

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Nikki Haley defends grieving Muslim Gold Star parents against Trump; others in S. C. GOP slow to respond

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160801/160809941/nikki-haley-defends-grieving-muslim-gold-star-parents-against-trump-others-in-sc-gop-slow-to-respond>

Emma Dumain

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham was the first South Carolina Republican to weigh in after GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump belittled the parents of a Muslim soldier who died defending the United States. “There used to be some things that were sacred in American politics — that you don’t do — like criticizing the parents of a fallen soldier even if they criticize you,” said Graham. As for Trump’s rejection of the social norm, he added, “‘unacceptable’ doesn’t even begin to describe it.” It was no surprise that Graham — a veteran, senior member on the Senate Armed Services Committee, former 2016 presidential contender and one of Trump’s harshest critics — had few reservations about entering the rhetorical fray. It was also not entirely unexpected that fellow S.C. GOP office-holders weren’t as eager to volunteer condemnation of their party’s presidential nominee, even as he took to Twitter to deride Khizr and Ghazala Khan, the grieving parents who took to the stage of the Democratic National Convention to take Trump to task for proposing a ban on Muslim immigrants. Statements came in slowly throughout the day on Monday, and only by request from The Post and Courier.

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley may have received a barrage of press inquiries on the matter. On Monday afternoon, she released statement attributed to her directly, rather than to her spokeswoman, which is rare. “As a member of a military family, and the governor of a proud military state that has been recognized as the most patriotic, my heart and my unending thanks go out to the Khan family for their enormous sacrifice for our country,” said Haley. “As far as I’m concerned, they have the standing to say whatever they want in the political process and should not face criticism for it.”

NOTE: Haley has butted heads with Trump since late last year when she came out against his call to ban Muslims from entering the country. She subtly jabbed him in her nationally-televised Republican Party response to President Barack Obama’s State of the Union address, and didn’t say “Trump” once during her remarks to the South Carolina delegation breakfast at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland. After Graham and Haley, U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford, R-S.C., might be the third most vocal detractor of Trump among the state’s Republican elected officials. When asked by The Post and Courier to respond to Trump’s recent comments, Sanford was candid.

NOTE: While Graham has said he will not vote for Trump or Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, Sanford has been less clear on who he plans to support in November. Haley has reluctantly said she will vote for the Republican nominee later this fall. U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., shares Haley’s commitment to supporting Trump on Election Day, even while he has criticized Trump in the past for some of his more inflammatory remarks, most notably calling his comments on a Mexican-American judge “racially toxic.”

NOTE: McMaster, the first elected official of this election cycle to back Trump, delivered a nominating

speech at the RNC, making his denouncement of the nominee extremely unlikely. Rutherford also called upon Haley to pull her endorsement, though the governor stopped short of that on Monday.

The State: SC Dems hit Haley, McMaster on Trump's Gold Star family comments

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article93089737.html>

Bristow Marchant

South Carolina Democrats see an opportunity to go after the state's top Republicans in the ongoing controversy around GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump's comments about the family of a Muslim American soldier who died fighting in Iraq. Rep. Todd Rutherford, minority leader in the S.C. House of Representatives, called on Gov. Nikki Haley and Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster to pull their support of the Republican nominee after his comments about the family of fallen Army Capt. Humayun Khan. "Our state is a proud military state with thousands of active duty and retired soldiers, including First Gentleman Michael Haley," Rutherford said Monday. "Mr. Trump's attacks on our military, our soldiers, and the parents of those who made the ultimate sacrifice are reprehensible and un-American. Governor Haley and Lieutenant Governor McMaster should show true leadership and immediately withdraw their support for a man who clearly doesn't understand or appreciate the great sacrifices our military families show every day."

NOTE: Haley was one of several Republicans who pushed back against Trump's comments. "As a member of a military family, and the governor of a proud military state that has been recognized as the most patriotic, my heart and my unending thanks go out to the Khan family for their enormous sacrifice for our country," Haley said in a statement issued separately from Rutherford's call for Republicans to denounce Trump. "As far as I'm concerned, they have the standing to say whatever they want in the political process and should not face criticism for it."

NOTE: Haley has long had a strained relationship with Trump. Back in January, while delivering the GOP response to the State of the Union, Haley took a swipe at Trump's primary campaign by calling on voters to resist the "siren call of the angriest voices."

Associated Press: Graham: Trump treatment of soldier's family 'unacceptable'

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=59eK18Kz

Meg Kinnard

Donald Trump handily won South Carolina's Republican primary, and the state is solidly red, all but certain to go into his column in the general election. But both of the state's U.S. senators, both Republicans, are criticizing the GOP presidential nominee's treatment of the parents of a decorated Muslim Army captain killed in Iraq, with one saying Trump is treacherously wading into an area previously untouched in politics: criticism of the families of fallen soldiers. "This is going to a place where we've never gone before, to push back against the families of the fallen," U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham told The Associated Press on Monday. "There used to be some things that were sacred in American politics - that you don't do - like criticizing the parents of a fallen soldier even if they criticize you."

NOTE: Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, the first elected official to back Trump's candidacy and who gave a nominating speech at the Republican National Convention, did not immediately return messages seeking comment on the situation. Todd Rutherford, the leader of South Carolina's state House Democrats, on Monday called on both McMaster and Gov. Nikki Haley to pull their support of Trump.

NOTE: Haley, who, like Scott, supported Rubio, has been critical of Trump but that she would back the GOP nominee. On Monday, the governor - whose husband is in the South Carolina National Guard - told AP the Kahn family has "the standing to say whatever they want in the political process and should not face criticism for it."

WACH: SC House Minority Leaders calls for Haley, McMaster to pull support for Trump
<http://wach.com/news/local/sc-house-minority-leaders-calls-for-haley-mcmaster-to-pull-support-for-trump>

Matthew Stevens

SC House Minority Leader is calling for Gov. Nikki Haley and Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster to pull their support of Donald Trump after his criticism of a fallen soldier's family. Rutherford's call for action against Trump comes after the GOP nominee suggested that Ghazala Khan, mother of fallen soldier Hymayun Khan, did not speak the Democratic National Convention last week because her Muslim faith did not allow her to. "I was horrified and deeply offended over the weekend when I saw the disparaging remarks by the Republic Presidential nominee Donald Trump about a courageous Gold Star family from Virginia," said Rutherford. "Governor Haley and Lieutenant Governor McMaster should show true leadership and immediately withdraw their support for a man who clearly doesn't understand or appreciate the great sacrifices our military families show every day," added Rutherford. NOTE: Governor Haley responded by saying, "'As a member of a military family, and the governor of a proud military state that has been recognized as the most patriotic, my heart and my unending thanks go out to the Khan family for their enormous sacrifice for our country. As far as I'm concerned, they have the standing to say whatever they want in the political process and should not face criticism for it."

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: Criticism grows for Trump's assailing of Muslim vet's family
<http://bigstory.ap.org/c15dde03b1ae420b88d8dc93f78a591f>

Julie Pace

A rising chorus of Republican lawmakers and veterans groups hastened to disavow Donald Trump's repeated criticism of a bereaved military family Monday, but the GOP presidential nominee refused to back down. He complained anew that he had been "viciously attacked" by the parents of a Muslim U. S. Army captain who was killed in Iraq. Arizona Sen. John McCain, a former prisoner of war, led the charge, saying Trump did not have "unfettered license to defame those who are the best among us." The Veterans of Foreign Wars, the nation's oldest and largest veterans organization, called Trump out of bounds for tangling with Khizr and Ghazala Khan, whose son was killed in 2004. "Election year or not, the VFW will not tolerate anyone berating a Gold Star family member for exercising his or her right of speech or expression," VFW leader Brian Duffy said.

Associated Press: Republicans declare support for Khans in spat with Trump
<http://bigstory.ap.org/77ce19730f8b4b2b9175d52fd7b749d2>

Laurie Kellman

Prominent Republicans are speaking out Monday against their own presidential candidate after he chose to scuffle with the grieving parents of a decorated Army veteran killed in Iraq. Khizr and Ghazala Khan, the bereaved parents of Capt. Humayun Khan, a Muslim who was awarded a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart after he was killed in 2004, have refused to back down from their criticism of Trump even as he has complained of being "viciously attacked." Republicans, from Trump's staunch supporters to those who have previously been reluctant to engage with Trump, have spoken out overwhelmingly in support of the Khans. None, however, has withdrawn an endorsement of Trump. Here are some of their comments...

SC Political News:

The State: Scramble: Seven candidates for one open S.C. Supreme Court seat

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article93106667.html>

John Monk

Five judges from across the state and two private attorneys are running for a vacancy on the five-member S.C. Supreme Court that will open up in January upon the retirement of Chief Justice Costa Pleicones. The two private attorneys are John Nichols and Matthew Richardson, both of Columbia. The judges seeking a seat are Administrative Law Chief Judge Ralph King Anderson III and state judges Diane Goodstein of Summerville, George James Jr. of Sumter, Keith Kelly of Moore and Carmen Mullen of Hilton Head. In another judicial race, Circuit Judge Alison Lee of Columbia has filed for an open seat on the S.C. Court of Appeals. She will be running against Judge Garrison "Gary" Hill of Greenville and private attorneys Rene Jose of Florence and Blake Hewitt of Conway. The candidates were announced Monday by the Judicial Merit Selection Commission, which will screen candidates for General Assembly elections. Legislators will vote in early 2017.

McClatchy DC: Women have come a long way, baby, but not in SC politics

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/national/article92631082.html>

Vera Bergengruen

Young girls who watched Hillary Clinton's historic nomination last week are growing up in a very different South Carolina than their mothers and grandmothers did. A female governor is running their state. And a woman could soon become their country's commander in chief. Women and girls have more educational opportunities and career options than ever before. But most women who want to run for office themselves would still find it difficult to break through in their home state. "South Carolina is South Carolina – it can be really hard getting people to come around," said Republican state Sen. Katrina Shealy, who was elected in 2012 to what was at the time the country's only all-male Senate. "We have great people, but it's still been hard to get them to accept women in a leadership role." The Palmetto State still has the second-lowest percentage of women in the state legislature in the nation, tied with Oklahoma at 14.1 percent, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Two of South Carolina's 46 senators and 22 of the 124 state representatives are women.

NOTE: "There has been a decline in the respectfulness of our public debate," College of Charleston political science professor Kendra Stewart said. "Hillary Clinton by her own admission has developed a thick skin; Nikki Haley too; but I can see a lot of women who don't want to go through that or put their families through that."

NOTE: Several experts boiled it down to three things: "right woman, right message, right time." "It explains a lot of Nikki Haley's success, as well as Hillary Clinton's and Sarah Palin's," Kedrowski said.

SC Agency News:

Island Packet : DHEC probe of nursing home death doesn't include company's Port Royal location

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article93092732.html>

Rebecca Lurye

A Port Royal assisted living home is not connected to a South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control investigation at a James Island facility under the same ownership. DHEC recently opened in inquiry into Savannah Place on James Island after a resident with dementia left the senior living facility and was found dead in a marsh in May, The Charleston Post and Courier reported this week. The probe found several violations at the Charleston County senior living home,

including inoperable door alarms and under-staffing, according to the newspaper. Savannah Place is owned by Chicago-based senior living company Enlivant, which has facilities in 18 states, including 10 in South Carolina. One of them is Helena Place, formerly called Helena House, in Port Royal. A DHEC spokesman, Jim Beasley, said Monday there are no active investigations at Helena Place.

Post and Courier: DHEC taking action against James Island senior living facility after resident's death

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160731/160739882/dhec-taking-action-against-james-island-senior-living-facility-after-residents-death>

Angie Jackson

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control is taking enforcement action against a James Island senior living facility after a resident with severe dementia wandered off and was found dead in a marsh in May. State investigators uncovered several violations at Savannah Place, at 1501 Secessionville Road, including inoperable door alarms when 80-year-old Marie Duddy walked away from the home on May 20, according to the investigation report. Duddy was found dead the following day in a marsh area in a neighborhood adjacent to the facility. It was determined that she most likely left through a controlled entrance at the front of the building. Doors at Savannah Place typically remain locked and have an audible alarm. On the day Duddy went missing, the paging system that notifies staff of an open exterior door was not working, according to the report.

Associated Press: DOT: I-26 widening expected to be finished next month

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=LCjAMG8S

SC State Wire

A \$75 million project to widen heavily traveled Interstate 26 east of Columbia is now expected to be finished next month. The work was to have been finished last November and The Times and Democrat of Orangeburg reports (<http://bit.ly/2aotcjwgn>) the Department of Transportation has been withholding \$10,000 a day in penalties. That amount has now reached about \$2.8 million. The project involves widening 10 miles of the interstate east of its junction with Interstate 77 while an additional 11 miles farther east is also being resurfaced. The overall contractor is bringing in a new paving contractor to get the road resurfaced by the end of next month. State Rep. Sen. Nikki Setzler of West Columbia last week questioned the delays and said the project poses a danger to motorists.

Post and Courier: DOT road priority meeting scheduled for North Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160801/160809927/dot-road-priority-meeting-scheduled-for-north-charleston>

Gavin Jackson

Residents of Charleston's tri-county area can tell state Department of Transportation officials what road and bridge projects they want to see added to a statewide improvement list later this month. The Aug. 16 meeting is one of eight being held across the state this month to solicit input on what projects people want to see included in the DOT's six-year project list known as the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan. The current plan, which is updated every three years, includes more than \$1.1 billion for more than 140 projects in the tri-county area, including improvements to the Savage Road bridge on Interstate 526. DOT representatives will be available to discuss the plan at the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments at 1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 100 in North Charleston. The plan covers projects such as bridges, road paving, interstate upgrades, rural road improvements, congestion mitigation and planning, among others that receive federal funding.

SC after Police Shootings:

The State: One dead after officer-involved shooting in Lexington County

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article93069547.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

A suspected burglar died Monday morning after authorities say he hit a Lexington County deputy with a stolen car. The shooting at the 100 block of Glenda Court in the Edmund community of southern Lexington County happened about 7 a.m. The suspect, a white man who was 43 years old, died at the scene, the coroner's office said. The sheriff's office reported the deputy was taken to a hospital for treatment and was released Monday afternoon. Deputies did not identify either the officer or the motorist and have turned the investigation over to the State Law Enforcement Division. This is the 27th officer-involved shooting in South Carolina in 2016, according to SLED. The deputy was answering a suspicious person report, sheriff's spokesman Capt. Adam Myrick said. The person drove toward the deputy, striking him, Myrick said. That's when the deputy fired, the spokesman said.

Morning News: Florence County Sheriff's Office to hold National Night Out celebration

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_30cd6e84-5815-11e6-bf90-0be1b7627ea9.html

The Florence County Sheriff's Office is celebrating the 33rd annual National Night Out on Tuesday, August 2, to recognize community Crime Watch organizations for their work in keeping local neighborhoods safe. The celebration is open to the public and will take place at the Hugh K. Leatherman Senior Center located at 600 Senior Way in Florence. The event will begin at 5 p.m. with an award ceremony honoring community service members at 6 p.m. Senator Leatherman will be featured as the keynote speaker for the celebration. The event will also feature live entertainment, free food and beverages and games for children in attendance. Proceeds and donations from the events will benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Pee Dee. All donations should be made payable to the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Pee Dee Area. National Night Out began in 1984, establishing a yearly crime-prevention campaign that works to promote partnerships between law enforcement and the communities they serve. More than 16,000 communities participate in the National Night Out initiative, equating to approximately 38 million people.

LGBT Laws:

Charlotte Observer: Federal judge to hear arguments on blocking HB2

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/politics-government/article92961432.html>

Anne Blythe

As legal bills for the governor and legislators defending House Bill 2 climb above \$176,000, lawyers arguing for and against the controversial law will step into a federal courtroom on Monday to begin a judicial process of great interest to people outside this state. North Carolina has been an epicenter of the national debate over transgender rights since Charlotte adopted its ordinance barring discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and the state responded by adopting HB2 to overturn the city's ordinance. On Monday, U.S. District Judge Thomas Schroeder will hold a hearing in federal court in Winston-Salem on a request from the first challengers of HB2 to block the law until they can make their case at trial. The U.S. Justice Department has made a similar request in a lawsuit that in many ways mirrors the arguments brought by the first challengers – three transgender residents, a lesbian law professor at N.C. Central University and a lesbian couple in Charlotte.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Gas prices barely budge during past week across S.C.; Palmetto State still lowest in nation

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160801/160809950/gas-prices-barely-budge-during-past-week-across-sc-palmetto-state-still-lowest-in-nation>

Warren L. Wise

The plummet in gasoline prices across South Carolina over the summer nearly stalled over the past week. The Palmetto State, with its low gas tax, still offers the lowest prices in the nation. The price dropped a scant 0.3 cent last week to an average of \$1.83 per gallon, according to gas price gauger GasBuddy. Motor club AAA puts the price a penny higher. That's the same average price by both services from the previous week, about 44 cents per gallon less than the same time one year ago. Nationally, the price dropped 2 cents to an average of \$2.13 a gallon, according to both gas price services. That's about 53 cents lower than this time last year. "With July coming to a conclusion, the U.S. saw its average retail gas price fall 16 cents per gallon across the month," said Will Speer, senior petroleum analyst with GasBuddy. "As prices continue to fall in the heart of summer, motorists have been able to take advantage of the cheapest summer prices in over a decade. Demand for gasoline continues to surge as low prices have spurred more road trips and have swayed consumer vehicle purchasing habits."

Morning News: Farm Aid deadline in 15 days

http://www.scnw.com/news/article_cbcc336a-5802-11e6-8554-878db757597c.html

Joe Perry

Farmers have 15 days to apply for South Carolina Farm Aid grants to help offset losses sustained from last year's flooding. In order to qualify, farmers must have experienced a verifiable loss of at least 40 percent of agricultural commodities due to October 2015 flooding on a farm located within a county declared a disaster by the USDA and also have a U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency issued farm number. Signing an affidavit, under penalty of perjury, certifying that information is accurate is also a requirement. "I encourage farmers still trying to recover from last year's devastating flood to apply for this one-time assistance," Hugh Weathers, agricultural commissioner, said in a press advisory. "There's still time to get your applications in and our partners continue to provide assistance with the application process."

Local News:

Associated Press: Teen arrested in shooting death of man in Spartanburg County

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

SC State Wire

Spartanburg County authorities say a 16-year-old youth is in custody in the death of a man who was shot in the car port of his home in Boiling Springs. Spartanburg County Coroner Rusty Clevenger tells local media outlets that 60-year-old George Kevin Rush was shot and killed about 6 on Monday morning. The youth was arrested at the scene and deputies say while he was being taken into custody he kicked out window of a sheriff's cruiser. Authorities say that Rush was leaving for work when he was shot. They have not released additional details about the incident.

Associated Press: Suspect in fatal SC home invasion captured in Virginia

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=tzzM8lr3

SC State Wire

A suspect in a fatal home invasion has returned to South Carolina after being captured in Virginia. The Berkeley County Sheriff's Office tells media outlets 23-year-old Sherrod Deon Palmer was

located in Danville, Virginia, with the help of the U.S. Marshals Service. Palmer faces several charges including murder in the July 21 shooting death of 27-year-old Kadeem Johnson. Deputies say Palmer was one of five men accused of forcing their way inside a Huger home in the Francis Marion National Forest, killing Johnson and wounding an unidentified woman before fleeing. Records show 18-year-old Drake Campbell, 26-year-old Kenneth Campbell Jr. and a 17-year-old male have all been arrested and charged with murder in connection with the incident. A fifth suspect remains at large. It isn't clear if the men have attorneys.

Associated Press : North Carolina man charged in North Myrtle Beach hit-and-run

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

SC State Wire

A Wilmington, North Carolina, man is charged in a fatal weekend hit-and-run in North Myrtle Beach. Horry County Deputy Coroner Darris Fowler tells local media outlets that 41-year-old Robert Woods of North Myrtle Beach was struck and killed shortly before 8:30 on Saturday night. Authorities say a man and a woman were arguing near the entrance to the North Myrtle Beach Park and Sports Complex when a car veered off the road and hit the man. North Myrtle Beach city spokesman Pat Dowling says that 29-year-old Timothy Earl Drew of Wilmington was later arrested in Surfside Beach and faces several charges in the incident. He is in jail and it wasn't immediately known if he had an attorney.

Associated Press: Authorities ID body found in Lake Murray

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=nV1V5X4i

SC State Wire

The Newberry County Coroner has identified the body of a woman found in Lake Murray over the weekend. Coroner Craig Newton issued a release on Monday saying that the body of 73-year-old Judith Horton Walling of Prosperity was found about 10 feet from shore in about 4 feet of water on Sunday morning. Sheriff Lee Foster says it appears the woman went out for a swim and could not make it back to shore. Authorities do not suspect foul play.

Associated Press : Woman dies in weekend tubing accident on Catawba River

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=MWY4rve4

SC State Wire

Rock Hill police are investigating the death of a woman who died in a weekend tubing accident on the Catawba River. York Court Coroner Sabrina Gast said in a news release Monday that the victim has been identified as 44-year-old Christie Shipley of Rock Hill. The victim was tubing on the river when she was reported missing late Saturday afternoon. Her body was recovered on Sunday morning by a dive team. An autopsy will be conducted to determine the cause of death.

Associated Press: Body of man missing in North Carolina lake recovered

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

SC State Wire

Searchers have recovered the body of a man who went missing while tubing on White Lake over the weekend. Bladen County authorities tell local media outlets that the body of 36-year-old Kendrick LAVOR DIALS of Florence, South Carolina was recovered on Monday morning. Officials say DIALS was riding in an inner-tube behind a boat when he fell off the tube and disappeared in the water on Saturday. Crews searched for the missing man using sonar, K-9 units, a drone and a helicopter. The lake is located about 40 miles south of Fayetteville.

Associated Press: Busy season for lifeguards along the strand in Myrtle Beach

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

SC State Wire

It's been a busy summer for ocean rescues in the Myrtle Beach area, apparently because the hot weather is bringing more swimmers to the beach in a season plagued by rip currents. Local media outlets report at least three ocean drownings near Myrtle Beach this summer while two more swimmers are missing. A third went missing farther south off Georgetown County. A 14-year-old boy from Columbus, Georgia, went missing June 16 after his brother was pulled from the surf. Then on July 6, a 12-year-old boy went missing while swimming with his brother and sister. The brother and sister were rescued, although the 17-year-old brother died a few days later at a hospital. In Georgetown County, a third youth, a 16-year-old boy, went missing while swimming at Pawleys Island in July. "I've seen other summers where we've had some issues, but we're seeing more and more people on the Strand and more people are staying in the water longer," Duke Brown, beach safety director with Horry County Beach Patrol told The Sun News (<http://bit.ly/2aIVp4m>).

Associated Press: Invasion of jellyfish: Warning again issued off Myrtle Beach

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=b4TNMzMP

SC State Wire

For the second day in a row, forecasters are advising beachgoers to stay out of the surf in the Myrtle Beach area because of jellyfish. The National Weather Service in Wilmington, North Carolina has issued a beach hazards statement through 8 p.m. Monday for Horry County. A similar advisory was issued on Sunday. The Weather Service says beach patrols in the Myrtle Beach area report an unusually large number of jellyfish. The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources says jellyfish seem to be coming up from points south because of the warm ocean temperatures. The department said on its Facebook page that jellyfish have been active along some parts of the coast in recent days and that people should exercise caution when swimming and be prepared with first aid.

Sun News: Jellyfish invasion of Myrtle Beach prompts new warnings

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article93042812.html>

Audrey Hudson

Swimmers are being warned for a second day in a row to stay out of the Ocean along the shores of Myrtle Beach because of an influx of jellyfish in the area. The warning is in effect until 8 p.m. Monday, according to the National Weather Service, which issued the alert at 11 a.m. "The lifeguards at Myrtle Beach are reporting numerous jellyfish near shore and are advising beachgoers to stay out of the water," the warning said. The warm ocean surf has created favorable conditions for the sea creatures, prompting the federal agency to initially issue a warning Sunday for beachgoers to stay out of the surf. Meteorologist Dave Loewenthal said it's likely the jellies have drifted in with a southeast swell. The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources reported Saturday on its Facebook page that one of its officials was stung by a jellyfish in Myrtle Beach. "The extreme heat has brought the jellies up from Florida and they're prowling the waters on the coast," said the Natural Resources Department post.

Associated Press: Yes, it was hot: July warmest month on record in Charleston

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=HSkWpjK0

SC State Wire

Lowcountry residents probably don't need to be told after looking at their electric bills, but July was the warmest month on record in Charleston. The National Weather Service announced on Monday that the average temperature last month was 86.2 degrees. The old record was 86.1 degrees, set in

July 30 years ago. During the month, the temperature climbed above 95 degrees 22 times at the National Weather Service Office at the Charleston International Airport. Two days during the month, the temperature topped 100 degrees. The normal high in July in Charleston is about 91 degrees. National Weather Service records for Charleston date back to 1938.

Post and Courier: July's extreme heat breaks record for warmest month in Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160801/160809952/julys-extreme-heat-breaks-record-for-warmest-month-in-charleston->

Angie Jackson

Last month broke the records for warmest July and the warmest month overall in Charleston. July ended with an average temperature of 86.2 degrees at Charleston International Airport, which was slightly higher than the previous record of 86.1 degrees set in July 1986, according to the National Weather Service. Records date to 1938. Peter Mohlin, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in North Charleston, said there were 22 days in July that hit 95 or higher, which set another record for the city. All but two days reached at least 90 degrees. The temperature soared to 100 degrees on two days. July is typically the hottest month of the year. The normal high for this time of year is 91, the normal low is 73. The average low temperature this July was also higher than normal at 76.9 degrees, Mohlin said.

The State: A South Carolina county is the nation's 4th most-obese

<http://www.thestate.com/news/databases/article93018722.html>

The American Medical Association defines obesity as a disease. That means 35.7 percent of Americans — those with BMIs over 30 — are considered ill. That's a lot of sick people. Whether you agree with the AMA's definition or not, it underscores the gravity of the condition. The World Health Organization even considers it a global epidemic. Worldwide, the relationship between wealth and obesity follows a positive trend: as wealth goes up, so too does obesity, according to Dr. James A. Levine of the Mayo Clinic. In keeping with this trend, the United States is the wealthiest country in the world, and one of the most obese, at no. 18 out of 230 in obesity. Within the United States, however, this relationship flips. Counties with lower average incomes tend to see higher rates of obesity. Though this obesity-income relationship seems quite paradoxical, explanations for it exist. Lack of access to nutritious food and outdoor space for exercise are two of the more popular theories. #4 Lee County, SC

Associated Press: Hall of Famer Lynette Woodard to join Winthrop staff

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

SC State Wire

Hall of Famer Lynette Woodard wanted a new start in college coaching. Winthrop, with her old friend Kevin Cook, seemed like a perfect place. Woodard took her first coaching position since she was interim coach for alma mater Kansas in 2003-04. She spent four seasons as a Jayhawks assistant along since Cook, now the Eagles' fifth-year head coach. "I am very excited to be here at Winthrop," Woodard said. "It's a new beginning and it gives me the opportunity to get reacquainted with coach Cook." And to get familiar with the game Woodard once dominated. Woodard played at Kansas from 1977-81 and helped USA Basketball forge the women's powerhouse that's expected to be on display once more at the Rio Olympics this month. Woodard, a two-time Olympian, won gold at the Los Angeles Games in 1984. The next year, she became the first woman to play for the Harlem Globetrotters.

Post and Courier: School cafeteria workers, activists keep pressure on department investigation

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160801/160809931/school-cafeteria-workers-activists-keep-pressure-on-department-investigation>

Paul Bowers

School cafeteria workers and local activists rallied again Monday morning as the district continues investigating allegations of racism within the Nutrition Services department. The protest, held in front of the Charleston County School District's operations center in North Charleston, marked at least the third such gathering held by the group since the district launched its investigation in late May.

According to National Action Network state coordinator James Johnson, current and former workers have now filed 55 complaints alleging mistreatment within the department. They have alleged that minority workers were passed over for promotions and that the district was not compensating some workers for overtime hours. The group has been calling for the district to remove Nutrition Services Executive Director Walter Campbell. As of Monday, the district said Campbell remained in his position and had not been placed on leave. "We're going to continue protesting until he's out of there or they transfer him someplace else," Johnson said.

Post and Courier: Appeals court narrows dates for Charleston cruise ship terminal hearing

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160801/160809932/appeals-court-narrows-dates-for-charleston-cruise-ship-terminal-hearing>

David Wren

After months of delays, the state's Court of Appeals has set a date — actually two of them — to hear arguments in a case that will determine whether the State Ports Authority gets one of the permits it needs to build a new cruise ship terminal at Union Pier near Charleston's Historic District. Lawyers from all sides said they have no conflicts that would keep them from attending a court hearing on either Nov. 9 or Nov. 17, two dates the appeals court has set aside to hear arguments in the case. The court will choose one of those two dates at a later time. This is the eighth, and apparently final, time the court has tried to schedule the case. The previous delays primarily have been because of conflicts lawyers on both sides have had keeping them from attending the proceeding in Columbia.

National News:

Associated Press: CDC warns pregnant women against Zika-stricken part of Miami

<http://bigstory.ap.org/ca8c114b27104a5998840e261a3b6876>

Kelli Kennedy and Josh Replogle

Government health officials warned pregnant women Monday to avoid a Zika-stricken section of Miami and get tested for the virus if they've visited the neighborhood since mid-June, after the number of people feared infected through mosquito bites in the U.S. climbed to 14. In its highly unusual and perhaps unprecedented travel warning, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also said men and women who have recently been to the affected area should wait at least eight weeks before trying to conceive a child. All 14 cases are thought to have occurred in Miami's Wynwood arts district, a trendy, fast-gentrifying neighborhood of warehouses, art galleries, restaurants and boutiques. Florida Gov. Rick Scott asked for a CDC emergency response team to help the state combat Zika, which after sweeping Latin America and the Caribbean is beginning to spread in the U.S. The White House said a team will be sent quickly.

Associated Press: Former girlfriend: Balloon pilot was recovering alcoholic

<http://bigstory.ap.org/d5d935c41e7047abae8877957153daa1>

Will Weissert and Emily Schmall

The pilot of a hot air balloon that crashed in Texas, killing all 16 people aboard, was a recovering

alcoholic with a history of driving while intoxicated, a former girlfriend said Monday. The Better Business Bureau warned consumers about doing business with a balloon touring company Alfred "Skip" Nichols used to operate in Missouri. The former girlfriend said the 49-year-old Nichols had been sober for at least four years and never piloted a balloon after drinking. "He did not fly when he wasn't supposed to," Wendy Bartch told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "Having other people's lives at stake was Skip's primary concern." Authorities have not publicly named anyone killed in the crash, saying it could take a while to identify the bodies. But Nichols was identified as the pilot by his friend and roommate Alan Lirette, who said that Nichols was a good pilot.

Associated Press : Obama: Strides on helping veterans but more work to do

<http://bigstory.ap.org/e71740b18f99435588e09c77ffdfac71>

Darlene Superville

President Barack Obama said Monday that the U.S. has made serious strides in improving services for military veterans, but work remains to overcome shortcomings in the delivery of health care, housing and mental health services. He called the nation's commitment to its veterans a "sacred covenant." "I don't use those words lightly. It's sacred because there is no more solemn request than to ask someone to risk their life, to be ready to give their life on our behalf," Obama said at the annual convention of the Disabled American Veterans. It was Obama's final major address to a gathering of veterans before he leaves office in January after eight years as president. He was greeted with a rousing welcome, including cheers and a standing ovation. Obama said the Department of Veterans Affairs has hired more doctors, nurses and staff and opened more clinics since the recent scandal over long wait-times for VA services, the demand for which keeps growing as more veterans come into the pipeline.

World News:

Associated Press: US launches airstrikes targeting IS in Libya

<http://bigstory.ap.org/3f7ce2409daf45c091e9be8d1746f11e>

Lolita C. Baldor

The United States launched multiple airstrikes against Islamic State militants in Libya on Monday, opening a new, more persistent front against the group at the request of the United Nations-backed government, Libyan and U.S. officials said. Faye Serraj, the head of Libya's U.N.-brokered presidency council, said in a televised statement that American warplanes attacked the IS bastion of Sirte on the Mediterranean in northern Libya. No U.S. ground forces will be deployed, he said. The precision strikes, which targeted an Islamic State tank and vehicles, come amid growing concerns about the group's increased threat to Europe and its ability to inspire attacks across the region, even though its numbers have been shrinking because of attacks from local forces and allied international troops. "The presidency council, as the general army commander, has made a request for direct U.S. support to carry out specific airstrikes," Serraj said. "The first strikes started today in positions in Sirte, causing major casualties."

Associated Press: Russian helicopter shot down in Syria, killing all 5 onboard

<http://bigstory.ap.org/00504dbf3e34403b92be3c6f7255cf45>

Lynn Berry and Bassem Mroue

A Russian transport helicopter was shot down in opposition rebel territory in northern Syria on Monday and all five crew and officers onboard were killed, the Kremlin said, in the deadliest single incident for the Russian military since its entrance into Syria's civil war. The Mi-8 helicopter was shot down in Idlib province, where Russian warplanes frequently targeted rebels fighting Syrian President

Bashar Assad's forces. The Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement that the chopper was returning to the Russian air base on Syria's coast after delivering humanitarian goods to the city of Aleppo. But video uploaded by opposition activists showed a rocket pod next to the wreckage. The helicopter had three crew members and two officers deployed with the Russian center at the Hemeimeem air base on the Syrian coast, Russian officials said. "From what we know from information provided by the Defense Ministry, all those who were on the helicopter died," Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman told journalists. The ministry statement released earlier said their fate was still unknown.

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Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044