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**Subject:** Morning Clips – Wednesday, June 29, 2016

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## Morning Clips – Wednesday, June 29, 2016

### Governor Nikki Haley News:

**Greenville News:** Talley beats Bright with help from advocacy groups, Haley  
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/elections/2016/06/28/talley-beats-bright/86448614/>

Rudolph Bell

The Conservation Voters of South Carolina said it knocked on 21,100 doors, made 7,500 phone calls, dropped 120,000 pieces of mail and spent more than \$90,000 trying to unseat state Sen. Lee Bright, who scored the lowest of any senator on its legislative scorecard. Bright was also subjected to a seemingly endless barrage of attack ads on Greenville's two conservative talk radio stations – courtesy of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, whose objections to Bright included his votes against tort reform, road-funding plans and aid to flood-stricken farmers. It all proved too much Tuesday for the two-term Republican senator, who lost his second primary runoff battle with Spartanburg attorney Scott Talley.

**NOTE:** Bright said his opponents were "able to define me with enough money, and we did fight back, but it was just an onslaught we could never overcome." He also said he thinks voters trusted Gov. Nikki Haley more than he and that his campaign saw a shift in the polls after Haley endorsed Talley.

**NOTE:** He was one of four state senators that Haley campaigned against this election cycle.

Traveling to his district to endorse Talley, Haley told reporters that her biggest beef with Bright was his opposition to ethics reform, a favorite issue of the governor. Bright ended up voting for the latest version of ethics reform, which does not require third-party groups trying to elect or defeat candidates to disclose their donors. Bright countered Haley's endorsement of Talley with a press conference of his own, appearing in front of the television cameras with two other Republican state senators and three House members who backed him.

**Herald-Journal:** Talley unseats Bright in Senate District 12 runoff  
<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160628/ARTICLES/160629672>

Chris Lavender

Former state House Rep. Scott Talley has defeated incumbent state Sen. Lee Bright in the Senate District 12 Republican primary runoff. With all precincts reporting in Spartanburg and Greenville counties, Talley had 4,861 votes, or 52 percent, to Bright's 4,562 votes, or 48 percent. Speaking to a crowd of jubilant supporters after the votes were in, Talley thanked all those who had knocked on doors, donated money and backed him in his effort to defeat Bright. He recalled his runoff with Bright eight years ago, and said he liked the results of this one a lot better. "Number one, I think things needed to go a different direction for Senate District 12. And number two, I wanted to beat Lee Bright," Talley said of his reasons for returning to politics. "It was a hard-fought race. Obviously it was close, but this district has had a lot of close races ... I think they were ready for a change."

**NOTE:** Conservation Voters of South Carolina endorsed Talley in the race. Talley also received Gov. Nikki Haley's endorsement.

## Dylann Roof Case:

**Associated Press:** Prosecutor asks that state be allow to try Dylann Roof first  
[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5h7pWsdf](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5h7pWsdf)  
Bruce Smith

South Carolina has primary jurisdiction over the case of a man accused of fatally shooting nine black parishioners in Charleston last year and thus should be allowed to prosecute him before the federal government does, a state attorney argued Tuesday. Roof, 22, is charged with nine counts of murder in the shooting deaths of parishioners during a Bible study at Emanuel AME Church in June 2015. Currently Roof's federal trial on hate crimes and other charges is set for November. The state case is not scheduled until January. Scarlett Wilson, who will be prosecuting Roof for the state, is also slated to try former North Charleston police officer Michael Slager in the April 2015 shooting death of black motorist Walter Scott. That trial is set for Oct. 31 and will likely be underway at the time of Roof's federal trial. Slager is also charged in federal court, but the federal trial has not yet been scheduled.

**The State:** Dueling death penalty trials for Roof? SC prosecutor wants to go 1st  
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article86485217.html>

John Monk

An apparently unprecedented public protest over who goes first – state or federal prosecutors – in Dylann Roof's upcoming death penalty trials broke out in Charleston on Tuesday. The protest was made by 9th Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson, who filed an emotional plea in state circuit court, arguing that the state – and not federal prosecutors – should put Roof on trial first for the June 2015 murders of nine parishioners at a downtown Charleston church. By the time federal prosecutors announced they would seek the death penalty, a month ago on May 24, Wilson for 10 months already had planned to put Roof on trial on Jan. 17, a date set by state Circuit Judge John Nicholson But then, on June 7, U.S. Judge Richard Gergel of Charleston announced that Roof's federal death penalty trial would begin Nov. 7 and last up to eight weeks, not including Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

**Post and Courier:** Seeking earlier state date, solicitor says Dylann Roof federal trial lacks 'relevance'  
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160628/160629432/seeking-earlier-state-date-solicitor-says-dylann-roof-federal-trial-lacks-relevance>

Andrew Knapp

In seeking to try Dylann Roof first, Charleston's top state prosecutor argued Tuesday that a federal trial would have little consequence on Roof's fate because of that government's "apparent unwillingness" to execute people. Ninth Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson recently suggested to a judge that the South Carolina trial should be rescheduled before the Nov. 7 federal proceeding. She cited the state's "primary jurisdiction" of Roof because local officers were the first to charge the accused killer of nine black worshippers at Emanuel AME Church. In a written motion Tuesday, Wilson reasserted her position and cited past rulings stating that federal courts should cede the way when state authorities start litigation. But the federal system, she said, did the opposite by moving to try Roof first despite this "rule" and "ingrained aspects of our national DNA."

## LGBT Laws:

**Washington Post:** I'm a transgender Republican. My party has betrayed me.  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2016/06/29/im-a-transgender-republican-my-party-has-betrayed-me/>

Jennifer Williams

Earlier this month in the Kansas legislature, Republican state Sen. Steve Fitzgerald dismissed a colleague's concern about suicide among transgender youth by arguing that "Suicide does have a high rate with those who are afflicted with some form of insanity." Iowa Congressman Steve King has called for "civil disobedience" to block transgender rights. In April, Denton County, Tex., sheriff candidate Tracy Murphree apologized after threatening on Facebook that if a transgender woman were in a public restroom with his daughter, she would "then identify as John Doe until he wakes up in whatever hospital he may be taken to." In her typically clueless way, Republican convert and Fox News commentator Stacey Dash said she'd rather transgender women go "in the bushes" than have access to the restrooms other women do. With states across the country considering or passing Republican-sponsored, so-called bathroom bills, the debate over transgender rights has, sadly, made it increasingly difficult for transgender people, including me, just to be who we are. What's doubly disturbing for me: I'm a lifelong Republican. On transgender rights, my party has betrayed me.

**NOTE:** I want GOP governors and legislators to get a grip and follow the example of Deep South governors Nikki Haley (R-S.C.) and Nathan Deal (R-Ga.) who saw these bathroom bills for what they are. As Haley explained when she rejected the idea that these bills were about public safety: "This is not a battle that we've seen is needed in South Carolina ... It's not something that we see that citizens are asking for." By showing leadership, she and Deal not only refused to discriminate, they spared the business communities in their states the boycotts and legal challenges that North Carolina invited by signing on to this form of un-American hostility. Other elected officials should be able to follow their lead.

**Associated Press:** Clock ticking, but tweaks in play for N. Carolina LGBT law

<http://bigstory.ap.org/0645856953644bdf8008c9a5ca3df5ae>

Gary D. Robertson

The window is small and the legislative strategy tricky, but GOP leaders say there's still a chance to change the North Carolina law that sparked a clash over transgender rights on the national stage. The state law, known as House Bill 2 and passed March 23, limited anti-discrimination rules that protect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. In the portion of the bill that got the most attention nationwide, transgender men and women were directed to use public restrooms corresponding with the sex on their birth certificates. The legislation has remained intact since then, despite national protests, the arrests of dozens of demonstrators at North Carolina's Legislative Building, a federal lawsuit against the state, and strong words from officials, including U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch, about the law as "state-sponsored discrimination."

**SC Political News:**

**Post and Courier:** State Ethics Commission won't dismiss complaint against Treasurer Curtis Loftis

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160628/160629431/state-ethics-commission-wont-dismiss-complaint-against-treasurer-curtis-loftis->

Maya T. Prabhu

The State Ethics Commission on Tuesday denied a request from Treasurer Curtis Loftis to dismiss a claim that he used his position to help a friend land a job representing his office in a lawsuit. The commission took less than a day to decide to move forward with its investigation and schedule a public hearing in the case. Loftis is accused of asking S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson to hire Michael Montgomery, a longtime friend who served as Loftis' personal attorney, to represent the Treasurer's Office in a lawsuit. Montgomery was paid \$2 million when the case was settled. The lawsuit was filed by the Treasurer's Office against the Bank of New York Mellon, which was suspected of violating a securities lending agreement with the treasurer. Loftis and Montgomery also

serve together on the board of the nonprofit Saluda Charitable Trust.

**Post and Courier:** At the conclusion of Benghazi committee investigation, Trey Gowdy has one request: 'Read the report'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160628/160629449/at-the-conclusion-of-benghazi-committee-investigation-trey-gowdy-has-one-request-read-the-report>

Emma Dumain

U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy came before the microphones and flashing cameras Tuesday morning with only one request: Read his report. It was a tall order from the South Carolina Republican and chairman of the committee tasked with investigating the September 2012 attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya. The report, representing more than two years of work amid public scrutiny and political criticism, is more than 800 pages long. "Read this report," Gowdy implored reporters during a 56-minute Capitol Hill press conference. "You can read this report from pillar to post in less time than our fellow Americans were under attack in Benghazi." Gowdy's findings purport to identify systemic failures of the Obama administration to adequately respond to the tragedy on the night of Sept. 11, 2012, when a terrorist siege claimed the lives of four Americans, including the U.S. ambassador to Libya. It does not specifically implicate Hillary Clinton, then the secretary of state and now presumptive Democratic presidential nominee. Democrats argue she was the target of the committee's investigation from the beginning.

**Herald-Journal:** Gowdy opponent releases statement on Benghazi report

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160628/articles/160629684>

Chris Fedalei, a Democrat challenging incumbent U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., issued the following statement Tuesday on the final Benghazi report: "With this investigation, Trey has moved to cement his status as a Washington insider, neglecting his constituents in the process. If you check his record, there's nothing but this sham of an investigation and empty floor speeches - it's all partisan wrangling and fear mongering. In November, Trey will quickly learn that accountability goes both ways."

**SC Agency News:**

**Associated Press:** Authorities investigate inmate's death at S. Carolina prison

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=dScAAKR4](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=dScAAKR4)

SC State Wire

Authorities are investigating violence at a maximum-security South Carolina prison that left one inmate dead and another hospitalized. Local media outlets report Tuesday that the South Carolina Department of Corrections is investigating the death of 35-year-old Ae Kingratsaiphon. Agency spokeswoman Stephanie Givens says Kingratsaiphon was killed Thursday at Lee Correctional Institution in Bishopville. He had been serving a life sentence since 1999 for murder in the killing of the operator of a video gambling parlor in Aiken. Authorities have not given specifics about the incident or the extent of the second inmate's injuries. Lee currently houses nearly 1,400 inmates. In recent years, it has experienced riots and other inmate violence.

**The State:** SCDC investigating inmates depicted on social media with makeshift knife

<http://www.thestate.com/latest-news/article86478592.html>

Cynthia Roldan

Department of Corrections officials are investigating an incident in which an inmate used a contraband device to transmit a live feed from within one of the state's prisons. Concerned citizens on



social media spotted a live stream of an inmate through Periscope, an application that allows users to stream from their digital devices through Twitter. They took screenshots of the feed, and reported it to corrections officials through email, phone and Twitter, said Stephanie Givens, spokeswoman for the agency. "SCDC investigators have identified two individuals and will continue working to identify all parties involved," said Givens in a written statement. An inmate is seen holding what appears to be a makeshift knife in one of the images. Several inmates are also pictured in a cell in a separate screenshot. The prison has not been identified.

## SC Elections:

**Associated Press:** Voters oust all 4 incumbent senators on SC runoff ballots

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=daLSBoH7](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=daLSBoH7)

Seanna Adcox

Voters ousted all four incumbent South Carolina senators in Tuesday's primary runoffs, including the chairman of the powerful Judiciary Committee. The contests end a 38-year legislative career for Republican Sen. Larry Martin, who's led the Judiciary Committee since 2012. Senate Corrections Committee Chairman Mike Fair also lost his bid after 32 years in the Legislature. The most controversial of the unseated senators, Republican Lee Bright of Roebuck, was sent home after two terms. Just 13 legislative races were on Tuesday's ballots. There were no statewide contests, contributing to low voter turnout. Eight of the chamber's 46 senators will be new next year, when combining retirements with the results of this month's contests. In all, the five unseated senators take 126 years of legislative experience with them.

**NOTE:** Gov. Nikki Haley won one and lost one in the runoffs, worsening her primary endorsement record in 2016 to two for seven.

**Post and Courier:** Sen. Lee Bright, other Statehouse runoff incumbents knocked out

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160628/160629417/sen-lee-bright-other-statehouse-runoff-incumbents-knocked-out>

Gavin Jackson

Voters fired a backlash against Statehouse incumbents in runoff elections Tuesday as a string of veteran lawmakers were tossed out of office, including controversial Spartanburg County Republican Sen. Lee Bright, who made gender bathrooms and defense of gun rights a cornerstone of his last months in office. Other victims Tuesday included Pickens state Sen. Larry Martin, powerful chairman of the Judiciary Committee, who supported bringing the Confederate flag down last year and also agreed to hold hearings this summer on gun-restrictive legislation. Also defeated was Sen. Mike Fair, R-Greenville, who departs after 32 years in the Statehouse.

**NOTE:** It was overall not a good season for Haley either. Only three of the eight candidates she endorsed — Talley, Wes Climer and Rep. Chip Huggins — won their contests this primary season. Five other seats, including the powerful Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, and potentially the next Senate Judiciary Chairman Sen. Luke Rankin, R-Conway, escaped a wave of negative advertising from a pro-Haley political advocacy group, A Great Day SC.

**NOTE:** Haley's endorsement also didn't sway voters to support Dorchester Councilwoman Carroll Duncan over Katie Arrington to take retiring Rep. Jenny Horne's Summerville seat in the primary, or for Reese Boyd to defeat Rep. Stephen Goldfinch in their fight for retiring Sen. Ray Cleary's Georgetown seat. With Martin out, Rankin is the heir apparent as the senior member of Senate Judiciary. The change could upend what laws head to floor for debate in Columbia and also Haley's influence with the committee during her two remaining years in office.

**The State:** 4 SC Senate incumbents fall in runoffs

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article86561867.html>

S.C. voters pointed four state senators toward the exit Tuesday night – including two longtime lawmakers and state Sen. Lee Bright, R-Spartanburg, the Senate's most outspoken conservative firebrand. A legislator for 37 years, state Sen. Larry Martin, R-Pickens, lost to Rex Rice, an Easley construction professional and cattle farmer. A legislator for more than three decades, state Sen. Mike Fair, R-Greenville, lost in a landslide to challenger William Timmons, a former prosecutor from Greenville. Timmons will face Constitution candidate Roy Magnuson in November. State Sen. Creighton Coleman, D-Fairfield, lost to Great Falls' Mike Fanning, the executive director of the Olde English Consortium. A showdown between two Charleston attorneys ended with Sandy Senn beating Roy Maybank. State Sen. Paul Thurmond, son of former S.C. governor and U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond, did not seek re-election.

**NOTE:** Gov. Nikki Haley endorsed Talley last week, joining efforts by the the S.C. Chamber of Commerce and the Conservation Voters of South Carolina – two powerful lobbying groups – to prevent Bright from winning a third term.

**NOTE:** While Haley's candidate won in Spartanburg, the Republican governor also lost one contest Tuesday, with state Rep. Stephen Goldfinch, R-Georgetown, narrowly beating Reese Boyd for a state Senate seat. Haley endorsed Boyd, a Murrells Inlet attorney, for the Senate seat, which Republican Ray Cleary will vacate when he retires this year.

**Post and Courier :** All four local Charleston GOP runoff favorites win

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160628/160629400/all-four-local-charleston-gop-runoff-favorites-win>

Schuyler Kropf

There were no upsets in four Republican runoff elections in the Charleston area Tuesday as all the first-place vote-getters from two weeks ago won their second round votes. In Dorchester County, GOP voters picked Paul Brothers to be their nominee for coroner over Mike Giglio. In the Senate District 41 runoff, Sandy Senn defeated second-place challenger from two weeks ago Roy Maybank. Senn collected 58 percent of the vote to Maybank's 42 percent, with all precincts reporting. In the Republican House District 110 primary runoff, William Cogswell Jr. also finished in first place this time around. He defeated Russell Guerard for the chance to represent downtown Charleston and Mount Pleasant in the House of Representatives. In the Senate District 34 race for a Georgetown County-anchored seat being vacated by Sen. Ray Cleary, state Rep. Stephen Goldfinch bested Reese Boyd by a 52 percent to 48 percent margin.

**NOTE:** Boyd had been backed by Gov. Nikki Haley. The seat includes the northern parts of Charleston County.

**Greenville News:** Rice defeats Martin in Senate District 2 runoff

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2016/06/28/senate-district-2-runoff-results/86473816/>

Ron Barnett

Former state Rep. Rex Rice defeated longtime incumbent state Sen. Larry Martin in the Republican primary runoff for the state Senate District 2 seat Tuesday. Rice claimed 54.2 percent of the vote, according to the Pickens County Board of Voter Registration and Elections Martin, who has held the Senate seat representing Pickens County since 1992, had received 5,076 votes to Rice's 6,010. Rice gave credit to his campaign team for working hard with him to get his message out to the voters. He spent a lot of time on the side of the road talking to voters and said he believes people appreciated

having a chance to discuss issues with him.

**Sun News:** Goldfinch wins runoff election

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/politics-government/article86552737.html>

Emily Weaver

State Rep. Stephen Goldfinch secured the most votes in a runoff election with challenger Reese Boyd for the S.C. Senate District 34 seat Tuesday night. Goldfinch clinched a total of 1,375 votes (51.56 percent) over Boyd's 1,292 (48.44 percent) in Horry County, according to unofficial results Tuesday night. In Georgetown County - the hometown county of both challengers - Goldfinch netted 1,205 votes (53.65 percent) over Boyd's 1,041 (46.35 percent), according to unofficial results. In Charleston County, Goldfinch secured the final lead over his challenger, garnering 218 votes (51.90 percent) over Boyd's 202 (48.10 percent), according to unofficial results.48/ Boyd and Goldfinch, both Republicans and attorneys from Murrells Inlet, garnered a little more than 40 percent of the vote in the primary two weeks ago, sparking a runoff.

**NOTE:** Boyd was endorsed by Gov. Nikki Haley, but Goldfinch will now be the Republican nominee to replace retiring state Sen. Ray Cleary for Senate District 34.

**South Strand News:** Goldfinch edges out Boyd in GOP runoff for District 34 state Senate seat

<http://www.southstrandnews.com/20160628/160629894/goldfinch-edges-out-boyd-in-gop-runoff-for-district-34-state-senate-seat>

Max Hrenda

It took an extra two weeks to decide, but District 34 voters may have determined who will next represent them in the state Senate. Although the vote wouldn't be certified until 10 a.m. Thursday, June 30, unofficial results indicated Stephen Goldfinch emerged victorious in a tight race over Reese Boyd in the statewide primary runoff on June 28, two weeks after both men earned more than 3,000 votes in the statewide Republican primary. Only 138 votes separated the two attorneys in the June 14 primary. The margin was a little bigger on June 28 as Goldfinch earned 2,798 votes to Boyd's 2,535.

**NOTE:** The former law partners had engaged in a contentious campaign over the past several months, which stretched from District 34 all the way to Columbia. Two years after she endorsed Goldfinch, this year, Gov. Nikki Haley appeared at Boyd events, donated to his campaign and denounced Goldfinch to the media.

**Greenville News:** Timmons unseats longtime Sen. Mike Fair in runoff

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/06/28/timmons-poised-unseat-longtime-sen-mike-fair-runoff/86486640/>

Amanda Coyne

After coming within 50 votes in the June 14 Republican primary, William Timmons unseated 21-year incumbent Sen. Mike Fair in Senate District 6 by nearly a 2-to-1 margin. Timmons earned 65.3 percent of the vote in the Greenville County district that includes Furman, Paris Mountain and parts of Taylors and Travelers Rest. Fair received 34.7 percent. Fair's defeat was one of four incumbent senators', including Sen. Lee Bright, whose district includes Greer, and Sen. Larry Martin, a 34-year legislator from Pickens County. Longtime Greenville County Sheriff Steve Loftis also lost his runoff, marking a bad election night for Upstate incumbents. Fair said he did not know why Greenville County voters showed such strong opposition to incumbent candidates Tuesday night, but he was thankful that his constituents had allowed him to serve for more than two decades.

**The Herald:** Fanning unseats Coleman in Senate 17 Democratic runoff

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article86548137.html>

Jennifer Becknell

Challenger Mike Fanning of Great Falls narrowly defeated incumbent state Sen. Creighton Coleman of Winnsboro in Tuesday's Democratic runoff for Senate District 17, according to unofficial results. With all three counties in the district – York, Chester and Fairfield – reporting, Fanning collected 4,674 votes, or about 56 percent, compared to 3,635 votes, or 44 percent for Coleman, according to results posted on SCvotes.org. The runoff winner will face Republican Mark Palmer of York in November. District 17 includes parts of Chester, Fairfield and York counties. Fanning and Coleman could not be reached late Tuesday, after results were posted.

**The State:** Caskey wins GOP nod for Lexington House seat

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article84657382.html>

Cassie Cope

Prosecutor Micah Caskey won the GOP nomination Tuesday for the S.C. House District 89 seat that represents the Cayce, Springdale and West Columbia areas. Caskey beat West Columbia City Councilman Tem Miles in a runoff landslide that followed a four-candidate primary race on June 14. "It's a nice affirmation of all the work that we put in over the last couple of months," Caskey said, adding he now will shift his focus to the November general election Caskey face two candidates in the November —Democrat Peggy Butler and Constitutional candidate Robert Lampley. All are vying to replace retiring state Rep. Kenny Bingham, R-Lexington. Bingham chaired the House Ethics Committee and a House subcommittee that oversaw K-12 spending.

**Aiken Standard:** Bart Blackwell edges out KT Ruthven to win S.C. House District 81 runoff

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160628/160629467/bart-blackwell-edges-out-kt-ruthven-to-win-sc-house-district-81-runoff->

Christina Cleveland

Bart Blackwell defeated KT Ruthven in the S.C. House of Representatives District 81 runoff on Tuesday, according to unofficial results, and both candidates said the results of the race hinged on voter turnout. Blackwell, a local businessman and member of the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors, received 1,038 votes, or 51.08 percent, and Ruthven, a local Realtor and former Aiken GOP chairman, received 994 votes, or 48.92 percent, unofficial votes show. Around 7 percent of voters in District 81 participated in the runoff. The District 81 seat is being vacated by S. C. Rep. Don Wells, R-Aiken, who decided not to seek re-election.

**The State:** Thigpen cruises to win in House 79 runoff

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article86550727.html>

Avery G. Wilks

Northeast Richland voters overwhelmingly bought into Columbia pastor Ivory Thigpen's platform of hope Tuesday. Thigpen cruised to a landslide victory over Richland 2 school board member Monica Elkins in the House District 79 Democratic primary runoff, two weeks after finishing just 31 votes ahead of the former teacher and principal in a three-candidate June 14 primary. "This is not about me. This is about God," said Thigpen, pastor at Rehoboth Baptist Church on Hardscrabble Road, who broke down in tears after just two precincts reported. "I'm humbled." Thigpen has said he felt called by God to run for the S.C. House after the massacre of nine black parishioners in a Charleston church last summer.

**Independent Mail:** West wins SC House District 7 runoff



<http://www.independentmail.com/news/politics/tight-race-for-sc-house-district-7-3647a20a-9174-0850-e053-0100007f8107-384773151.html>

Belton City Councilman Jay West won the Republican runoff Tuesday for the South Carolina House of Representatives District 7 seat. West received 58 percent of the votes, compared to 42 percent for Honea Path resident Blake Parker, according to unofficial vote totals. West is not expected to face any opposition in the November general election. West, who received 46 percent of the votes in the June 14 primary, said he was pleased with the outcome. "I am very thankful to have good friends, new friends and great people in District 7," he said. Parker, who received 41 percent in the primary, said he "worked hard" in his first bid for elected office. The 25-year-old self-employed real estate investor had campaigned on the need to reduce mismanagement in state government.

**The State:** Dalhi Myers beats Bernice Scott in Richland Council District 10 runoff

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article86539487.html>

Sarah Ellis

Echoing the results of a special runoff election two weeks ago, voters in Richland County Council District 10 elected a political newcomer to begin a four-year council term in January. Attorney Dalhi Myers is the first person outside of Bernice Scott's family to represent District 10 in nearly three decades. Myers easily beat Scott, a former 20-year council veteran, in Tuesday's runoff election. District 10 covers the majority of Lower Richland, including Eastover, Gadsden and Hopkins. The seat opened up after Scott's son-in-law, Kelvin Washington, was removed from office for failing to file income tax returns for three years. He would have been up for re-election for a third term this November.

**The State:** Hubbard triumphs in solicitor showdown

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article86552212.html>

Tim Flach

Rick Hubbard is set to return to the solicitor's office in Lexington County and surrounding areas in January, this time as chief prosecutor. Hubbard cruised to victory Tuesday in a Republican runoff match that is the only contest for the position. He defeated University of South Carolina law school faculty member Candice Lively in a showdown that turned testy at the end. The pair of former assistant prosecutors competed to succeed Donnie Myers, who is retiring at 71 after serving a state record 40 years as 11th Circuit solicitor. No one else is running for the post.

**South Carolina News:**

**Associated Press:** SCE&G seeks rate increase to fund nuclear plant construction

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=XU6LzxJa](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=XU6LzxJa)

SC State Wire

South Carolina Electric & Gas is asking state regulators to approve a 3.1 percent residential raise that would be the largest single rate increase that has occurred since the utility began charging its 700,000 customers for the construction of two new reactors. The Post and Courier of Charleston (<http://bit.ly/299ZoEL>) reports that the proposed rate increase would raise \$74.2 million for construction of the reactors at the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station in Jenkinsville. The rate hike, which would take effect at the end of November if approved, would be the ninth increase to pay for the reactors since 2009. Commercial customers would see their rates increase by between 3 percent and 3.3 percent. Office of Regulatory Staff Executive Director Dukes Scott says the utility has charged its customers more than \$1 billion for the \$14 billion project.

**Associated Press :** South Carolina interstate fatality rate among highest in US

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=9744xcmj](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=9744xcmj)

SC State Wire

Thousands of South Carolina motorists traveling for the Fourth of July holiday will be using interstates that are ranked among the deadliest in the nation. The numbers are contained in a report from TRIP, a transportation research organization based in Washington, D.C. A report released this week finds South Carolina's interstate fatality rate is the sixth-highest in the U.S. During 2014, there were .82 fatalities for every 100 million miles traveled on interstates in South Carolina. New Mexico has the highest rate of 1.26 fatalities for every 100 million vehicle miles. The report finds the nation's interstates are facing increasing levels of congestion because of more traffic.

#### **Local News:**

**The State:** 30 homes in flood-prone area near Irmo could be acquired, demolished

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article86523827.html>

Tim Flach

Lexington County is looking to acquire and raze 30 homes in the flood-prone Challedon neighborhood near Irmo. Those homes mainly along Kinley Creek would be converted to informal parks under a flood mitigation plan approved by County Council on Tuesday. Buyouts are what some homeowners there want, saying the once bucolic creek overflows into yards and homes often during storms. The homes have not yet been identified. The plan allocates \$6 million for their acquisition and demolition. A buyout is part of a package using \$16.3 million in federal aid allotted to the county for recovery from flooding created by record rain in the Columbia area in October.

**Post and Courier:** Berkeley County School Board no longer reciting Lord's Prayer

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160628/160629397/berkeley-county-school-board-no-longer-reciting-lords-prayer>

Deanna Pan

When Berkeley County School Board Chairman Jim Hayes called Tuesday's meeting to order, he bucked a time-honored district tradition. Instead of asking the audience to stand and join members in reciting the Lord's Prayer, he requested a moment of silence. "So each of us can reflect on our own faith and its place in our work here this evening," he said. Nine board members bowed their heads. A few even folded their hands on the dais and mumbled a quiet invocation. Earlier this month, Americans United for Separation of Church and State sent a letter to Berkeley County school board members, alerting them that their tradition of reciting the Lord's Prayer before every meeting violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Citing decades of case law, the organization asked the board to remove prayer from their meetings, arguing that their tradition "exploits the prayer opportunity to advance the Christian faith" because the Lord's Prayer is "specifically and uniquely a Christian prayer."

**Island Packet:** USCB campus site cleared, lawsuit pending

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/article86506587.html>

Teresa Moss

About 56,000 square feet of dilapidated office space has been demolished on Hilton Head Island to make way for a new University of South Carolina Beaufort campus. Construction crews recently cleared the last of two old office buildings from the 6-acre site on Office Park Road, making room for the controversial \$33.5 million campus that will house the college's hospitality management program. For the moment, just oaks and pine trees remain. "It looks absolutely beautiful. I wish they would put

a park there," said Kate Keep, a Hilton Head resident and former member of Town Council who is suing the town over its decision to build the campus. Some town residents have expressed concerns about the town process by which the campus was approved and the traffic it will bring to the island's south end, particularly to the Sea Pines traffic circle. Keep's lawsuit is in the discovery phase, she said Tuesday, adding that her research has raised additional questions.

**Associated Press:** Coastal Carolina beats Arizona 5-4 to even CWS finals

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=9ZNISTVA](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=9ZNISTVA)

Eric Olson

Coastal Carolina's incredible postseason run isn't over yet. Connor Owings' bloop RBI single sparked a three-run eighth inning, and the Chanticleers beat Arizona 5-4 on Tuesday night to send the College World Series finals to a deciding Game 3. Mike Morrison was sensational in his first start of the season, helping the Chanticleers rebound from a 3-0 loss to the Wildcats in the opener. The teams meet again Wednesday night for the national championship. "That was a whole lot of emotion going on out there, and it's hard to describe it, having not been in that position before in my life," said Coastal Carolina coach Gary Gilmore, whose program is in the CWS for the first time. "Our guys kept breathing pretty good, and we got through it."

**Sun News:** Chanticleers even CWS finals with Arizona in dramatic duel

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/sports/college/big-south/coastal-carolina-university/article86567617.html>

Ryan Young

Anthony Marks had no sooner completed his slide across home plate in the eighth inning when he rose and smacked his hands together in one motion before clenching his fists near his waist and letting out a celebratory howl. As many of the teal-clad supporters in the stadium – and back home, for that matter – surely mirrored his response. For a Coastal Carolina baseball team that has produced so many heart-pounding, unforgettable moments this postseason, these Chanticleers showed Tuesday night they're far from done. Facing elimination in the best-of-three finals of the College World Series, the Chants broke open a tied game with three runs in the top of the eighth inning and would need every one of them while holding on for a 5-4 win over Arizona before a crowd of 24,716 at TD Ameritrade Park.

**Herald-Journal:** Cherokee County recognized for reducing childhood obesity

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160628/articles/160629678>

Alyssa Mulliger

A decline in Cherokee County's childhood obesity rate over the past few years has caught the attention of a national foundation dedicated to improving health. The county was recently recognized by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which released an updated collection of reports from states, counties and cities that have seen their childhood obesity rates drop. Cherokee County is the only location in South Carolina listed in the foundation's "Signs of Progress" report, which includes places that are making progress in decreasing childhood obesity rates. The report shows a 20.2 percent and 21 percent decline in combined overweight and obesity rates among Cherokee County first- and third-graders, respectively, between 2012 and 2015.

**World News:**

**Associated Press:** 41 dead in Istanbul airport attack blamed on Islamic State

<http://bigstory.ap.org/4f2da830f3dc423e92d07e89623bca52>

Zeynep Bilginsoy, Suzan Fraser and Dominique Soguel

Suicide attackers armed with guns and bombs killed 41 people and wounded scores of others at Istanbul's busy Ataturk Airport in an attack the government blamed on Islamic State extremists. Funerals were expected Wednesday for some of the victims — who included at least 23 Turkish citizens and 13 foreign nationals — as Turkish authorities tried to piece together how the attack happened. A Turkish official said authorities are going through surveillance footage and interviewing witnesses to establish a preliminary timeline and details. The death toll excluded the three bombers, who arrived in a taxi and eventually blew themselves up after coming under fire, according to the government, though there were conflicting reports about exactly where they detonated their explosives.

**Associated Press:** Division, confusion as EU rethinks future without Britain

<http://bigstory.ap.org/52c6d57bf83e4a6f8e0033c63dd813af>

Angela Charlton and Lorne Cook

EU leaders met Wednesday without Britain for the first time to rethink their shaken union, make it more relevant to citizens and keep it from disintegrating after Britain's unprecedented vote to leave — but conflicting visions of Europe's future are complicating the high-stakes summit. British Prime Minister David Cameron left Brussels on Tuesday night without any clear divorce plan, fending off pressure for a quick exit and punting the complex departure negotiations to his successor. In Britain, nominations opened Wednesday for a new Conservative leader to replace him after his devastating political miscalculation in calling last week's referendum. With Britain's fate in Europe uncertain, the 27 remaining presidents, chancellors and prime ministers meeting in Brussels are focusing Wednesday on what to do about the rest of the continent. There's a widespread sense that the post-war project to foster peace via trade has become a bureaucratic, undemocratic behemoth with little meaning for its 500 million citizens.

**Associated Press:** On Ireland's border, Britain's EU exit threatens jobs, peace

<http://bigstory.ap.org/c7dfce99656748d5b0b0bdc5dcfe6c42>

Dorothee Theising and Shawn Pogatchnik

Hugh Maguire can't believe the British really did it. The Northern Ireland farmer, like many residents along the United Kingdom's virtually unmarked land border with the Republic of Ireland, faces the risk of financial ruin if Britain proceeds with plans to exit the European Union. EU farm subsidies provide most of his income from highland pastures of cows and sheep — around 80,000 euros (\$90,000) annually to support his 241-hectare (600-acre) farm. He gets the subsidies under the EU's "Less Favored Areas" rating — farms on marginally productive but environmentally valued land. Maguire called last week's referendum verdict — with 52 percent voting U.K.-wide to leave the bloc, including 44 percent in Northern Ireland — "a disaster." "I can't see Britain subsidizing us the same as the EU has done," said Maguire, who voted to remain. "We've been much better off with the EU when we got the subsidies. ... I honestly think in a few years' time, there'll be no farming in this part of Northern Ireland."

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