

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Tuesday, September 27, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: Plan surfaces for new nuclear disposal ground in SC

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article104316181.html>

Sammy Fretwell and Jeff Wilkinson

A plan has surfaced to establish another nuclear waste disposal ground in South Carolina, a state with a history of taking atomic refuse from across the country. An organization called the Spent Fuel Reprocessing Group wants federal approval to open a disposal area near Barnwell and the Savannah River Site nuclear weapons complex. Spent fuel, a type of highly radioactive waste, would be moved from the state's four nuclear power plant sites and stored indefinitely at the new facility, records show. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in July received notice of the plan. The proposal is a long way from becoming reality, but if eventually approved by the federal government, it would create a place for nuclear waste disposal that is likely to draw opposition. Several environmental groups said this week they are preparing to fight any effort to create what they called an atomic waste dumping ground. Politicians, including Gov. Nikki Haley, also expressed reservations Monday.

NOTE: Contacted Monday, Haley's office said: "South Carolina will not become a permanent dumping ground for nuclear waste regardless of where it would be housed or who would house it."

Greenville News: GHS fights objection to bond transfer

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/09/27/ghs-fights-objection-bond-transfer/91161750/>

Liv Osby

As Greenville Health System trustees meet today to go over the 2017 budget, officials say the hospital could see \$167 million in interest added to its bottom line if it can't move its bond debt to its new Strategic Coordinating Organization. And that could mean higher hospital rates or service and staff cuts, Mike Riordan, CEO of the SCO for GHS, told The Greenville News. "If we are now saddled with this increase," he said, "we can either raise rates, which impacts businesses and patients, or reduce costs ... closing programs and cutting staff." GHS is changing its governance structure so that it can remain a public nonprofit as part of a larger private, nonprofit multi-regional health system. Under that plan, GHS leases its assets to an Upstate Affiliate Organization, which would operate existing GHS hospitals and facilities, and the SCO makes decisions about the direction of the system and has the financial responsibility.

NOTE: The measure must be approved by Gov. Nikki Haley. But some members of the Greenville County legislative delegation have objected to it, he said.

Greenville News: GHS approves \$2.3 billion budget

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/09/27/ghs-approves-23-billion-budget/91162550/>

Liv Osby

Greenville Health System approved a \$2.3 billion 2017 budget Tuesday, the largest in the hospital's history. The budget, which takes effect Oct. 1, reflects 124 new employees and a 1-percent profit margin, officials said, but no hike in rates. About 65 of the new employees will be doctors, nurses and clinical support staff, said chief financial officer Terri Newsom. GHS has about 15,000 employees. The budget also includes funding for expansion projects, including the new GHS Medical Center in Boiling Springs, which will offer primary care, urgent care, psychiatry, physical therapy, labs, X-ray, mobile

MRI and pharmacy services. That \$10 million, 21,000-square-foot facility is set to open in February and is part of a \$40 million expansion planned for Spartanburg County, Newsom said. Information about other projects wasn't available. The budget also accounts for the completion of the transition of low-risk obstetrics to Patewood Memorial Hospital, she said, and four new operating rooms there. The 2017 budget also reflects the implementation of the last phase of the Epic IT system, which will expand to remaining facilities, she said.

WBTW: Georgetown looks back on Front Street fire 3 years later

<http://counton2.com/2016/09/26/georgetown-looks-back-on-front-street-fire-3-years-later/>

Three years ago a devastating fire tore through the 700 block of Front Street in historic Georgetown. It destroyed 8 buildings and left more than 130 people jobless overnight. Kenneth Davis was one of those people. He worked at Buzz's Roost just before the building caught fire. Now, Davis is employed at the restaurant's new location on the 900 block of Front Street. Many other businesses also relocated to the area. Davis said the whole experience was hard on him. "Not having a job for a couple months, just being out of work and not seeing the people I work with and things of that nature. "But things could have been worse. Wildfish Grill, another Georgetown business, gave him and his colleagues work in their time of need. Davis said, "they kind of opened their doors for us to come down and work for the time being until they built the new location." The fire completely destroyed 7 of the 8 buildings on the property and attracted statewide attention.

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley declared a state of emergency and the SC Dept. of Commerce offered up to 1 million dollars in grant funds. But, that grant never went forward. Mayor Jack Scoville said that's because not all of the building's owners wanted to follow to the grant conditions.

WYFF4: MTV, movies, Gov. Nikki Haley promote National Voter Registration Day

<http://www.wyff4.com/news/mtv-movies-and-gov-haley-promote-national-voter-registration-day/41848074>

Tuesday is National Voter Registration Day, and it's being observed by events in South Carolina and beyond. The South Carolina State Election Commission and county election officials held a voter registration and education event featuring an appearance by South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley. The governor declared September South Carolina Voter Education Month. Prospective voters can download a voter registration form at scVOTES.org. The South Carolina Election Commission reported in May that there were just over 3 million registered voters in the state. That's almost 77 percent of the voting-age population. Only about 53 percent of the voting age population was registered to vote in 1990.

Charlotte Protest Shooting:

Charlotte Observer: Gun recovered at fatal Charlotte police shooting was reported stolen, sources say

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/special-reports/charlotte-shooting-protests/article104389076.html>

Mark Price

The gun police say they found in Keith Lamont Scott's possession last week after he was fatally shot by an officer was reported stolen, multiple sources confirmed to the Observer's news partner WBTV. The gun was reportedly stolen in a residential breaking and entering, WBTV reports, adding that sources also say the man accused of stealing the gun was interviewed and is on record stating he sold the gun to Scott. Police have not released any information about the man accused of stealing the gun and selling it to Scott. Scott, 43, was shot Sept. 20 during a confrontation that started when undercover officers saw him smoking what appeared to be marijuana and holding a gun in his car at The Village at College Downs apartment complex on Old Concord Road, in northeast Charlotte. His death sparked protesting, some violent, across the city. Scott's family has said he did not own a gun, but police said they recovered a gun at the scene of the shooting.

Associated Press: Charlotte City Council blasted over police shooting reaction

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a1b4170468e043ac976bf78fcbc7a3f3>

Emery P. Dalesio and Tom Foreman Jr. and Jay Reeves

Angry Charlotte residents verbally lashed City Council members for hours, complaining about what they called unaccountable police officers and civilian leaders who have failed to force change as the city marked a week of protests since a police officer fatally shot a black man. At its Monday night meeting, the council opened the floor to dozens of residents who voiced their opinions about the Sept. 20 shooting of Kevin Lamont Scott by Charlotte-Mecklenburg police. Many called on Mayor Jennifer Roberts, Police Chief Kerr Putney and other council members to resign on the seventh day of protests since the shooting. "It's going to be rough in these streets until you give justice to our people," said the Rev. Milton Williams, the final speaker in a three-hour string. "Our city's in an uproar, and you did not respond."

Charlotte Observer: Charlotte civil rights, clergy leaders issue demands in police shooting

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/special-reports/charlotte-shooting-protests/article104339096.html>

Celeste Smith

Led by North Carolina NAACP President William Barber, a coalition of civil rights and clergy leaders announced a list of demands Monday in the wake of the fatal police shooting of Keith Lamont Scott. The 13-point list of demands includes calling for a federal investigation of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department; releasing all video footage of Scott's shooting; national standardization of the use of force by police; a retrial of Randall Kerrick, the white police officer who shot and killed Jonathan Ferrell, a black man, in 2013; and making it a firing offense if a police officer fails to turn on – or turns off – a body camera during an arrest. Barber also singled out Rep. Robert Pittenger, who in an interview last week said protesters hated white people. Pittenger later apologized.

Charlotte Observer: Charlotte mayor faces furious crowd at City Council meeting

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/special-reports/charlotte-shooting-protests/article104252096.html>

Steve Harrison

A furious crowd of citizens criticized and often shouted down Charlotte City Council on Monday night, calling for resignations across the city and chanting, "Hands Down! Shoot Back!" and "No Justice, No Peace!" Mayor Jennifer Roberts, who allowed people to speak for two hours, repeatedly had to stop the meeting, pleading for quiet. Sometimes the crowd quieted to allow people to speak. At other times, her requests were met with heckles and chants for justice. Even after the meeting, protesters gathered in the lobby of the Government Center. More than 20 protesters sat down after one young man urged them to "occupy this space." Dozens more stood, chanted and demanded a federal investigation into the shooting.

Dylann Roof Case:

Post and Courier: Judge in Dylann Roof trial: Jury qualification going well; could wrap up

Wednesday

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160927/160929507/judge-in-dylann-roof-trial-jury-qualification-going-well-could-wrap-up-wednesday>

Andrew Knapp

A federal judge said the court will likely have enough jurors for Dylann Roof's death penalty trial by Wednesday morning. Though 3,000 residents from the Charleston area were randomly summoned to be in court this week for jury qualification, it's thought that 700 are needed to create a jury of 12 members and six alternates. The jury will decide whether Roof should live behind bars or die of a lethal injection for his June 2015 attack on Emanuel AME Church. He faces 33 federal counts in the shooting deaths of nine black church members. He is charged with hate crimes and obstruction of religion resulting in death among other counts in the case. Jury qualification is the process in which

potential jurors relay to the judge any obvious excuses that would make service difficult. Those who do not have those excuses must fill out a questionnaire to gauge their knowledge and opinions of the case.

Associated Press: More jurors reporting in Charleston church shooting trial

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

SC State Wire

More potential jurors are reporting to the federal courthouse in Charleston, South Carolina, for initial screening in the trial of Dylann Roof, who faces 33 federal counts in the June 2015 shooting deaths of nine black church members. Roof is charged with hate crimes and obstruction of religion resulting in death among other counts in the case. About 320 potential jurors reported Monday and those who weren't dismissed or had their jury service moved were asked to fill out questionnaires about the case. By the end of the day, court officials say 300 questionnaires had been completed. Jurors will continue to report this week until 700 questionnaires are filled out. Those jurors will then be summoned back to court in November for individual questioning before a trial jury is seated.

General Assembly News:

Associated Press: Employees: Don't dig deeper into our pay to fix pensions

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6UDAQK4T

SC State Wire

Public employees are pleading with legislators to find a way to keep South Carolina's pension system solvent without taking more from their paychecks or further cutting retirees' benefits. Carlton Washington with the State Employees Association told a legislative study committee Tuesday "it's just not responsible" to make employees pay more. Legislators are trying to figure out how to reduce the state's growing pension debt. Committee members listened Tuesday without commenting. A state-funded report shows state workers in South Carolina are paid less than their counterparts in other states and give up more of their paycheck for benefits. Currently, employees in the main pension system contribute 8.7 percent of their salaries. Officers and firefighters in the smaller, law enforcement system contribute 9.2 percent. Retirees' annual cost-of-living raises max out at \$500.

Post and Courier: Pensioners sound off on state retirement liability

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160927/160929465/pensioners-sound-off-on-state-retirement-liability>

Gavin Jackson

Advocates for police officers, teachers and local public employees demanded state lawmakers find solutions to the state's underfunded pension fund without raising rates on underpaid employees or cutting benefits. "You promised us when we were hired that if we would accept a lower salary you would take care of us," retiree Lynne Schmidt told lawmaker-members of the Joint Committee on Pension Systems Review on Tuesday. "You take away our pensions we'll probably have to drop to one meal a day," said Schmidt, who along with her husband worked for the state as accountants for a combined 60 years. Now they eat only two meals a day to cut costs. Legislators are trying to tackle a ballooning \$20 billion state pension fund liability. The Schmidts told the panel they are trimming their own living costs since their personal investments — made to supplement their pensions — are not paying what they expected, a problem similar to what the state is facing.

WIS: How can lawmakers fix South Carolina's broken pension system?

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33261876/how-can-lawmakers-fix-south-carolinas-broken-pension-system>

Ashleigh Holland

Billions of dollars in debt, lawmakers are trying to find the fix to South Carolina's broken retirement system. In a meeting Tuesday, lawmakers heard testimony from concerned citizens on the problem. The people who spoke are those who draw state retirement and those who will someday such as teachers, firefighters, police officers. All had with concerns over paying higher rates for a pension.

The meeting lasted three hours with people lobbying against lawmakers raising employee contributions, arguing public safety workers like police, sheriff's deputies, corrections officers, and firefighters already aren't high-paying jobs. They say there's hardly an incentive to recruit workers as it is. Then, lobbyists for teachers spoke up, reminding the committee it's hard to make a living on a retired teacher's pension. "The contribution is already so high for our active teachers," retired teacher Rebecca Rochester said. "Most teachers depend on the district and the state to take care of us. We expect them to take care of us. We said we'd work for a lower salary because we love teaching."

The State: SC lawmakers may rethink controversial property tax law

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article104501406.html>

Jamie Self

State lawmakers may rethink a controversial property tax law passed before the Great Recession. Called Act 388, the 2006 law is among a host of tax policies a S.C. House panel is reviewing. The panel hopes to make recommendations for legislative changes before lawmakers return to Columbia for work in January. On Tuesday, lawmakers heard an overview of the 2006 law from tax experts. The law's key feature was a tax swap that benefited homeowners. The law exempted owner-occupied homes from paying operating taxes for local schools, shifting that burden to commercial and other properties. In exchange, the state increased the state sales tax by a penny and agreed to send money back to school districts, theoretically, to make up for lost revenue.

The State: Democrat Setzler gets Republican group's support

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article104421066.html>

Avery G. Wilks

A group of Midlands Republicans has formed to support Democrat Nikki Setzler's re-election bid, the S.C. Senate Minority Leader announced Tuesday. But two GOP officials say they are unfamiliar with the Republicans listed in the longtime Lexington senator's press release. Setzler said "Republicans for Setzler," a group of educators, elected officials and community activists, will be very active in his campaign. The group already has sent Senate District 26 voters a letter urging them to support Setzler over his Republican opponent, West Columbia risk management consultant Brad Lindsey. But Lexington County GOP chair Craig Caldwell says party records show none of the group's listed members have been active in the county GOP chapter over the past 12 years. S.C. GOP chair Matt Moore said he is not familiar with any members listed. "This is a standard tactic from the Setzler campaign," Moore said. "It is used every election cycle and meant to cover the fact that he consistently fails to represent the beliefs of his district."

Greenville News: Sen. Larry Martin named Legislator of the Year by MADD

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2016/09/27/sen-larry-martin-named-legislator-year-madd/91159032/>

Ron Barnett

State Sen. Larry Martin was recognized for the second year in a row by the national Mothers Against Drunk Driving organization as one of its Legislators of the Year for 2016. The Pickens Republican was one of 69 lawmakers nationwide and two in South Carolina presented with the award. Martin was recognized for authoring a bill "attempting to address the state's serious issue of losing DUI cases over minor issues with the videotape of the arrest," and another bill "to require approved responsible beverage service training for those who sell alcohol," according to MADD. Rep. Eddie Tallon, R-Spartanburg, was honored for authoring a bill "to address the problem of DUI offenders simply moving to mopeds and being able to continually drive drunk without any recourse," MADD said. "MADD is proud to work with these leaders in the battle against the leading killer on our nation's roadways," said MADD National President Colleen Sheehey-Church. "With more than 10,000 drunk driving deaths every year in America, we must continue to push for smart laws that will help us create a nation of No More Victims."

SC Agency News:

Post and Courier: Prisoner from North Charleston killed in McCormick Correctional stabbing
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160927/160929468/prisoner-from-north-charleston-killed-in-mccormick-correctional-stabbing>

Gregory Yee

The S.C. Department of Corrections is investigating the fatal stabbing of an inmate from North Charleston at McCormick Correctional Institution. Michael Lorenzo Jones, 43, was pronounced dead shortly after 5 p.m. Sunday, said Dexter Lee, a spokesman for the department. The stabbing happened around 4:45 p.m. inside a housing unit at the high-security prison. The incident remains under investigation and no further information, including the name of the inmate who stabbed Jones, was available Tuesday afternoon, Lee said. Jones entered prison May 31, 2013, for eight counts of forgery and one count each of shoplifting and carrying a prohibited weapon, according to records. His projected release date was Feb. 14, 2018. His prison record shows he was disciplined five times for exhibitionism and public masturbation; twice for use of a narcotic, marijuana or other drug; and once for possession of contraband.

The State: Officer assaulted at Turbeville Correctional Institution
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article104325921.html>

Noah Feit

A correctional officer was assaulted by at least one inmate at Turbeville Correctional Institution Monday. The correctional officer was injured and taken to an area hospital, where he was treated and released, Department of Corrections interim communications director Dexter Lee said. At 2 p.m., there was a disturbance inside in the Tawcaw Housing Unit, which normally houses 150 inmates, Lee said. The emergency response team was called and the institution was placed on lockdown, according to Lee, adding there were no other staff injuries, and no injuries to inmates. The incident remains under investigation and charges could be pending for the inmate, or inmates, involved, Lee said.

SC Delegation News:

Post and Courier: Authorization to continue Charleston Harbor deepening could be victim to partisan squabbles

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160927/160929508/authorization-to-continue-charleston-harbor-deepening-could-be-victim-to-partisan-squabbles>

Emma Dumain

The ability to stay on schedule with the Charleston Harbor deepening project could become a casualty of unrelated political disagreements. In the final days of the fiscal year and before Congress leaves for a month-long recess, House Democrats are threatening to withhold support for the Water Resources Development Act — which includes authorization to dredge the harbor 52 feet — in part because Republicans aren't guaranteeing they'll allow a vote on an amendment to help Flint, Mich., confront its contaminated drinking water crisis. The Senate's version of WRDA, which passed earlier this month, has money for Flint. GOP leaders say they support that provision, and when the two chambers meet after Election Day to negotiate a final bill that would be an appropriate time for a debate on the matter. But Democrats aren't satisfied with what they consider an empty promise to simply punt on the discussion. Though Flint money wouldn't be made available immediately following House passage of WRDA, at least both bills would have laid down a marker, significantly increasing the chances of the provision surviving a conference committee.

NOTE: "That would give me extreme discomfort," said U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford, R-S.C., who spearheaded a letter to leadership calling for a vote on WRDA before the pre-Election Day recess, an effort endorsed by Gov. Nikki Haley. "I just hope we can keep it out of the House version. We'll just have to take one step at a time."

Post and Courier: Furman University to host Gowdy, Scott and challengers

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160927/160929495/furman-university-to-host-gowdy-scott-and->

challengers

Gavin Jackson

Furman University will host four of South Carolina's federal candidates for a conversation — not a debate — in late October, two weeks before Election Day. Attendees at the Oct. 24 event will get to hear 4th Congressional District Republican U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy and his Democratic challenger Chris Fedalei, as well as Republican U.S. Sen. Tim Scott and his Democratic challenger, the Rev. Thomas Dixon. Furman political science professor Danielle Vinson will moderate. "This will be a wide-ranging, in-depth discussion with the candidates and not a timed debate," Vinson said in a statement. "We want the candidates to come together and show that it's possible to have a civil, substantive conversation about important political issues even when we disagree with one another." The forum takes place at 7 p.m. Oct. 24 in the Watkins Room of the Trone Student Center. For more information, contact Furman's News and Media Relations office at 864-294-3107.

SC Political News:

McClatchy DC: Clinton beats Trump in South Carolina Google searches

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/election/article104463601.html>

Vera Bergengruen

Hillary Clinton dominated Google searches in South Carolina during Monday night's first presidential debate, surpassing Donald Trump as the top-searched candidate in the state. The only exception was the Augusta metro area, which includes Aiken and Edgefield counties, according to Google Trends. Besides her name, the top trending search for Clinton in South Carolina was "Hillary Clinton dot com," after she asked viewers to follow along in real time on her website to fact-check Trump's statements. Another top search was "Hillary Clinton fact checker." The top trending search for the Republican nominee in South Carolina was "Did Donald Trump support the Iraq War." When Clinton said that Trump supported the war in Iraq, he called her statement "mainstream media nonsense," likely triggering the spike in searches for his record on the conflict. There is no evidence that Trump ever expressed public opposition for the war, but he did express lukewarm support. In the last year, South Carolinians' most frequent searches have included "Hillary Clinton seizures," "Hillary Clinton indictment" and "Hillary Clinton dead," according to Google Trends. Among the most frequent Trump queries over the last 12 months were "Donald Trump SNL" and "Donald Trump family."

The State: Who won? 4 SC political scientists give their takes <http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article104354616.html>

Jamie Self

The State asked four S.C. political scientists for their assessment of Monday's presidential debate. Here's what The Citadel's Scott Buchanan, Winthrop University's Scott Huffmon, the College of Charleston's Gibbs Knotts and Francis Marion University's Alissa Warters said...

Aiken Standard: Charles Bierbauer, former CNN correspondent, to speak on 2016 election at USC Aiken

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160927/160929639/charles-bierbauer-former-cnn-correspondent-to-speak-on-2016-election-at-usc-aiken->

Charles Bierbauer, formerly CNN's senior White House correspondent, will lead a panel discussion on the 2016 election at 7 p.m. Oct. 5 in the Etherredge Center at USC Aiken. The discussion, which also will include USCA faculty members, will center on questions from the audience. The panel discussion is free and open to the public. Bierbauer is currently the dean of the College of Information and Communications USC Columbia. Bierbauer was a correspondent for CNN in Washington from 1981 to 2001, and for nine years covered the Reagan and Bush administrators as CNN's senior White House correspondent. Bierbauer became CNN's Pentagon correspondent. He covered five presidential campaigns from 1984 to 2000 and spent five terms as the network's Supreme Court correspondent.

Morning News: Voter registration deadline quickly approaching

http://www.scnw.com/news/article_f021897c-84d5-11e6-bd4c-2356cc559f1a.html

Joshua Lloyd

Almost everyone has an opinion this election cycle, but come November 8, only registered voters will have a say in who becomes the next round of public leaders. The deadline to register for this general election is October 8. David Alford, director of the Florence County Voters Registration and Election Commission, said people who want to register can do so online, in person, by email or fax. A PDF of the application can be found [here](#). "Anything we receive on or before October 8 will count," Alford said. "Anything that is postmarked on or before the 8th is good." Voters already registered do not have to worry about re-registering, but should ensure the information is current with the election commission. "The key thing is if you're registered, make sure you have your updated name and address," Alford said. "There will always be lines on Election Day but people with name issues and address issues are going to be there longer."

The State: SC Democrats announce keynote speaker for weekend conference <http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article104437451.html>

Avery G. Wilks

The CEO of the 2008 and 2016 Democratic National Conventions be the keynote speaker at the S.C. Democratic Party's annual issues conference this weekend. The Rev. Leah Daughtry will deliver the main address at the Spratt Issues Conference on Saturday, the party announced Tuesday. She will speak a day after actor Jeffrey Wright gives the keynote speech at the party's Jefferson-Jackson Dinner on Friday. S.C. Democrats also announced the theme for Saturday's conference: "A New Southern Strategy: Building A State That Works For Everyone."

Post and Courier: Speakers for S.C. Democratic Party weekend meetings announced

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160927/160929486/speakers-for-sc-democratic-party-weekend-meetings-announced>

Schuyler Kropf

The Reverend Leah D. Daughtry is the keynote speaker for the S.C. Democratic Party's Spratt Issues Conference on Saturday in Columbia. Daughtry served as the CEO of the 2008 and 2016 Democratic National Conventions, making her the first person in Democratic Party history to hold the position twice. She also previously served as chief of staff of the Democratic National Committee, where she created Faith In Action, the party's outreach program to communities of faith. She was named by Religion News Service as one of 12 most influential Democrats in the nation on faith and values politics. A fifth generation pastor, she is pastor of The House of Lord Church in Washington, D.C., and serves as jurisdictional elder of the Southeast Region. She is also on the executive committee of the National Council of Negro Women.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: Scope: Could tax reform finally be for real?

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article104247166.html>

Cindi Ross Scope

HOUSE LEADERS promised, back in 2012, that they were ready to overhaul our loophole-ridden, special-interest-driven tax system — a system that results in higher rates than we should have to pay, a system that encourages behaviors we want to discourage and discourages behaviors we want to encourage, a system that is based on an economy that no longer exists and that crashes when the actual economy crashes. But their proposal was actually just a massive tax cut, with a few minor reforms thrown in as window dressing. Two years earlier, the Taxation Realignment Commission compiled an impressive report about the problems with our tax code and sent it to a Legislature that had ordered the study but made clear that it had no intention of acting on the findings. And it didn't. Before that ... oh, they're all running together now, but there was a reform effort that got perverted into the now-infamous Act 388 that eliminated residential property taxes for schools and replaced

them with a sales tax increase that brought in less money, and one before that that got hijacked in the GOP takeover of the House and turned into the state's first big property tax cut. And a couple more in between.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: S.C. gas prices still up following pipeline repair

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160926/160929563/sc-gas-prices-still-up-following-pipeline-repair>

Warren L. Wise

Gasoline prices nudged up another couple of pennies a gallon during the past week across South Carolina following the repair of a major fuel pipeline in Alabama that ruptured earlier this month. The price at the pump now averages \$2.09 a gallon across the Palmetto State, according to gas price service GasBuddy. Motor club AAA puts the price 2 cents higher. Nationally, the price dropped just under a penny a gallon to \$2.20, according to both gas price services. Late September is normally the time of year when gas prices fall as summer demand wanes and refineries switch to less expensive winter blends, but the fracturing of the Colonial Pipeline that runs from Houston to New York sent prices soaring across the Southeast, and especially across the Upstate, through which the 36-inch fuel line passes.

Associated Press: Spike in Carolinas gas prices among nation's highest

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=pH10x5HF

SC State Wire

The recent spike in gasoline prices in the Carolinas because of the Colonial Pipeline spill are among the highest weekly increases in the nation. AAA Carolinas reports that because of this month's spill, average gas prices increased 7 cents per gallon in South Carolina and 5 cents a gallon in North Carolina. The pipeline leak in Alabama resulted in gasoline shortages in several southeastern states for several days. The motor club based in Charlotte reported Monday that the average price for a gallon of gas in North Carolina is \$2.21 a gallon while the price in South Carolina \$2.11. The main difference in the price in the two states is North Carolina's higher state gasoline tax.

Island Packet: SC still paying more at the pump after Alabama pipeline repair

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/traffic/gas-prices/article104398931.html>

Mandy Matney

South Carolinians are still paying more at the pump following the repair of a major pipeline leak in Alabama. According to GasBuddy, the average price of gasoline in South Carolina is \$2.09 per gallon, after peaking at \$2.11 per gallon last week. Two weeks ago, prices in the state averaged at \$1.91 per gallon. AAA Carolinas reports average gas prices increased 7 cents per gallon in South Carolina because of the spill. A year ago, South Carolina saw averages of \$1.95 per gallon in September, typically a cheaper month for gasoline. South Carolina prices remain below the national average of \$2.20 per gallon. Atlanta was hit hardest by the pipeline damage with a spike of 35 cents a gallon. Prices have since decreased to \$2.45 per gallon.

Greenville News: Feds focus on SC heroin epidemic

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/09/27/feds-focus-sc-heroin-epidemic/90819224/>

Anna Lee

Federal authorities are ramping up efforts to combat South Carolina's heroin epidemic as the number of overdose deaths in the state continue to climb. At least 95 people died from heroin in 2015, up from 57 the year before, according to state health department estimates. More than 560 people died from opioids, which includes heroin, over the same time period. Federal authorities say the increase is linked to prescription opioid abuse. "It often starts out with the family medicine cabinet," said Beth Drake, Acting U.S. Attorney for the District of South Carolina. Opioid addiction, Drake said, "knows no bounds. It's our children. Our neighbors. And it's moms. It's every aspect of society." Recognizing

heroin's devastating impact, the U.S. Attorney General designated the week of Sept. 19 National Heroin and Opioid Awareness Week. As part of the public awareness campaign, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Columbia invited media representatives to meet with federal and local authorities at a roundtable in Columbia. The event comes after a series of stories published by The Greenville News examining heroin's toll in Greenville County and the Upstate.

Associated Press: Plea change canceled in UH Stevie Wonder concert blunder

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

SC State Wire

A man accused of scamming the University of Hawaii of \$200,000 for a Stevie Wonder concert that never happened is no longer planning to change his plea. Marc Hubbard was scheduled to change his plea Tuesday. But court records show there will instead be a pretrial conference scheduled for next week. He pleaded not guilty in 2013 to a wire fraud charge. Authorities say the North Carolina concert promoter claimed he had connections to secure Wonder for an athletics fundraiser. The school paid a \$200,000 deposit, began selling tickets and then learned neither Wonder nor his representatives authorized a show. The incident was dubbed "Wonder Blunder." Court records say Hubbard pleaded guilty in South Carolina and New York to wire fraud and conspiracy charges. He's also facing sentencing in Pennsylvania.

Local News:

Associated Press: 6 children removed from York County home with no water

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=W4hOHQ0i

SC State Wire

York County deputies say that six children have been removed from a home near Rock Hill that was filthy, had no running water and little food. The Herald of Rock Hill reports (<http://bit.ly/2d6UCHT>) the children, ages 8 months to 8 years, were taken into protective custody on Sunday. Deputies went to the home after receiving an anonymous tip to check on the children. A sheriff's report said the children had head lice and the home smelled of garbage, urine and feces, according to a sheriff's report. It also said the children who were old enough to go to school had not been enrolled. The report said the mother of the children was taken into custody but was not immediately charged.

The State: Richland Sheriff's Department arrests three men in connection with string of burglaries

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article104444916.html>

Cynthia Roldan

Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott announced Tuesday the arrests of three men who are accused of going on a crime spree in the past year. Cedric Reddick, 23, is facing five counts of second-degree burglary, three counts of grand larceny and one count of petit larceny. Lott said Reddick is connected to a string of break-ins at liquor stores that spanned multiple counties. In Richland County alone, 26 liquor stores have been broken into since December. Lott said investigators tied the burglaries together, because the method of break-in was the same; burglars always wore masks and gloves, and did everything they could to not leave forensic evidence at the crime scenes. "Fortunately for us, and unfortunately for the bad guy, he did some leave DNA at one of the crime scenes," said Lott, adding that it was Reddick's DNA that was found. Lott said Reddick had an accomplice who has not been arrested, but the investigation is ongoing and additional arrests are forthcoming.

Associated Press: Remains found in Dorchester County those of missing man

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

SC State Wire

Authorities say that human remains found in a field in Dorchester County have been identified as those of a Ridgeway man reported missing in July. Local news outlets report that the remains were found Saturday. Dorchester County Coroner Alice Durr said Monday the remains are those of 61-year-old Marc Godwin Saunders. Authorities won't know the cause of death until test results are

completed. An incident report says Saunders was reported missing in July by his brother who lives out of state. The brother did not hear from Saunders after he was released from a hospital July 1.

Post and Courier: Man charged in 2006 North Charleston shooting just days after prison release
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160927/160929484/man-charged-in-2006-north-charleston-shooting-just-days-after-prison-release>

Angie Jackson

Just a few days after his release from federal prison, a man again found himself behind bars, this time in connection with a shooting 10 years ago in North Charleston. Terrell Kurt Myers, 35, was released from prison sooner than expected Thursday thanks to a federal judge's decision to vacate his 20-year sentence for a conviction of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Chief U.S. District Judge Terry Wooten resentenced Myers to just shy of 10 years in prison, which he has already served. On Monday, Myers was booked into Cannon Detention Center on a state charge of assault with intent to kill for allegedly shooting a man in the leg on Read Street in 2006. Police identified Myers as the shooting suspect and issued a warrant for his arrest in 2006, but they didn't catch up with him until this week. He was recently arrested in Lexington County and authorities there noticed the outstanding warrant, according to Spencer Pryor, spokesman for the North Charleston Police Department.

Associated Press: Lexington sheriff's deputies capture escaped suspect
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=0EY8WESC
SC State Wire

Lexington County sheriff's deputies have captured a suspect who escaped from a hospital while he was being checked for injuries. Deputies told local media that 37-year-old Corey Jorell Eaglin ran away from the Lexington Medical Center on Monday. About a dozen deputies took part in the search and Eaglin was recaptured several hours later. Eaglin had been arrested following a domestic violence complaint. The sheriff's department said Eaglin also had three outstanding warrants on drug charges. Deputies say he now faces additional charges. It was not clear if he has an attorney.

The State: Lexington Sheriff's Department locates escaped detainee
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article104290676.html>
Noah Feit

After several hours at large, the Lexington County Sheriff's Department located a detainee who ran away from Lexington Medical Center Monday. Corey Jorell Eaglin, 37, ran away after being arrested in the morning following a domestic violence incident, according to the Lexington County Sheriff's Department, which reported a lead from the community led to Eaglin's location. In addition to the domestic violence arrest, Eaglin also has three outstanding warrants related to drug charges, according to the sheriff's department, adding more charges are pending. When he ran away, Eaglin was wearing a hospital gown, black undergarments and a colostomy bag, according to the sheriff's department, adding Eaglin's missing the lower portion of an arm and has one eye.

Post and Courier: Charleston Police Department to hire advocate for elderly crime victims
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160927/160929479/charleston-police-department-to-hire-advocate-for-elderly-crime-victims>

Gregory Yee

The Charleston Police Department is using more than \$414,000 in grant funding to hire an advocate who will work with senior citizens who are victims of crime. The elder victim advocate will work under the department's Family Violence Unit with victims who are more than 60 years old, police said. A portion of the funding came from a \$60,882 grant from the S.C. Department of Public Safety, police said. The advocate will also work with the End Abuse in Later Life Program, which operates out of Mayor John Tecklenburg's Office on Aging and was created with a \$353,697 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women. The police department also received a 12-month, \$50,168 grant from the S.C. Department of Public Safety for equipment and training that will

improve DNA screening, and detection and collection of blood, semen and other bodily fluids found at crime scenes.

The State: Violent crime rates up in the Midlands, nationwide <http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article104303281.html>

Cynthia Roldan

Richland and Lexington counties were the most violent last year since 2011, according to federal crime reports released Monday. Bucking a trend of declining rates in recent years, Richland's violent crime has gone up 16 percent while Lexington has increased about 10 percent when compared to 2014, according to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports. The percentages, however, only tell a part of the story. In numbers alone, 2,357 violent crimes were committed in Richland County in 2015, 374 more than the prior year. Lexington County saw a boost of 60 violent crimes, coming in at 578 in 2015. Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said it's unrealistic to see population of grow and not expect crimes to rise as well.

Associated Press: Overdose? Then go to jail. Community considers possibility http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=sd6pT9D9

SC State Wire

Horry County is considering making people who overdose on narcotics spend three days in jail. New outlets reports that County Council Chairman Mark Lazarus asked during a meeting Monday how the county where Myrtle Beach is located could implement such a law. Lazarus would also like a requirement that those who overdose get mandatory substance abuse treatment. County emergency personnel are equipped with Narcon, a nasal spray that resuscitates those who overdose on heroin and other narcotics. Law enforcement officials expect Narcon will be used in the county 1,000 times this year. Lazarus says a law putting people in jail for overdosing would not discourage them from getting from medical help because they are generally unconscious and someone else calls emergency workers.

Sun News: Horry council considers mandatory 72-hours in jail, counseling for drug overdoses <http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article104222196.html>

Audrey Hudson

Drug users who overdose on narcotics would face jail time and mandatory treatment for substance abuse under new legal action proposed Monday by County Council Chairman Mark Lazarus. Lazarus asked the county legal team, police and sheriff's office to determine what laws need to be passed to mandate a 72-hour holding period in jail, citing the growing number of heroin use and repeat overdoses emergency officials are experiencing. "There's no consequences for those people that are overdosing on this, and we're just putting them right back out in the street," Lazarus said during the council's Public Safety Committee meeting. "We've even had incidents where, 10 or 11 hours later, we've gone back and (treated) the same person again or the person in their party," Lazarus said. County emergency personnel are equipped with Narcon, a nasal spray that resuscitates victims who have overdosed on heroin and other narcotics, and say current projections predict Narcon will be used more than 1,000 times this year.

Sun News: Jail time for overdosing unrealistic in Myrtle Beach, police chief says <http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article104427266.html>

Chloe Johnson

Myrtle Beach police chief Warren Gall told City Council members Tuesday that a proposal to keep people who've recently overdosed on opioids in jail would not be feasible for the city. The idea was floated first by County Council Chairman Mark Lazarus, who said Monday jail time could be mandatory for people who are brought back with overdose-reversal drug Narcan. Horry County is the county with the most heroin-related overdose deaths in South Carolina. Gall, by contrast, said Myrtle Beach Jail is not equipped for such detainees, because he said that overdose survivors require medical attention. The facility does not have the adequate medical personnel, he said. "We are a 48-

hour hold facility, that's it," Gall told The Sun News. "We are a temporary jail." The county proposal, by contrast, would place overdose survivors in jail for 72 hours, per Lazarus's suggestion. Gall declined to comment to The Sun News on the efficacy of that proposal.

Greenville News: As sepsis cases increase, EMS, hospitals target dangerous condition

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/health/2016/09/27/sepsis-cases-increase-ems-hospitals-target-dangerous-condition/90419008/>

Liv Osby

Sepsis is a dangerous and fast-moving medical condition that can take a life in a matter of hours. Mary Lynn Bushong was one of its lucky victims. She only lost a leg. "I started out with some kind of infection in my foot," the Taylors woman said. "There was no scrape, no nothing. It was just really weird," she told The Greenville News. "But it turned out there was an abscess that went into a bone infection, which went into sepsis from there." As the condition progressed, Bushong developed a fever. She couldn't eat or drink for days. And she was sleeping round the clock. Her husband, Larry, was advised to get her to the hospital ASAP. And before long, doctors were amputating her left leg below the knee in order to save her life. "I was scared to death," Larry said. "The doctors told us it could be very dangerous." Sepsis occurs when the body's immune system overreacts to an infection, resulting a life-threatening inflammation that can cause tissue damage, organ failure and death, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Island Packet: Report: Bus driver let angry driver board to berate students over chucked water bottle

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/education/article104399471.html>

Rebecca Lurye

When a student tossed a plastic water bottle out of a school bus last week, they probably expected it to stay put. If so, they didn't account for the driver who was behind the Beaufort County School District bus, which had stopped to unload at Heritage Lakes in Bluffton. The female driver got out of her car, grabbed the bottle and boarded the bus, where she proceeded to scream and toss the bottle at a student's face, according to a Beaufort County Sheriff's Office report on the Sept. 22 incident. The older sister of the female victim reported the assault to deputies the same afternoon. The girl had a red spot where the bottle had struck her face, but was not seriously injured, the report said. The report did not identify who threw the bottle out the window, or who boarded the bus. The sister simply told deputies an unidentified woman boarded the bus shouting angrily about the thrown bottle, and tossed it back at students as she was getting off.

Post and Courier: Second C of C fraternity closes after misconduct allegations

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160926/160929534/second-c-of-c-fraternity-closes-after-misconduct-allegations->

Deanna Pan

A second fraternity at the College of Charleston has closed this year after allegations surfaced of misconduct and criminal behavior. Members of the college's Kappa Alpha Order decided to close their 112-year-old chapter, college and fraternity officials confirmed Monday. "This was not a decision made lightly," Sarah Jane Franciscus, the college's director of fraternity and sorority life, wrote in an email to Greek life members. "While this news might be shocking to many of you, as it was for many involved, we do ask that you respect the decision made by the students as they move forward with their collegiate careers and status as alumni of the Kappa Alpha Order." Franciscus' email did not specify why the fraternity members decided to close their chapter. A C of C spokesman was unable to answer questions Monday about the fraternity's decision.

Associated Press: College of Charleston fraternity closes, the 2nd this year

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=X6OLVEjU

SC State Wire

Another fraternity at the College of Charleston has closed amid allegations of misconduct. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports (<http://bit.ly/2cxLE46ict>) that college and fraternity officials

confirmed Monday that the Kappa Alpha Order chapter has closed. The newspaper reported over the summer about a drug ring operating in Charleston that involved networks of current and former students. One man arrested was a former president of the Kappa Alpha Order chapter. The fraternity's national office launched a review and a spokesman said members of the chapter agreed to close last week. The chapter will reopen with new members no earlier than 2018. The chapter of Alpha Epsilon Pi also closed after a student told police she was raped at an off-campus party. Two members of that fraternity were later charged.

Associated Press: House fire claims life of Orangeburg County man

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=XQWA9C3q

SC State Wire

Authorities are investigating the cause of a house fire that killed a man near the Orangeburg County community of Eutawville. The fire started late Sunday night and burned into Monday morning. Orangeburg County Chief Deputy Coroner Sean Fogle tells The Times and Democrat of Orangeburg (<http://bit.ly/2dzteEeJ>) that the victim was 40-year-old Eric Taste of Cross. Authorities said the cause of death was not immediately determined

Associated Press: Get on with It: Officials want beaches rebuilt in 2017

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5MjeBfl7

SC State Wire

Myrtle Beach area leaders want the federal government to move forward with beach rebuilding projects on the Grand Strand next year instead of waiting until 2018. The beaches are the heart of South Carolina's \$19 billion tourism industry. The Sun News of Myrtle Beach reports (<http://bit.ly/2cSk7eF>) that local leaders including Horry County Council Chairman Mark Lazarus, North Myrtle Beach Mayor Marilyn Hatley and Myrtle Beach Mayor John Rhodes have visited Washington to discuss federal money for beach renourishment with South Carolina lawmakers. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is now taking bids on a project to pour more sand on the beaches south of Myrtle Beach while a project in the Myrtle Beach city limits is set for 2018. Lazarus says it would save taxpayers about \$12 million if beaches on the entire Grand Strand were rebuilt at the same time because heavy equipment would need to be moved in only once.

Aiken Standard: Former Charleston Mayor Joe Riley to visit Aiken in October

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160927/160929640/former-charleston-mayor-joe-riley-to-visit-aiken-in-october->

Dan Brown

If there ever was a walking encyclopedia about what it takes to run a city, it's Charleston's longtime former mayor, Joe Riley. Riley will be in Aiken to kick off the Main Street Aiken Leadership Team's speaker season at 6 p.m. Oct. 18 at the AECOM Center for the Performing Arts, 126 Newberry St. in downtown Aiken. A wine and cheese social will start the evening at 5 p.m., with the program starting afterward. Riley retired this year after 40 years in office. Next month, he is expected to reflect on his experiences and insights culled from those 40 years of leadership as Charleston's mayor. Coincidentally, according to Aiken Business Vitality Manager John McMichael, Riley was the guest speaker in Aiken 20 years ago when the City kicked off its 20/20 campaign. "This is a wonderful opportunity to have Mayor Joe Riley to come back and share his experiences with Aiken," McMichael said. McMichael first met Riley in 1989 during Hurricane Hugo when McMichael worked in the insurance business.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: Trump blames others after combative debate with Clinton

<http://bigstory.ap.org/2c6ec44ef6c44537948051c7cc15b732>

Josh Lederman and Lisa Lerer

Donald Trump blamed the moderator, a bad microphone and anyone but himself Tuesday after he

was forced onto defense by Hillary Clinton's cascade of critiques about his taxes, honesty and character in the first presidential debate. The Republican nominee plunged into re-litigating some of Clinton's most damaging attacks, even when the explanations seemed only to further damage his image among the voters he needs to win. After brushing off Clinton's debate claim that he'd once shamed a former Miss Universe winner for her weight, Trump dug deeper the next morning. "She gained a massive amount of weight. It was a real problem. We had a real problem," Trump told "Fox and Friends" about the 1996 winner of the pageant he once owned. Clinton, meanwhile, was in a celebratory mood, telling reporters on her campaign plane she had a "great, great time" and was "thrilled" by how it went. She accused Trump of making "demonstrably untrue" claims in the debate and mocked him for floating the possibility that debate organizers had set him up by lowering the volume on his "terrible" microphone so he was quieter than Clinton.

Associated Press: Neither Trump, Clinton exactly right about stop-and- frisk

<http://bigstory.ap.org/17dab25a139541a9a72fd7a3954efd6a>

Jonathan Lemire

Donald Trump says the police tactic known as stop-and-frisk led to a drop in murders in New York City, while Hillary Clinton says it has been ruled unconstitutional. At the first presidential debate, neither was quite right. The New York Police Department's use of stop-and-frisk, an approach to policing in which officers can stop and search anyone they deem suspicious, emerged as a flashpoint Monday night for the two New Yorkers. Trump painted a dark picture of violence in the United States' inner cities and suggested the solution would be "you do stop-and-frisk," adding it "worked very well" in the nation's largest city. "In New York City, we had 2,200 murders, and stop-and-frisk brought it down to 500 murders," Trump said, praising former Mayor Rudy Giuliani for his embrace of the tactic. The Republican nominee said it was "continued on by Mayor (Michael) Bloomberg. And it was terminated by current mayor. But stop-and-frisk had a tremendous impact on the safety of New York City. Tremendous beyond belief."

Associated Press: The Latest: Flake says Trump debated poorly against Clinton

<http://bigstory.ap.org/ca12176c19cc472989ffe029d924e073>

One of Donald Trump's chief Republican detractors says the GOP presidential candidate performed poorly in Monday's debate and all but admitted it. Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake says, "When you blame the mic, that's as close as you get to conceding that you had a bad night. Trump said his microphone went on and off during his encounter with Hillary Clinton and was set at a low volume. He said he wondered if the moderators did that purposely, though he offered no evidence. Flake says, "Trump was Trump. Light on substance, heavy on theatrics." Flake has refused to endorse Trump. The two have criticized each other for months. The senator says Trump missed opportunities to criticize Clinton's record. He says Trump went down "rabbit holes" by talking about "beauty contestants."

Associated Press: Biden assails Trump on housing crisis remarks

<http://bigstory.ap.org/5d631f1c718e4fd9b2b8483769ab36e0>

Megan Trimble

Vice President Joe Biden on Tuesday questioned Donald Trump's "moral center" as a result of the Republican presidential candidate's comments about America's housing collapse. At a rally for Hillary Clinton at Drexel University, Biden said that Trump had bragged at Monday's presidential debate about profiting from the failed housing market. He said Trump's policies are not helpful for the country, calling the candidate "painfully uninformed." "This is a guy who said it was good business for him to see the housing market fail," Biden said. "What in the hell is he talking about?" At the debate, Clinton said Trump had rooted for the housing collapse in 2006 because he saw it as a way to go in and make money. Trump responded, "That's called business, by the way."

National News:

Associated Press: Ex-ally: Gov. Christie seemed happy about bridge gridlock

<http://bigstory.ap.org/61d99973484a45ee900c508dea109d2e>

David Porter

Gov. Chris Christie was told about the epic 2013 traffic jam at the George Washington Bridge while it was underway, seemed happy about it and joked sarcastically that there was nothing political going on, a former loyalist testified Tuesday in the scandal that helped destroy Christie's White House ambitions. David Wildstein, a former executive at the agency that oversees New York-area bridges and tunnels, took the stand for the prosecution at the trial of two one-time Christie allies accused of engineering the four days of gridlock to punish a Democratic mayor for not endorsing Christie. Wildstein has pleaded guilty. Wildstein's account was the first testimony to suggest that Christie knew about the scheme while it was unfolding. Christie has repeatedly denied that and has not been charged with a crime. On Tuesday, the Republican governor said: "All kinds of stuff is going on up in a courtroom in Newark. I want to be really clear: I have not and will not say anything different than I've been saying since January 2014. No matter what is said up there, I had no knowledge prior to or during these lane realignments."

Associated Press: Password breach could have ripple effects well beyond Yahoo

<http://bigstory.ap.org/99fa55ce32de4f8d939f67e605c4fd9e>

Raphael Satter

As investors and investigators weigh the damage of Yahoo's massive breach to the internet icon, information security experts worry that the record-breaking haul of password data could be used to open locks up and down the web. While it's unknown to what extent the stolen data has been or will be circulating, giant breaches can send ripples of insecurity across the internet. "Data breaches on the scale of Yahoo are the security equivalent of ecological disasters," said Matt Blaze, a security researcher who directs the Distributed Systems Lab at the University of Pennsylvania, in a message posted to Twitter. A big worry is a cybercriminal technique known as "credential stuffing," which works by throwing leaked username and password combinations at a series of websites in an effort to break in, a bit like a thief finding a ring of keys in an apartment lobby and trying them, one after the other, in every door in the building. Software makes the trial-and-error process practically instantaneous.

Associated Press: Senate blocks stopgap bill to prevent shutdown this weekend

<http://bigstory.ap.org/64627ee1c245470b964e3eaa4de5b5f2>

Andrew Taylor

The Senate on Tuesday stumbled over a must-do bill to prevent the government from shutting down this weekend and to fund the fight against the Zika virus. Democrats, demanding money so Flint, Michigan, can address its lead-contaminated water crisis, overwhelmingly opposed the measure, as did a dozen of the Senate's most conservative members. The 45-55 vote stalls the stopgap funding bill — for now at least — and is exasperating top Republicans like Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who made several concessions to Democrats in weeks of negotiations over the measure. The GOP defections left McConnell, R-Ky., short of a simple majority, much less the 60 votes needed to clear a filibuster hurdle. Republican leaders are promising to address the Flint issue after the election in a separate water resources bill, but Democrats refuse to take them at their word. "'Trust me we will consider Flint later' — that's like nothing to me," said House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

Associated Press: Senators press FBI director on response to terrorism threat

<http://bigstory.ap.org/e8ed8d4cceae4e00b6b1fef5fc1161b2>

Matthew Daly and Eric Tucker

Republican senators pressed FBI Director James Comey on Tuesday about whether anything more could have been done to prevent recent acts of extremist violence, including the Orlando nightclub massacre and the Manhattan bombing this month. Comey said the FBI is fallible and transparent about its mistakes, but he did not concede that anything should have been done differently or that any red flags were missed. The questions arose because the FBI has said it investigated Orlando gunman Omar Mateen a few years before the June shooting and interviewed him multiple times. The

FBI in 2014 also looked into Ahmad Khan Rahami, the Afghan-born U.S. citizen accused in the explosion, but found nothing that tied him to terrorism. Two senators, in particular, Rand Paul of Kentucky and Kelly Ayotte, said they were alarmed that both individuals had at one point been on the FBI's radar but were not intercepted.

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Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044