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Subject: Morning Clips – Thursday, September 1, 2016

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## Morning Clips – Thursday, September 1, 2016

### Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: Richland legislators demand 5 Rec Commission board members quit

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article99023107.html>

Avery G. Wilks

Ten Richland County legislators demanded Wednesday that five members of the troubled Richland County Recreation Commission's board resign, threatening to remove them if they don't. Meanwhile, documents released to those legislators show the Recreation Commission employs at least 10 relatives of embattled director James Brown III. At least four of those relatives have received raises of more than \$8,000 since being hired, documents show. Lawmakers at a press conference Wednesday said they found six "acts of malfeasance" – including "blatant abuses of nepotism" – by the board while looking into recent turmoil at the commission. The legislators said they will give board members time to quit but will fire them if necessary. "I regret that we didn't step in earlier," said state Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Richland. "This is a failed structure where we appoint commissioners, county council funds them, and they're accountable to nobody." The commission has come under fire in recent months. State and federal law enforcement agencies have opened probes into allegations of public corruption at the office – which is funded but not controlled by Richland County. Current and former Rec Commission employees have filed civil lawsuits alleging sexual harassment and other improper behavior by director Brown, who has denied any wrongdoing, and some staffers and board members.

NOTE: State law provides S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley – and not the Richland County State House delegation – the power to fire the board members, whom she appoints on the recommendation of the delegation. But state Rep. James Smith, D-Richland, an attorney, said the delegation has avenues available to remove the members, if need be. He would not say what those avenues are.

Aiken Standard: Cumbee Center to play host to domestic violence law training courses in October

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160831/AIK0101/160839874>

Dan Brown

Training sessions will be made available to law enforcement, government and court officials this fall to become acclimated with the domestic violence law signed by Gov. Nikki Haley last year. Coordinated and presented by the Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Persons, there will be two sessions on Oct. 12, featuring guest speaker and South Carolina's Assistant Attorney General Megan Gresham. Gresham is expected to talk about the domestic violence law and help those attending on how to best understand and implement the law when working with victims and abusers. The training sessions are from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Aiken Municipal Building's conference center, 214 Park Ave., according to Susan Selden, Cumbee Center's executive director. There is no charge for the training sessions. Light refreshments will be provided.

NOTE: In a domestic violence summit in May, Haley and the S.C. Domestic Violence Task Force challenged all counties in the Palmetto State to become certified as safe places for those affected by domestic violence.

Union Daily Times: New after school program at JEMS

<http://uniondailytimes.com/features/lifestyle/7326/new-after-school-program-at-jems>

A local school will host an after school program sponsored by a foundation established by Gov. Nikki Haley. In a statement released late last week, Jonesville Elementary/Middle School announced that it will be hosting the after school for middle school students which is sponsored by Gov. Nikki Haley's Original Six Foundation. The press release states that the program, which will begin Tuesday, Sept. 9, will operate Monday-Thursday from

3-5 p.m. The program will offer homework assistance, enrichment activities, social skills development, community involvement, technology, and mentoring services. The announcement further states that, to kick off the program, JEMS Principal Kathy Taylor, Assistant Principal Erica Murdaugh, and Reading Coach Crystal Bryant attended the Original Six Foundation's Taste of South Carolina event Sunday, Aug. 21. The event, which was held on the grounds of the Governor's Mansion, was held in appreciation of sponsors and to recognize communities receiving assistance in the areas of education and workforce reading. The press release concludes by stating that JEMS is looking forward to working with the Original Six Foundation and is very excited about the upcoming year.

NOTE: Haley was in Union County on Aug. 10 to take part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony formally opening Meeting Place on Main.

Post and Courier (Opinion): Heed Dabo's moped play call

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160901/160909987/heed-dabos-moped-play-call>

Editorial

Gov. Nikki Haley and Sen. Gerald Malloy, D-Hartsville, chose not to listen to common sense in June when they effectively killed a bill that would have put reasonable restrictions on moped users. Perhaps they will listen to Clemson football coach Dabo Swinney on the subject. Or perhaps they will listen to their consciences: Since Gov. Haley vetoed the bill, four people riding mopeds have died on South Carolina roads. Coach Swinney's interest in the issue was heightened recently when freshman defensive end Xavier Kelly, who was on a moped and not wearing a helmet, was struck by a car being driven by someone allegedly texting. Mr. Kelly suffered a gash on the back of his head and needed stitches in his toe. Coach Swinney said: "Dadgummet thing I've ever seen in my life that we allow people to go 80 miles an hour up the interstate with no helmet. We got a seat belt law, but no helmets?" The bill, sponsored by Rep. Bill Crosby, R-North Charleston, would have required anyone on a moped under the age of 21 to wear safety equipment, including a helmet, and a reflective vest at night. Xavier Kelly is 18, so under that law he would have been required to wear a helmet. And if he had been doing so, he likely have escaped head injury. These are all reasonable provisions. And both the moped industry and law enforcement are in favor of the bill.

NOTE: Gov. Haley vetoed the bill, saying it was "government overreach." She contended that adults, who are allowed to vote and serve in the military, should decide for themselves what they wear for personal safety.

Greenville News: Gubernatorial candidate visits ancestor's grave while campaigning in Greenville County

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/08/31/gubernatorial-candidate-visits-ancestors-grave-while-campaigning-greenville-county/89666312/>

Rudolph Bell

Yancey McGill had heard about his famous ancestor buried in Greenville County, but he had never visited her grave or seen the historical monument erected in her honor until Wednesday. McGill is a former Democratic state senator from Kingstree who served briefly as lieutenant governor and is now seeking the Republican nomination for governor. More than two years before the election to replace Gov. Nikki Haley, he's already traveling around South Carolina, trying to befriend voters. During a swing through Greenville County Wednesday, one of his stops was as much personal as political. It was to the grave of Laodicea "Dicey" Langston, who is hailed as a heroine of the American Revolution for spying on Tories as a teenager and once swimming across a river at night to warn Patriots of an impending attack. McGill said he is related to Langston through his mother's family line and had long heard of her but had never visited her grave until Wednesday. He was taken there by Greenville County Councilman Joe Dill, a longtime friend.

SC Political News:

Associated Press: Legislators suggest more changes to juvenile prison security

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=zO8CyxTO](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=zO8CyxTO)

Seanna Adcox

Security changes at the Department of Juvenile Justice's main prison after a February riot include searching inmates head-to-toe when their visitors leave and allowing its police force to carry pepper spray, agency spokesman Patrick Montgomery said Wednesday. Legislators reviewing the troubled agency suggested the

prison's other officers carry pepper spray as well. They scoffed at guards being able to regain control only through their voice or hands. Alternative sentencing has left the most violent juveniles "behind the wire" at the Broad River Road complex, said Sen. Mike Fair, R-Greenville. About 100 juveniles are serving time there, compared with 400 a decade ago. "We have the more severe juveniles located out there. A lot of these have committed major crimes, and the only way you're going to de-escalate things is by verbal - 'Hey, you, stop'?" Sen. Floyd Nicholson, D-Greenville, asked a DJJ consultant. "When you have, say, a fellow 260 pounds and a female (officer) 130 pounds, the only thing she can use is verbal and her hands? Is that what you're saying?" Rep. Kirkman Finlay, R-Columbia, added, "Asking him to stop nicely has not generally worked in the past." But Larry Reid of Correctional Consulting Services said arming officers with pepper spray is not among his report's 110 recommendations. However, if the agency decides to do so, only officers certified in using the spray should carry it, he said.

The State: SC youth prison officers now carrying pepper spray, lawmakers are told

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article99038452.html>

Jamie Self

Police officers working at the state's youth corrections facility have been carrying pepper spray since May, following a February riot at the agency's Broad River Road complex, legislators were told Wednesday. Since then, there has been only one incident when an officer used the spray, said Patrick Montgomery, an S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice spokesman. On June 23, a male inmate was destroying property and threatening staff physically, Montgomery said. After verbal and physical attempts to get the inmate to stop did not work, the youth was sprayed and, later, seen by medical staff. That pepper-spray question came up during a hearing Wednesday where a joint committee of state legislators and senators were told a security review of Juvenile Justice yielded more than 100 recommended changes. State Sen. Mike Fair, R-Greenville, asked why Broad River guards, who are not police officers, could carry pepper spray unless they underwent police certification, noting the public can buy it without training. Fair asked whether a "rudimentary" training would suffice – "Here's the button, and pop 'em in the eye" – along with some training on how to de-escalate dangerous situations.

Post and Courier: S.C. lawmakers consider pepper spray use on youthful offenders

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160831/160839864/sc-lawmakers-consider-pepper-spray-use-on-youthful-offenders>

Maya T. Prabhu

Lawmakers are considering letting all staff members who guard the state's juvenile offenders to carry pepper spray as a means to avoid a repeat of the February riot that exposed serious security lapses in the agency. In May, the Department of Juvenile Justice's 21 police officers became certified to carry pepper spray. Previously, no one carried the security method within DJJ facilities. Some members of a joint review panel comprised of state House and Senate lawmakers on Wednesday marveled at the fact that the guards who interact with youthful offenders are regularly unarmed, with only the ability to use verbal commands before they could resort to physically restraining someone. Larry Reid, of Correctional Consulting Services, said it typically is not a best practice to use pepper spray in juvenile facilities. Reid was hired by DJJ to do a safety audit of the agency's Broad River Road Complex. "What we see in our auditing, especially in juvenile environments, there are concerns about misuse of that particular tool," he said of resorting to pepper spray to control inmates.

Post and Courier: Graham asks DOJ to explain delay in implementing law that could save police lives

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160831/160839862/graham-asks-doj-to-explain-delay-in-implementing-law-that-could-save-police-lives>

Emma Dumain

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham wants to know why the Justice Department is lagging in implementation of a 2015 law to streamline communications when a police officer has been killed, injured or threatened on the job. In a letter Wednesday, the South Carolina Republican — along with U.S. Sen. Benjamin Cardin, D-Md., U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell, D-N.J., and U.S. Rep. Dave Reichert, R-Wash. — wrote to Attorney General Loretta Lynch asking for an explanation. The four co-sponsors of the legislation are especially concerned that the Justice

Department missed its May 19 deadline to submit a report to Congress detailing its progress in implementing a national "Blue Alert" communications network across state and local governments. Graham, Cardin, Pascrell and Reichert also said they were unaware whether a coordinator had been assigned to oversee the project, also required by the new law. "Every day our nation's law enforcement officials put their lives on the line to keep our communities safe," the lawmakers wrote. "The heart-wrenching deaths of the officials killed in Dallas and Baton Rouge remain a national tragedy. They also give us a reminder that we must do everything we can to help ensure the safety of our police officers when they're in the line of duty."

Associated Press: Legislators ask if DJJ officers should carry pepper spray

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=zO8CyxTO](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=zO8CyxTO)

Seanna Adcox

Security changes at the Department of Juvenile Justice's main prison following a February riot include searching inmates head-to-toe when their visitors leave and allowing its police force to carry pepper spray. Agency spokesman Patrick Montgomery said Wednesday pepper spray has been used once since the prison's police officers received authority in May. Montgomery could not immediately give details. Legislators reviewing the troubled agency suggested the prison's other officers carry pepper spray as well. They scoffed at guards regaining control only through their voice or hands. But a DJJ security consultant said that's not among his 110 recommendations. Larry Reid of Correctional Consulting Services says pepper spray can lead to misuse and lawsuits. He did not detail his recommendations. A redacted version of his report could be available next week.

Aiken Standard: Rep. Joe Wilson, Arik Bjorn 'working out details' of possible debate

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160831/160839879/rep-joe-wilson-arik-bjorn-x2018working-out-detailsx2019-of-possible-debate>

Christina Cleveland

Longtime U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., and Democratic candidate Arik Bjorn, both running to represent South Carolina's 2nd Congressional District, could debate before the November general election. "I'll debate Joe anytime, anywhere, anyplace," said Bjorn, who said he met Wilson at the Pelion Peanut Party, where he formally asked him to debate and he agreed. Details on a time and place, however, have yet to be made available. In a statement sent to the Aiken Standard on Wednesday, Wilson's campaign manager Brielle Appelbaum said, "Congressman Wilson has been the one advocating for a community discussion of issues important to South Carolina. We're still working out details as several weeks ago we contacted the Bjorn campaign and have not heard back from them."

Post and Courier: Can SC's elections get hacked? Anything's possible, but...

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160831/160839855/can-scs-elections-get-hacked-anythings-possible-but->

Robert Behre

South Carolina election officials say they're confident they've taken proper steps to secure the state's voter registration database and its election machines in the run-up to this year's Nov. 8 presidential election. But they warn the threat may be greater than ever. Lawrence Norden, deputy director of the Brennan Center's Democracy Program, said such risks are ever present, but "there is good news. Officials have made important advances over the last few years to secure voting technology, which makes it highly unlikely a cyber attack could have a widespread impact on the results of a national election." South Carolina State Election Commission spokesman Chris Whitmire said the security of this state's election and voter registration system has always been a priority, but there's even more focus in the wake of a 2013 breach into the state Department of Revenue's database. Whitmire said the commission is working with federal and state agencies, including the FBI and Department of Homeland Security, to ensure it's doing all it can.

The State: Could SC's election be hacked? Not likely

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article99086332.html>

Bristow Marchant

After a raucous presidential campaign, voters finally will have their say in November on whether Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton is the next president of the United States. Or will they? The FBI is investigating hacking

attacks on election data in two states and suggests Russian hackers may be to blame. The incidents raise the specter of foreign agents trying to alter the results of America's next presidential election. That possibility is a big enough concern for federal agencies to get involved in safeguarding states' election databases. S.C. Election Commission officials have listened in on nationwide conference calls in recent weeks with Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, the FBI and Justice Department on safeguarding voter files, said spokesman Chris Whitmire, adding S.C. officials have been coordinating their efforts with federal and state security experts. Whitmire is quick to stress there is no evidence any S.C. election data ever has been attacked. But digital security is a hot topic that election officials want to stay on top of, he added.

Associated Press: Scholar on Lyndon Johnson's lessons for Trump, Clinton

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

SC State Wire

A University of South Carolina political historian is speaking on lessons President Lyndon B. Johnson might offer to current presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. Kent Germany is scheduled to speak Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Spigner House, located at 915 Gregg St. on campus. The event is free and open to the public. Germany says much of his talk is based on Johnson's own words from his then-secret recordings of his White House discussions. Although Johnson left office as one of the least popular presidents in history, Germany says his research shows the earthy Texas politician may be celebrated today for his political genius and forceful personality.

Dylann Roof Case:

Associated Press: Closed hearing being held in Charleston church shooting

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=SHru56MS](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=SHru56MS)

SC State Wire

A federal judge is holding a closed hearing in South Carolina on evidence in Dylann Roof's trial in the Charleston church shootings. The 22-year-old Roof is facing hate crime and other federal charges in the June 2015 shootings at Emanuel AME Church in which nine black parishioners were killed. His defense attorneys want some evidence kept out of the trial and a hearing is set for Thursday. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel heard objections Wednesday from media attorneys opposed to closing the hearing. Gergel ruled later that an open hearing could compromise Roof's ability to receive a fair trial. He said it was one of the rare cases where a defendant's right to a fair trial outweighs the right of the press and public to court access.

The State: US Judge Gergel orders rare secret hearing on potentially explosive evidence in Dylann Roof case

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article99027302.html>

John Monk

Federal Judge Richard Gergel has ordered that a pretrial hearing to be held Thursday on potentially explosive evidence in the upcoming Dylann Roof death penalty trial be closed to the public and press. "This instance is one of those rare cases where Defendant's Sixth Amendment right to a fair trial outweighs the public's and the press' First Amendment right of access," wrote Gergel in a 10-page order late Wednesday afternoon. Gergel ruled after an earlier public hearing in which he indicated evidence to be discussed Thursday is so new and controversial, it could taint prospective jurors' ability to be fair far more than any other information already made public in Roof's widely publicized and sensational church shooting case. The evidence at Thursday's hearing concerns information that federal prosecutors want to introduce at trial, and that defense lawyers want to suppress, or exclude, according to court filings. However, those court filings have been sealed by Gergel and thus do not reveal specifics. The evidence at Thursday's hearing concerns information that federal prosecutors want to introduce at trial, and that defense lawyers want to suppress, or exclude, according to court filings. However, those court filings have been sealed by Gergel and thus do not reveal specifics.

Post and Courier: Judge: Dylann Roof's right to fair trial outweighs public's right to observe hearing

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160831/160839901/judge-dylann-roofs-right-to-fair-trial-outweighs-publics-right-to-observe-hearing>

Andrew Knapp

Urging people to trust his reasons for closing his courtroom, a federal judge ruled Wednesday that Dylann Roof's right to a fair trial outweighs the public's right to observe a hearing in the case. At issue in the proceeding set for 10 a.m. Thursday is evidence in the Emanuel AME Church massacre that Roof's defense team aims to exclude from his death penalty trial. If U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel decides the information should be suppressed, jurors picked for the case will never hear it during the trial. But if the hearing were open, prospective jurors could learn about the evidence that has never before been made public, Gergel said, and that could threaten Roof's right to a fair trial. He couldn't give a more thorough explanation because it would reveal the evidence in question, he said. Gergel, who closed the hearing without a request from Roof's lawyers or prosecutors, said he hoped that people would have some "confidence" in his choice.

SC After Recent Violence:

Associated Press: Justices: No reimbursement needed when cops damage property

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=m7Ha7a5w](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=m7Ha7a5w)

Meg Kinnard

South Carolina isn't required to reimburse private property owners for damage by law officers doing their jobs, the state Supreme Court ruled Wednesday. The 3-2 ruling involves the takeover of a Spartanburg convenience store in 2004 by Jimmy Johnson, who took a clerk hostage and held off police for 13 hours. After trying tear gas and pepper spray, the officers ultimately used a bulldozer to end the standoff. Johnson pleaded guilty to kidnapping and is serving a life sentence. The building was never used again. And when the owners refused to tear it down, the city demolished it. Ruling against Carolina Convenience Stores, the justices said the police did not officially appropriate the building for government use before breaking into it with a bulldozer, and therefore don't have to compensate the owners. "The South Carolina Constitution does not contemplate that damage occasioned to private property by law enforcement in the course of performing their duties constitutes a compensable taking," the court wrote.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Tropical storm warnings, watches up on South Carolina coast

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8JFjz3P1](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8JFjz3P1)

SC State Wire

Tropical storm warnings and watches are posted on the South Carolina coast as Tropical Storm Hermine spins through the Gulf of Mexico. The National Weather Service has raised tropical storm warnings from the South Santee River south into Florida. A tropical storm watch is in effect for north of the Santee into North Carolina. Forecasters say impacts from the storm are expected to spread across the state Friday. Forecasters say that during the next three days some areas in the eastern part of the state could receive between 6 and 10 inches of rain. There's also the threat of tropical storm force winds of more than 40 mph. The storm is expected to skim along the coast Friday.

Associated Press: South Carolina veterans treated to vintage aircraft flights

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=KTRRtcl6](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=KTRRtcl6)

SC State Wire

Nearly two dozen elderly South Carolina military veterans are being treated to flights over the Pee Dee region aboard vintage aircraft. The Florence Morning News reports (<http://bit.ly/2bDQ9PC>) the Arizona-based foundation Ageless Aviation is using a Boeing Stearman vintage open-air cockpit aircraft for the flights. They are being held to thank the military veterans for their service. The nonprofit foundation is scheduled to take about 24 veterans for the rides on Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. The organization had coordinated similar flights last year. The public is welcome to come to Branhams Airport near Darlington to watch the planes take off and land and meet the aircraft's pilot.

Associated Press: Naval Hospital in Beaufort holds change of command ceremony

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=57IM0x49](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=57IM0x49)

## SC State Wire

The Naval Hospital Beaufort is holding a ceremony to welcome Capt. Jeffrey Korsnes as he takes command from Capt. Anne Lear. Thursday's event is scheduled for 1 p.m. in the hospital auditorium. It is to be followed by a retirement ceremony for Lear to celebrate her 26 years of naval service and departure from active duty. The facility's commander is responsible for the hospital, the Naval Support Facility Beaufort, and the hospital's health clinics at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort and Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island. In all, the facilities care for over 29,000 beneficiaries in the Beaufort and Parris Island region.

Post and Courier: Survey: S.C. faces shortage of construction workers worse than U.S.

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160831/160839857/survey-sc-faces-shortage-of-construction-workers-worse-than-us>

Thad Moore

Fueled by a building boom from the Lowcountry to the Upstate, South Carolina is facing a shortage of construction workers worse than most other states. That's the finding of a new survey of the state's contractors released Wednesday by the Associated General Contractors of America, a trade group. Firms in South Carolina are having a harder time finding help than their counterparts elsewhere, and most say they're planning to keep hiring more people, even though construction workers here are pulling in higher wages and more overtime. In South Carolina, more than 4 in 5 contractors — 83 percent — say they're struggling to find craft workers, who make up the core of the industry, compared to 69 percent nationwide. And the shortage shows little sign of letting up: Seven in 10 contractors here say they plan to hire more people over the next year, though few think it'll become easier to do.

Local News:

Associated Press: Deputies: Missing mom, baby may be held against will in SC

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=lehjRj7g](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=lehjRj7g)

SC State Wire

A search is underway for a missing woman and her 1-year-old child who authorities say may be being held against their will in South Carolina. The Brunswick County Sheriff's Office in North Carolina issued an alert saying 21-year-old Shayla Da'nia Bryant and Alijah Powell were last seen Saturday at the scene of a shooting in Brunswick County. No one was injured. The two were reported missing Wednesday. Police say they may be in South Carolina and in the company of 28-year-old Dwight Powell Jr., who is a person of interest in that shooting. Authorities say Dwight Powell should be considered armed and dangerous and Bryant may be with him against her will. Police say the three could be in a gold Chevrolet Impala with North Carolina license plates.

Associated Press: Man pleads guilty to killing girlfriend, burning body

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

SC State Wire

A Fort Mill man has admitted to beating his girlfriend, stuffing her body into a suitcase and then burning it in a barrel last year. News outlets report 23-year-old John Coddington pleaded guilty Wednesday to murder in the death of 32-year-old Tiffany Williams and was sentenced to 45 years in prison as part of a plea deal. Coddington, who first met Williams as a prostitute online, admitted to beating her in their apartment in December 2015 after discovering she was still working as a prostitute and using his home and bed to have sex with other men. He then watched her die. Prosecutors say days later, Coddington tried to cover up the crime by burning Williams' body in Chester County. They say he also burned her clothes and personal belongings.

Greenville News: Teacher's aide charged after autistic student assaulted

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/08/31/teachers-aide-charged-after-autistic-student-assaulted/89674950/>

Anna Lee

A former teacher's aide at Summit Drive Elementary School was arrested Wednesday after an autistic student was assaulted, authorities said. Brittany Ann Bell, 36, of Greenville, was charged with cruelty to children, according to a warrant. Several teachers saw Bell grab a 5-year-old autistic child by the arm, pull him down the

steps and sling him on his back across the school hallway, the warrant alleges. The assault happened during school hours Friday afternoon, according to police. The child was observed to have "fingertip" bruises on his forearm, police said. Beth Brotherton, spokeswoman for Greenville County Schools, said Bell was hired in 2014 and previously worked as an aide at Buena Vista Elementary in Greer. She transferred to Summit Drive in August 2015, Brotherton said. Bell was placed on administrative leave at 11 p.m. Monday, according to a police report. She is no longer employed with the school district, Brotherton said.

Post and Courier: After recruitment violations, alcohol ban leaves College of Charleston Greek parties dry  
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160831/160839848/after-recruitment-violations-alcohol-ban-leaves-college-of-charleston-greek-parties-dry>

Deanna Pan

It's no secret that the booze flows freely at College of Charleston fraternity parties. Even on Monday nights. And especially during "Syllabus Week," the easiest seven days of the semester. "Everybody knows," freshman Liam Wheless said as he was eating lunch Wednesday afternoon at the college dining hall on Liberty Street. "When you're going to a fraternity, there's going to be a lot of partying and drinking." Marquise Washington, another freshman, said, "As soon as you say the word 'frat,' the only thing that comes to my mind is alcohol because all they do is drink." But fraternity brothers and sorority sisters are being forced to kiss goodbye to weekend keggers and bouts of beer pong. On Tuesday, College of Charleston President Glenn McConnell announced the college was suspending all alcohol-related activities at its fraternities and sororities following "a series of dangerous behaviors ... ranging from disruptive parties out in the community this month to recent medical transports related to extreme intoxication."

Post and Courier: Local Overdose Awareness Day event aims to eliminate shame, stigma of addiction  
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160831/160839844/local-overdose-awareness-day-event-aims-to-eliminate-shame-stigma-of-addiction>

Melissa Boughton

Shame and stigma associated with addiction only drive the disease farther into the shadows. That was the message Wednesday night at an inaugural event in North Charleston for International Overdose Awareness Day. About 100 people gathered at Riverfront Park to bring awareness to overdoses in the Lowcountry. "It wasn't that many years ago when breast cancer was almost as hidden from the public eye as the disease of addiction is today," said guest speaker Terry Brown, who is on the board at Charleston Recovery Center. "As in the case of breast cancer, the disease of addiction has the same potential to come out from the shadows and be recognized and understood as a disease — a treatable and preventable disease." Brown, a former Marine who worked with addicted servicemen and women, spoke about the awareness that breast cancer's pink ribbon campaign brought to the disease and said he hoped the same could eventually be done for addiction. He said more people needed to understand that the disease is a result of chemical rewiring in the brain.

The State: Meet me at the library! Richland unveils new North Main branch, partial changes at Assembly Street

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article99115672.html>

A newly remodeled, \$3 million Richland Library branch on Columbia's North Main Street is opening today with new meeting spaces, creative spaces and, yes, a Wi-Fi bar. Open today, too, are renovated second-floor reading spaces that are part of the ongoing work at the Library's main branch on Assembly Street. The space at 5306 N. Main St., under construction for nearly a year, features: a virtual networking center for professional webinars or community meet-ups; a recording studio with state-of-the-art audio editing equipment; a children's reading and activities room; tutoring space; a pop-up space for displaying personal art work or ideas; and a courtyard featuring community-inspired artwork. The ongoing systemwide upgrades are made possible by Richland County residents with the passage of a \$59 million bond referendum in 2013.

Greenville News: Upstate tops rest of state in ACT scores

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/education/2016/08/31/upstate-tops-rest-state-act-scores/89583170/>

Nathaniel Cary

After ACT scores were released last week, administrators and staff in Greenville County Schools pored over the numbers to see what they showed about how local schools were preparing students for college and career. The numbers were down overall, to be expected in the first year the test was required to be taken by all 2016 graduates in South Carolina, but the new baseline the tests revealed still showed Upstate school districts outperformed much of the state. Anderson One ranked sixth highest among public school districts in the state with a composite score of 19.3 while Greenville and Pickens tied for eighth at 19.2. And though the results showed the percentage of South Carolina students who tested as ready for college dropped from 23 percent to 14 percent, the total number of students who met all benchmarks in English, reading, math and science actually increased by 1,369 students.

Herald-Journal: Flag folding at GSP to be featured in Sept. 11 tribute

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20160831/flag-folding-at-gsp-to-be-featured-in-sept-11-tribute?rssfeed=true>

Daniel J. Gross

First responders and law enforcement officers in Spartanburg County took part in a flag folding ceremony Wednesday in preparation for an event honoring those who died in the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. The gathering at Barnet Park at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 11 will remember the 2001 victims. First Baptist Church Pastor Don Wilton will be the guest speaker and Pastor James Reese will lead the Sounds of Diversity Choir and Orchestra. The event will close with a ceremonial flag presentation. The Spartanburg County Rifle Drill Team, made up of Spartanburg County Sheriff's deputies, met at the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport in Greer Wednesday. The group filmed themselves folding a U.S. flag in front of two United and American Airlines jets, and placing the folded flag into a fire engine. The pre-recorded video that will play at Barnet Park will close with the fire engine driving away with the flag. That same engine will then drive into the event carrying the flag. The flag will be passed through the hands of first responders and be presented on stage during a "table ceremony," which is a military custom that uses an empty table to symbolize the fallen.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: Trump retreats from vow to deport all living in US illegally

<http://bigstory.ap.org/1e3f88e991894e59937a55db725e8270>

Jill Colvin and Steve Peoples

Donald Trump is retreating from his vow to deport the nation's entire population of people living in the country illegally, even as he sticks with an aggressive tone on illegal immigration and remains committed to building a physical wall along the U.S. border with Mexico. The Republican nominee for president promised Wednesday to remove millions of people living in the country illegally if elected president, warning that failure to do so would jeopardize the "well-being of the American people." "Anyone who has entered the United States illegally is subject to deportation," Trump said in a highly anticipated speech, which took place mere hours after his surprise meeting with Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto in his first trip abroad as the GOP nominee. But the billionaire New Yorker also said the effort of a proposed immigration task force in a Trump administration would focus on removing criminals, people who have overstayed their visas and other immediate security threats.

Associated Press: Charity watchdog gives Clinton Foundation high marks

<http://bigstory.ap.org/ea32f544c59249d2945da8e05979a5e3>

Eileen Sullivan

A charity watchdog with an ongoing relationship with the Clinton Foundation gave the former first family's nonprofit high marks Thursday, after an evaluation prompted by the heightened interest in the organization. The Clinton Foundation received four out of four stars — the highest rating that Charity Navigator gives after a close look at a charity's finances. The rating is based on annual federal tax documents. It was not intended to reflect whether Hillary Clinton kept donors to her family's foundation at appropriate arm's length or provided favored access as secretary of state. Charity Navigator is a leading and respected organization that evaluates and rates charities so donors can make informed decisions about contributions. It was itself a member of the Clinton Global Initiative between 2012 and 2014. The Clinton group said Charity Navigator committed to

spend an estimated \$2 million over four years through 2016 to review more charities and provide more detailed information about them in its reviews. Charity Navigator also participated in a Clinton Global Initiative program in 2011 with other groups to identify worthy charities for U.S. veterans, journalism integrity and Islamic outreach, but Charity Navigator did not contribute money as part of that effort.

Associated Press: Hillary Clinton to begin TV ads in traditionally GOP Arizona

<http://bigstory.ap.org/e9a1e1ed3ce84b45a20c054691e5c0d9>

Thomas Beaumont

Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign plans to begin airing television ads on Friday in Arizona, a state carried by Republicans in 11 of the past 12 elections. The announcement from the Democratic nominee's campaign comes on the heels of Donald Trump's speech on Wednesday in Phoenix, where he re-stated his vow to deport millions of people living in the country illegally. Clinton had flirted with running a more robust campaign in Arizona, where an influx of Hispanic voters — who vote overwhelmingly Democratic — has given the party hope in recent elections.

National News:

Associated Press: 10,000 Syrian refugees find new home in US

<http://bigstory.ap.org/035c21f954c3441e8405461812b27cb5>

Elliot Spagat

On Sunday, Nadim Fawzi Jouriye participated in a ceremony in Amman, Jordan, to mark the United States hitting its target of taking in 10,000 Syrian refugees in a year-old resettlement program. On Wednesday, the 47-year-old former construction worker and his family were walking grocery aisles, stocking up on roasted chicken, milk and lemons for their new home outside San Diego. It didn't take long for Jouriye, his 42-year-old wife and four children, ages 8 to 14, to feel welcome. "America is a beautiful country," he said through an Arabic translator at the office of the International Rescue Committee in El Cajon, a San Diego suburb that has been a magnet for Iraqis and, more recently, Syrians who are fleeing war. "The way they treat people and the people of America are very nice ... When you go down the streets, everyone smiles at you. Even if they don't know you, they just smile at you." San Diego, the nation's eighth-largest city, has received 626 Syrian refugees since Oct. 1, more than any other in the United States. Many smaller cities have accepted outsized number of Syrians, including Erie, Pennsylvania (205), Toledo, Ohio (109), and Boise, Idaho (108).

World News:

Associated Press: Brazil's Michel Temer inherits presidency on shaky ground

<http://bigstory.ap.org/99a5a78f3034461dadab714e32b8628a>

Peter Prengaman

The permanent ouster of deeply unpopular President Dilma Rousseff by Brazil's Senate means that a man who is arguably just as unpopular is now faced with trying to ease the wounds of a divided nation mired in recession. Long known as an uncharismatic backroom wheeler-dealer, Michel Temer inherits a shrinking economy, a Zika virus outbreak that has ravaged poor northeastern states and political instability fed by a sprawling corruption probe that has tarred much of the country's political and business elite — himself included. So far he's struggled in the nearly four months he's served as interim president following Rousseff's May impeachment, which suspended her from office while a final trial was prepared. The Senate's 61-20 vote on Wednesday to permanently remove her means Temer, who had been her vice president, will now serve out her term, which ends in late 2018. Just hours after Rousseff was removed, Temer assured the nation his administration was up to the task.

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