Aviation Administration to make it easier for private pilots to communicate with the public about opportunities to share flights and split costs." What if then-Gov. Sanford had taken a private flight back to Columbia from Buenos Aires on June 24, 2009, instead of traveling as a Delta passenger? Then maybe he wouldn't have suffered the figurative crash of his bizarre "crying in Argentina" news conference. Maybe he could have even salvaged some of his rising-GOP-star status, which had moved assorted pundits to brand him a potential presidential

contender.

SC Elections:

WACH: Former Columbia Mayor endorses Leon Lott in his bid for re-election

<http://wach.com/news/local/former-columbia-mayor-endorses-leon-lott-in-his-bid-for-re-election>

Matthew Stevens

Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott got a notable endorsement in his bid for re-election Wednesday. Former Columbia Mayor Bob Coble threw his support behind Lott. "I am delighted to announce my support and endorsement of Sheriff Leon Lott for re-election as Richland County's Sheriff. Sheriff Lott has been a hard-working and innovative law enforcement leader for two decades in Richland County. During my tenure as Mayor of Columbia, Sheriff Lott and the City worked together with our neighborhoods to make our communities safer and stronger. Sheriff Lott deserves our continued support and to be re-elected," said the former mayor.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: Editorial: 'Scholarship' program is a scam, should be terminated

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/editorials/article74272172.html>

Editorial

WE NEVER THOUGHT it was a good idea for the state to give dollar-for-dollar tax credits to people who donate money to "scholarship-granting organizations" that dole the money out to students of their choosing. Although supporters like to say this allows private donations, the fact is that a tax credit allows donors to give money to their favorite cause instead of paying their taxes. That means the rest of us either pay higher taxes or (as is the case in South Carolina) receive less in government services. And that means taxpayers absolutely are paying for these "scholarships." It always seemed to us that if legislators really wanted to help children "escape" from failing public schools, as the "scholarships" organizations claimed they wanted to do, they ought to ... improve those public schools. And if lawmakers insisted on paying parents to take their children out of the public schools — which they should not do — at least they should do it directly, by subsidizing the private education of poor children.

Post and Courier: SPA's unwarranted secrecy

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160428/PC1002/160429407>

Editorial

The State Ports Authority is brewing another public controversy on the Charleston peninsula by withholding information about the sale of its Concord Street property on the Cooper River. South Carolina law requires the state agency to reveal that information. The Freedom of Information Act recognizes that the public has a right to know all the details about the sale of this piece of publicly owned property. Wednesday's announcement that Lowe Enterprises is the would-be purchaser doesn't fulfill the responsibility for public disclosure.

Aiken Standard: Column: Jay Bender's FOIA footprint spans four decades

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160428/AIK02/160429507>

Michael Smith

Jay Bender often jokes that out of the estimated 19,000 telephone calls he says he's fielded in his career from South Carolina journalists, I'm responsible for 18,000 of them. That's an exaggeration. The real number is closer to 15,000. The retiring University of South Carolina media law professor

and attorney for the S.C. Press Association made the remark most recently during a roast in his honor that was held April 22 in Columbia. Bender relentlessly defended the state's Freedom of Information Act, which came into fruition in 1976. Through the years he's testified before state lawmakers about FOIA. He's also helped countless reporters when confronted by illegal executive sessions, exorbitant fees and other impediments to public information. Future journalists entering the profession have no idea how influential Bender has been. I'm beyond fortunate my career intersected with his.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Yale to keep name of college honoring supporter of slavery

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=neb3t4tl

SC State Wire

Yale University has decided to keep the name of a residential college named for 19th-century alumnus John C. Calhoun, who was an ardent supporter of slavery. The New Haven, Connecticut, Ivy League university announced the decision Wednesday via Twitter. The tweet says it's keeping John C. Calhoun's name to "teach and confront the history of slavery in the U.S." Debate over the name began last summer after nine black worshippers were slain in a Charleston, South Carolina, church.

Associated Press: Honoring the Mayor: Joe Riley joins Hall of Fame

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Chzq2de7

SC State Wire

The longest-serving mayor in Charleston history is now a member of the South Carolina Hall of Fame. Media outlets report that Charleston's Joe Riley was honored Wednesday night during an induction ceremony at The Citadel. Riley served for 10 terms as mayor before retiring earlier this year. He is largely credited with leading an urban renaissance that has made Charleston a worldwide tourist destination. But Riley said that any recognition he receives is really recognition for the people of Charleston. He says anything that was done was done by the citizens.

Local News:

Associated Press: Former Georgia legislator named new chancellor at ECU

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

SC State Wire

The UNC Board of Governors has chosen a former Georgia legislator as the new chancellor at East Carolina University. Cecil Staton, currently the interim president of Valdosta State University, was unanimously elected during the board's specially called meeting in Chapel Hill on Wednesday. His salary will be \$450,000, and he assumes his new role on July 1.

The Herald: Rock Hill police: Assistant principal threatened to ruin school record of his sex crime victim

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/crime/article74147087.html>

Jennifer Becknell

The Northwestern High School assistant principal **accused of sexual misconduct** with a student promised to protect the girl from bullies if she complied with his sexual demands – and threatened to harm the girl's school records if she didn't, a Rock Hill detective told a judge Wednesday. Kenneth Andrew Williams, 30, of Park Ridge Lane, is charged with four counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor and one count each of second-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor and

unlawful conduct toward a child.

Greenville News: Teacher on leave after controversial letter

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/education/2016/04/26/teacher-leave-after-controversial-letter/83557710/>

Nathaniel Cary

A special needs teacher at West Oak Middle School in Oconee County said she was yanked from her classroom mid-morning on Monday and placed on administrative leave with pay after she wrote a letter to school officials requesting that her students be exempted from taking the SC PASS and SC READY federally-mandated standardized tests. Tracie Happel, who teaches 34 students in 6th-8th grades with learning differences at the school in Westminster, said she was told by a district human resources manager that the reason she was placed on leave was because of derogatory names used in her letter to describe her students. But Happel said each term used in her letter – stupid, idiot, retarded – were words that her students had used to describe themselves and were not words she would use to describe them.

Associated Press: Former York Co. court deputy pleads guilty in blackmail case

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5gxwQ4sg

SC State Wire

A former courthouse deputy has pleaded guilty to trying to blackmail York County Sheriff Bruce Bryant. The Herald of Rock Hill reports (<http://bit.ly/1SRE1cH>) 71-year-old Julio Cesar Rua pleaded guilty last week to contempt of court. A judge sentenced Rua to six months in prison suspended to two years' probation.

Greenville News: Suspended Simpsonville Police Chief wants contract

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/golden-strip/2016/04/27/suspended-simpsonville-police-chief-wants-contract/83617626/>

Scott Keeler

The attorney for suspended Simpsonville Police Chief Keith Grounsell said his client wants to get back to work. When Grounsell returns from his 30-day suspension, which ends May 2, Grounsell also wants a long-term contract. In a letter sent to Simpsonville City Administrator David Dyrhaug this week, Grounsell's attorney Brooks Derrick stated that the letter and request was inspired by a story published in The Greenville News on April 14 in which Mayor Janice Curtis stated that Grounsell has her support.

Independent Mail: Clemson police set up virtual crime watch

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/clemson-police-set-up-virtual-crime-watch-3164222e-24dd-3dfe-e053-0100007f0880-377345671.html>

Alisson Wells

The Clemson Police Department has recently partnered with Nextdoor in an effort to help modernize local neighborhood watches throughout the city. Police Chief Jimmy Dixon announced the partnership with Nextdoor, an online neighborhood watch program, last week, saying it is a way to create safer and stronger neighborhoods. "We're turning the old crime watches into a virtual crime watch. We're in such a transient city, this will allow us to get to the next level with safety and information," Dixon said.

Greenville News: Simpsonville may video council meetings, post on YouTube

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/golden-strip/2016/04/27/simpsonville-may-video->

[council-meetings-post-youtube/83595332/](http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160427/PC16/160429416)

Scott Keeler

There's been enough drama at Simpsonville City Council meetings this year to make an episodic television series. Soon, residents may have the ability to watch council meetings as if it were a series. Council voted unanimously, with Mayor Janice Curtis absent, to explore allowing City Administrator David Dyrhaug or his appointee to create video recordings of council meetings.

Sun News: Myrtle Beach city surveillance camera project nears completion

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article74243032.html>

Elizabeth Townsend

More than 800 cameras should be in place watching over Myrtle Beach's busy intersections, streets and beach accesses as the city's surveillance project nears completion. Just two more cameras need to go up before the fourth and final phase of the project is complete. Lt. Joey Crosby, Myrtle Beach police spokesman, was hesitant to pinpoint exactly when the project will be completely finished, but said within the coming weeks all the eyes in the sky will likely be able to see. The \$2.1 million-dollar project, which started last spring, will be ongoing after the last two cameras are installed as the connectivity process linking the cameras' eyes back to dispatchers will still be in progress.

Morning News: Technology adds realism to nurses' training at Florence-Darlington Tech

http://www.scnow.com/news/education/article_e9cfd4be-0cdc-11e6-8a1d-57c4de9d3246.html

Joe Perry

As nursing and technology evolve, so has the health sciences program at Florence-Darlington Technical College, which is poised to bring the newest technology on board. "Today's nurse is very different from yesterday's nurse," said Maureen Bumba, the school's associate vice president of health sciences. "Today's nurse has to be a problem solver, a critical thinker and keep the complete patient landscape in mind – their culture, health beliefs and how they interact with families."

Associated Press: 2 workers fall 30 feet off scaffolding in Pawleys Island

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

SC State Wire

Two construction workers have been seriously injured after falling 30 feet from scaffolding while working on a home in Pawleys Island. Midway Fire Rescue Assistant Chief Jim Crawford tells local media that fire crews responded around noon Wednesday to a home under construction in the south part of the city. The two men were conscious, Crawford says, but had serious injuries. They were taken to a nearby trauma center by helicopter.

The State: Richland County Penny Tax program in jeopardy as state suspends deposits

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article74360252.html#storylink=apmobile>

Rachael Myers Lowe

State tax officials, on Wednesday, told Richland County it will get no more penny tax funds until the county council adopts "a uniform standard" as recommended by state tax officials, to make sure that all "Penny Tax revenue is spent specifically on transportation-related projects." The letter was released Wednesday night by Richland County officials along with a statement pledging to review the letter and work with DOR toward a resolution as county staff address the topic with the county council at its next meeting on Tuesday.

Post and Courier: Opponents of Folly apartment project fear more traffic congestion

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160427/PC16/160429416>

Prentiss Findlay

A formal application for a 300-apartment development called The Lively will be submitted Friday to Charleston County, but many on James Island aren't waiting to voice their concerns. Residents near the project site filled a gym at James Island Elementary School on Tuesday to speak out. The event was intended as a project presentation, but from the beginning, islanders interrupted McFaddin Blanding, president of Orange Capital Advisors, to get him to talk about their issues. Many of the more than 200 residents in attendance said Folly Road is already too burdened with traffic to accommodate hundreds more cars from The Lively.

National News:

Associated Press: Cruz makes VP pick as GOP race takes another unusual turn

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:b19ecf4609874529a7e7bab0808f09c9>

Julie Pace

An astonishing Republican presidential primary season has taken another unusual turn, with Texas Sen. Ted Cruz announcing Carly Fiorina as his running mate — even though he's mathematically unable to become the GOP nominee through the regular voting process. It was the move of a candidate desperate to block Donald Trump, a front-runner who is only growing stronger as the primary contest presses deeper into the spring. An astonishing Republican presidential primary season has taken another unusual turn, with Texas Sen. Ted Cruz announcing Carly Fiorina as his running mate — even though he's mathematically unable to become the GOP nominee through the regular voting process.

Associated Press: '76 a window into ugliness of a GOP contested convention

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:1a98fa0647824cb29100144deed02855>

Emily Wagster Pettus

Clarke Reed and Billy Mounger still sound like they want to spit when they talk about each other — 40 years after the contested Republican National Convention where the Mississippi delegation split between President Gerald Ford and smooth-talking Ronald Reagan. As the GOP stares down the possibility of a contested convention this summer if neither Donald Trump nor Ted Cruz wins enough delegates to secure the presidential nomination, that bitter fight in 1976 provides a window into just how ugly things could get. Reed, who first supported Reagan but ultimately backed Ford, and Mounger, who stuck with Reagan, were once close friends who traveled to GOP functions together. The rift created by that chaotic, high-pressure convention was never repaired.

World News:

Associated Press: South Korea: Suspected midrange North Korean missile crashes

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:c571f61732e744bcfafea3696b31996a>

Hyung-Jin Kim

A suspected powerful intermediate-range North Korean missile crashed moments after liftoff Thursday, South Korea's Defense Ministry said, in what would be the second such embarrassing failure in recent weeks. The report of the North Korean launch failure is particularly humiliating as it comes ahead of a major North Korean ruling party meeting next week at which leader Kim Jong Un is believed to want to place his stamp more forcefully on a government he inherited after his dictator father's death in late 2011. The launch was likely the second attempted test of a Musudan, a new intermediate-range missile that could one day be capable of reaching far-off U.S. military bases in Asia and the Pacific.

Associated Press: After hostage beheading, is Philippines facing IS threat?

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:ed73bbdb1238412b95645efd1665a032>

Jim Gomez

Months before Abu Sayyaf militants beheaded retired Canadian mining executive John Ridsdel in the tropical jungles of the southern Philippines, they showed him pleading for life in a video with three other hostages that demanded a record-high ransom. Shocked by the outcome, many in the largest Roman Catholic nation in Asia are asking if this is same band of militants the government has long dismissed as ransom-seeking bandits. Or, has the Philippines fallen into a growing list of countries that are now grappling with the spread of the Islamic State group from Syria and Iraq?

Associated Press: New killings in Bangladesh leave LGBT community full of fear

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:b77c13f39952409591899a594ef89d98>

The killing of two gay rights activists in the Bangladeshi capital has driven the country's already secretive and small gay community underground, wondering if they can trust a government that considers their status to be criminal, rights groups said. Police detectives say they are working with evidence including a mobile phone, documents and witness testimony to solve the case, in which a gang of young men fatally stabbed a theater actor and the editor of Bangladesh's only LGBT rights magazine, who also worked for the U.S. Agency for International Development. But with these being the latest killings in an ongoing wave of violence targeting atheist writers and outspoken moderates, members of Bangladesh's minority groups and civil society worry they're not safe, while rights group question the government's repeated claims that the situation is under control.

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