

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Thursday, June 2, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Haley talks of Trump, Confederate flag ahead of anniversary

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=NwIA5R72

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said Thursday she wishes Donald Trump communicated differently because bad things result from divisive rhetoric, as evidenced by last June's massacre in Charleston. The Republican governor said divisive speech motivated Dylann Roof to gun down nine black parishioners at historic Emanuel AME Church. Police have said the white 22-year-old charged with their killings wanted to start a race war. The Confederate flag that Roof was seen brandishing in photos had to be removed from the Statehouse grounds, she said, and she supports sending the rebel flag in The Citadel's chapel to a museum too. But she opposes renaming buildings or monuments associated with the state's racist past.

The State: Haley supports removing Confederate flag from Citadel

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article81348162.html>

Jamie Self

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley said Thursday she would support lawmakers approving the removal of a Confederate flag from a Citadel chapel to a nearby museum. But Haley said she does not support the state lengthening a federal three-day waiting period to complete background checks before gun purchases. At the urging of Republican Haley, S.C. legislators removed the Confederate flag from the State House grounds last summer after a self-avowed racist, who had posed with the flag, was charged with slaying nine parishioners of Charleston's Emanuel AME Church.

Post and Courier: Church shooting victims' families upset Gov. Haley not supporting gun law reforms

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160602/PC16/160609870>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

Gov. Nikki Haley's lack of support for enacting gun law reforms has angered relatives of the nine people killed in a mass shooting at Emanuel AME Church. Haley garnered national praise last summer when she publicly mourned with the victims' loved ones, and many had held out hope she would join them in demanding that the so-called "Charleston loophole" be closed. Instead, she said Thursday that she wants the FBI to account for its failure to complete the accused Emanuel AME killer's background check in three days and explain how it will avoid future delays before addressing wait times for those checks.

Post and Courier: Legislators call on governor, attorney general to sue feds over schools transgender directive

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160602/PC1603/160609872>

Cynthia Roldan

Dozens of South Carolina legislators are calling on Gov. Nikki Haley and Attorney General Alan Wilson to join 11 other states that have sued the federal government over an Obama administration directive on transgender students and bathrooms. Rep. Mike Pitts, R-Laurens, said his issue is not

over the expansion of bathroom usage to the transgender community, but over the federal government's intervention on issues that should be left to individual states to decide. "I don't necessarily think the transgender issue is an issue in South Carolina because I trust our school boards to deal with it," Pitts said in a news conference Thursday.

Associated Press: GOP House members ask AG to sue over bathroom directive

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=rqwIC4Lj

SC State Wire

Rep. Mike Pitts is encouraging South Carolina's attorney general to sue the federal government over the Obama administration's directive that public schools allow transgender students to use the restroom of their choice. Pitts said Thursday his complaint is not specifically about bathrooms. The Laurens Republican says the directive is an example of the administration's assault on states' rights under the Tenth Amendment.

Note: In a letter, Pitts asked Attorney General Alan Wilson to join a lawsuit from Texas and 10 other states. A similar letter went to Gov. Nikki Haley. Pitts says 54 House Republicans co-signed both. Haley has said school boards, not state or federal politicians, should make such decisions.

General Assembly News:

Associated Press: Ethics reform running up against clock in SC Legislature

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

SC State Wire

Lawmakers say they are close to finding a compromise on a bill allowing independent investigations of ethics violations by legislators, but its main enemy now may be time. Sen. Larry Martin said Thursday he likely needs an agreement to take to senators before Thursday's legislative session ends at 5 p.m. to save the bill. The bill sets up an independent Ethics Commission to investigate ethics violations for all public officials. If the commission finds a violation likely occurred, it would be sent to the House or Senate Ethics Committee for discussion and possible punishment.

Post and Courier: Pickens lawmaker hopeful independent investigations bill passes before session ends

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160602/PC1603/160609866>

Maya T. Prabhu

A Pickens lawmaker said he hopes a bill creating an independent panel to investigate elected officials will clear the General Assembly before session ends Thursday at 5 p.m. Members of a joint House-Senate committee are expected to meet Thursday afternoon to sign off on a compromise of the legislation and then take the word to their respective bodies, where each will need to vote to accept the changes. According to guidelines established by the General Assembly, lawmakers can return to Columbia June 15 to override any vetoes Gov. Nikki Haley makes or to continue working on bills that have been assigned a compromise committee.

Post and Courier: House, Senate fail to reach agreement on FOIA laws

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160602/PC1603/160609864>

Cynthia Roldan

A legislative panel failed to reach an agreement earlier today on two proposals that aim to strengthen South Carolina's Freedom of Information Act. The bill in question is a Senate proposal that would require police dash-cam and audio recordings be subject to the state's public records law. The House of Representatives reworked that bill in May, and changed it to a proposal they passed that would create a review office within the Administrative Law Court that would decide appeals when a public body rules a document is not a public record. The changes were made because Sen. Margie Bright Matthews, D-Walterboro, placed a procedural hold on the House's proposal, arguing that creating a separate office that calls for a judge and staffer would add more costly bureaucracy.

Associated Press: Overhaul of SC public records law appears dead for year

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=btE4p9ui

Jeffrey Collins

A bill reducing fees and setting specific deadlines for when South Carolina governments must release documents requested by the public appeared to be dead Thursday after the Senate didn't debate it for 15 months. The bill was put on the Senate's calendar in March, but Sen. Margie Bright Matthews placed an objection on it that required extra consideration to come to a vote. A second legislative maneuver appeared to fail Thursday when senators refused to go along with a House version in a conference committee.

The State: Georgians soon can carry concealed weapons in S.C.

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article81328427.html#storylink=apmobile>

Cassie Cope

The state Senate passed a bill Wednesday that would allow Georgians with concealed-weapon permits to carry their weapons in South Carolina. The proposal now goes to the governor's desk. The proposal also would allow South Carolinians with concealed-weapon permits to carry their guns in Georgia. Sen. Marlon Kimpson, D-Charleston, had been filibustering the proposal. But he ended his filibuster Wednesday because, he said, he had been promised legislative hearings before the next session on his proposal to tighten background checks before gun purchases.

Greenville News: Legislature passes moped regulations without insurance rule

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/06/02/senate-passes-moped-regulations-without-insurance-rule/85244170/>

Tim Smith

Moped operators would have to purchase a license plate, wear reflective vests and follow state traffic laws under a bill that is headed to the governor's desk. The Senate gave final approval of the measure Thursday afternoon and the House concurred in the waning minutes of the Legislature's session this year.. Sen. Greg Hembree, an Horry County Republican and former prosecutor who shepherded the bill in the Senate, agreed to remove a requirement that operators have liability insurance, saying the issue was complex because of the driving history of some moped operators. He told the Senate the issue of insurance will be studied further before lawmakers return next January.

The State: Moped bill headed to Gov. Haley's desk for final approval

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article81406122.html>

Avery G. Wilks

Moped drivers could soon be required to register with the Department of Motor Vehicles and follow the same traffic rules as all other vehicles. The proposal, which lawmakers sent to Gov. Nikki Haley for final approval, also would require mopeds to stay off roads with speed limits higher than 55 miles per hour, raise the minimum age of moped drivers to 15 from 14 and mandate passengers younger than 21 wear a helmet. But the bill was passed without the stipulation that moped drivers carry insurance. Senators stripped that requirement earlier this week, saying it would have doomed the bill.

Associated Press: South Carolina lawmakers vote for 'Darlington Week'

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=H5aVFXgP

SC State Wire

South Carolina lawmakers have voted to designate "Darlington Raceway Week" for the days leading up to the Southern 500. The state Senate and House of Representatives passed a concurrent resolution that names Aug. 29-Sept. 4, 2016 as "Darlington Raceway Week, a Week Too Tough To Tame." The resolution, led by state Sen. Gerald Malloy, D-Hartsville, outlines the historical significance of the raceway's throwback weekend and addresses the role the track plays in building the foundation of NASCAR racing.

LGBT Laws:

Island Packet: Beaufort congregation receives official LGBTQ-friendly status

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article81323547.html>

Liz Farrell

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Beaufort has been designated a Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer and Questioning Welcoming Congregation by the Unitarian Universalist Association. In order to be designated as such by the Unitarian Universalist Association, the 15-year-old congregation undertook a multiyear process of education and exploration and documented its efforts in the areas of education, congregational life and community outreach per association guidelines. The congregation held classes, reviewed its bylaws, showed films, garnered responses on members' comfort levels and awareness regarding LGBTQ issues, offered a potluck supper for Beaufort community LGBTQ people and allies, and participated in Gay Pride marches in Charleston.

SC Political News:

Post and Courier: Clyburn, Sanford push to make Penn Center a national monument

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160602/PC1603/160609865>

Emma Dumain

Two South Carolina congressmen are teaming up to make the Penn Center on St. Helena Island a national monument to the Reconstruction era. The bill, sponsored by U.S. Reps. Jim Clyburn, a Democrat, and Mark Sanford, a Republican, would put the site of the former Penn School under the care of the National Park Service. Clyburn said it was important for the park service to recognize sites that were integral to the Reconstruction period.

The State: John Crangle's 'Operation Lost Trust' book explores dark chapter in SC Legislature

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/state-politics/article81385392.html>

John Monk

For nearly 30 years, John Crangle's position as executive director of S.C. Common Cause has given him a catbird seat – a great viewing post and the time – with which to view events in the General Assembly. Crangle has written a new book, which coincides with his retirement later this year as executive director of Common Cause. Highlights include a 16-page interview with former U.S. Attorney Daniel and a chapter on questionable aspects of the investigation.

SC Elections:

Herald-Journal: Newcomer Magnuson challenging Brannon in House District 38 GOP primary

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160602/articles/160609940>

Zach Fox

A political newcomer is running against S.C. Rep. Doug Brannon, R-Landrum, accusing him of not representing the people of his district well enough. Josiah Magnuson, a 24-year-old electrical worker now living in Campobello, is running against Brannon, an attorney, in House District 38. The district encompasses the northernmost part of Spartanburg County, stretching from Landrum to Chesnee. The race will be determined during the June 14 Republican primary, as no Democrat filed to run.

Independent Mail: Challengers criticize Anderson County Sheriff John Skipper

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/challengers-criticize-sheriff-john-skipper-344d282d-c051-7f7d-e053-0100007f24cc-381650481.html>

Kirk Brown

Anderson County Sheriff John Skipper's two Republican challengers ratcheted up their criticism of him at a candidate forum Thursday morning. Chad McBride described Skipper as an "ice cream social sheriff." McBride, who spent 13 years working at the Sheriff's Office as a deputy, investigator

and media spokesman, said Skipper's two decades as an administrator have caused him to become "disconnected from the reality of what is going on out here."

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: More than \$3.6M awarded to help Charleston shooting victims

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

SC State Wire

More than \$3.5 million in federal funding is being made available to victims of a brutal shooting at a historic black church in Charleston last summer. U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn announced on Thursday that that U.S. Department of Justice had awarded more than \$3.6 million available through the Office for Victims of Crime Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program. Clyburn says the funds are going to the Medical University of South Carolina's National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, to help support the survivors of the shooting and victims' relatives.

Post and Courier: Feds award \$3.6M grant to help Charleston church shooting victims, survivors

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160602/PC1603/160609855>

Emma Dumain

Nearly one year after the deadly shooting at Mother Emanuel AME Church, survivors and victims' families will be eligible for federal compensation. The Justice Department's Office for Victims of Crime is providing a \$3.6 million grant to help those affected by the shooting recoup some costs relating to medical care, funeral services, mental health counseling and lost wages. U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S. C., announced the award Thursday. "The survivors of the attack and the families of the victims have been an inspiration to their communities, our state and the whole nation," Clyburn, the third ranking U.S. House Democrat and most senior black lawmaker in Congress, said in a statement.

Local News:

Associated Press: Simpsonville police chief resigns; city won't explain why

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=f8POZu74

SC State Wire

Simpsonville's police chief has resigned after being suspended for being "unprofessional to employees or customers" and for violating policies or procedures, city officials announced, without specifying what, exactly, they believe he did wrong. Police Chief Keith Grounell resigned Wednesday just before he was to be fired by a majority of city council members. Deputy Chief Steve Moore will serve as acting chief until a permanent replacement can be found, the city's news release said.

The State: Deputies: EMS worker lied about shooting in cemetery, shot himself

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article81346877.html>

Jane Moon Dial

A Timmonsville EMS worker reported he was the victim of an attempted murder in a cemetery, but investigators believe he shot himself. Florence County deputies arrested Richard William Grooms, 58, of Oates Highway on charges that he filed a false police report and damaged property, according to a news release from the Florence County Sheriff's Office. The Florence Morning News reported Grooms is an EMS employee. The charges stem from a May 27 shooting at Byrd Cemetery in Timmonsville.

The State: Former Citadel, Clemson baseball player kept almost \$2 million from drug sales buried on farm

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article81382772.html>

Jane Moon Dial

Agents seized almost \$2 million in cash and property from a former college baseball player, who

pleaded guilty with a friend Wednesday to federal drug charges. U.S. District Judge Terry L. Wooten accepted guilty plea from Bradley Lewis Felder, 27, and Everette "Rhett" Carter Berry, 28, on charges, including conspiracy to possess and intent to distribute and to distribute a quantity of 3,4 Methylenedioxyethylcathinone Hydrochloride (commonly known as "molly") and at least 50 kilograms of marijuana Wooten will sentence them at a later date. Felder, of Bowman near Orangeburg, was listed as an outfielder for Clemson the 2012 season on clemson.com, as well as a player during the 2008, 2010 and 2011 baseball seasons at the Citadel.

Herald-Journal: Kobelco celebrates opening of Spartanburg facility

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160602/articles/160609945>

Bob Montgomery

A Japanese company that makes excavators for worldwide distribution celebrated the opening of its new \$41 million facility that will create 131 jobs at the Tyger River Industrial Park in Spartanburg County. "They could have gone anywhere," Deputy S.C. Commerce Secretary Jennifer Noel Fletcher said at Kobelco Construction Machinery USA's ceremony and plant tour Thursday morning. "They chose South Carolina and Moore to put their facility in."

The State: Reaction mixed to plan for one-way streets in downtown Lexington

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article81208937.html>

Tim Flach

A plan to create one-way streets on portions of two major roads in downtown Lexington is stirring appreciation and apprehension among retailers and shoppers. But everyone agrees on one thing – the change coming by Jan. 1 probably will confuse motorists initially. "At first, it's going to be a massive headache," said Joe Cribb, owner of downtown's Cribb's Sandwich and Sweet Shop. One-way streets, common in big cities as close as Charleston, are new to the steadily growing town of 20,000 residents.

Island Packet: Coast Guard contractor cleaning oil spill in Lady's Island creek

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article81080902.html>

Stephen Fastenau

A U.S. Coast Guard contractor has been hired to clean up oil in Factory Creek at Lady's Island Marina while the source is investigated, Department of Health and Environmental Control spokesman Jim Beasley said. A crew began cleaning Tuesday, a marina boat owner said, with Coast Guard representatives on hand. DHEC and the Coast Guard are investigating the Factory Creek oil and oil found in the water behind Beaufort Memorial Hospital on Sunday, Beasley said.

The Beaufort Gazette: How a Beaufort church plans to remember Harriet Tubman

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article81108307.html>

Stephen Fastenau

Harriet Tubman could be returning to Beaufort. Tabernacle Baptist Church plans a sculpture to recognize the abolitionist's role during an 1863 raid along the Combahee River that freed hundreds of slaves, a church news release said. An estimated \$500,000 monument is being discussed with sculptor Ed Dwight, the Colorado artist who crafted the African American History Monument in Columbia and other works recognizing black history. Tabernacle Baptist is the burial place of Robert Smalls, who was born a slave and became a Civil War hero and Congressman. A bust of Smalls is also on the church grounds.

Post and Courier: Charleston, Mount Pleasant push back on lead report

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160602/PC16/160609850>

Lauren Sausser

Charleston, Mount Pleasant and 31 other U.S. cities and towns east of the Mississippi River were named in the Thursday report. The Guardian accused the cities of using one of several "testing tricks" that may conceal true lead levels in the water supply. The report said Charleston and Mount Pleasant

officials encourage testers to “pre-flush” household pipes before checking for lead. That method may disguise how much lead actually leaches from old pipes into the water. But Matt Brady, a spokesman for the Charleston Water Supply, and Dionna Ebling, a spokeswoman for Mount Pleasant Waterworks, said their departments revised their methods after the federal Environmental Protection Agency issued new guidelines about pre-flushing in February. Neither department promotes pre-flushing anymore, they said.

Herald-Journal: Mosquito control in Spartanburg left up to homeowners

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160601/articles/160609965>

Alyssa Mulliger

As mosquito season gets into full swing, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control is urging local jurisdictions to boost their mosquito-control programs. DHEC, which doesn't have a mosquito-control program, relies on counties and municipalities to plan for potential outbreaks of mosquito-borne illnesses such as Zika virus. Doug Bryson, director of the Spartanburg County Office of Emergency Management, said Zika isn't a major issue in Spartanburg County. The county doesn't spray for mosquitoes or have a mosquito-abatement program, he said.

Post and Courier: No more sign of ‘killer’ bees

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160602/PC16/160609859>

Bo Petersen and Melissa Boughton

No bees swarmed at apiarists who inspected 31 hives around a where hive was found colonized by Africanized bees in April, and experts are confident there's no widespread danger. So the two-mile grid that was laid out essentially around Citadel Mall to designate the alert area shouldn't alarm residents, said Brad Cavin, state apiary inspector for Clemson University's Department of Plant Industry. “Nothing indicated an outbreak or any concern for the public,” he said. “There's no reason for the public to be terrified of bees.”

National News:

Associated Press: Air Force jet crashes after flyover at Colorado Obama speech

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a2f0cbbec0cc4a8ab1a59f78478f92cd>

Josh Lederman and Dan Elliott

An Air Force Thunderbird jet crashed Thursday in Colorado just after a flyover at a graduation ceremony for Air Force Academy cadets where President Barack Obama had spoken. Air Force spokeswoman Lt. Col. Michal (ma-CALL) Kloeffer-Howard said the pilot ejected but there was no information on the pilot's condition. No injuries were reported on the ground. Obama was still at the stadium taking photographs and greeting attendees in a private area during the air show that lasted about half an hour south of Colorado Springs. News of the crash broke while Obama's motorcade was returning to Peterson Air Force Base for his flight back to Washington.

Associated Press: Prince's death adds to opioid overdose epidemic's grim toll

<http://bigstory.ap.org/13ee869cfbc240629386582062b84622>

Carla K. Johnson

Prince's death from an overdose of the powerful opioid fentanyl is another example of the national opioid epidemic driven by prescription painkillers. “This was a man in his 50s who may have been struggling with pain and took a very potent opioid analgesic and died accidentally from an overdose,” said Dr. Barbarajean Magnani, pathologist-in-chief at Tufts Medical Center who read a one-page autopsy report released Thursday. “Celebrities bring it to our attention, but we see this every day. We have to re-examine the way we're treating pain.” Prescription opioid overdoses reached nearly 19,000 in 2014, the highest number on record. Total opioid overdoses surpassed 29,000 that year when combined with heroin, which some abusers switch to after becoming hooked on painkillers.

Associated Press: Police: UCLA shooter intended to kill second professor

<http://bigstory.ap.org/e077ad7d93024494b65ed7f7f46ed0b8>

Amanda Lee Myers and Christine Armario

The investigation into a murder-suicide on the UCLA campus took a more sinister turn Thursday when police announced they suspected the shooter earlier killed a woman in Minnesota then drove to Los Angeles to confront a professor he believed had stolen his work. Detectives also believe that Mainak Sarkar, a 38-year-old former engineering graduate student, intended to kill a second professor Wednesday morning, but he could not find him on campus, Los Angeles police Chief Charlie Beck said. In a search of Sarkar's home in St. Paul, Minnesota, authorities found a "kill list" with at least three names that included professor Bill Klug, the woman found dead in a Minneapolis suburb and a second UCLA professor who was not harmed, Beck said.

Associated Press: The Latest: Trump takes to Twitter to hit back at Clinton

<http://bigstory.ap.org/7fde5a432335485cae51fa723a2a105e>

Donald Trump hitting back at Hillary Clinton via Twitter after a speech that eviscerated his plans for America's foreign policy. The presumptive Republican nominee says this of his likely Democratic rival: "Bad performance by Crooked Hillary Clinton!" He adds: "Reading poorly from the teleprompter! She doesn't even look presidential!" Clinton argued in her speech Thursday that Trump lacks the temperament and experience to be president. She says electing the billionaire businessman would be a "historic mistake" for the United States. But Trump says the former secretary of state and likely Democratic nominee "no longer has credibility" due to "too much failure in office." He says, "People will not allow another four years of incompetence!"

Associated Press: Speaker Ryan: 'I'll be voting for' Trump

<http://bigstory.ap.org/488cb435246142dfb542c2e7a6ea2ff7>

Steve Peoples

House Speaker Paul Ryan endorsed Donald Trump on Thursday, ending an extraordinary public split between the GOP's presumptive presidential nominee and the nation's highest-ranking Republican office holder. Ryan outlined his support for the New York billionaire in a column published in his hometown newspaper, declaring his goal to "unite the party so we can win in the fall." "It's no secret that he and I have our differences. I won't pretend otherwise," Ryan wrote. "And when I feel the need to, I'll continue to speak my mind. But the reality is, on the issues that make up our agenda, we have more common ground than disagreement." Trump, Ryan said, "would help us turn the ideas in this agenda into laws to help improve people's lives. That's why I'll be voting for him this fall."

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Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044