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Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, August 3, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Commerce Department, trade group to study ways to grow South Carolina's life sciences industry

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160802/160809847/commerce-department-trade-group-to-study-ways-to-grow-south-carolinas-life-sciences-industry>

Thad Moore

The Department of Commerce would like to grow the medical technology business in South Carolina. To figure out how, it's embarking on a study of the sector with a trade group that represents the state's growing industry. The state's lead economic development agency is partnering with the Greenville-based South Carolina Biotechnology Industry Organization, or SCBIO, to record the extent of the life sciences industry here and look at ways to expand it. Its findings could form a template for the state's efforts to grow the life science industry, which accounts for relatively few jobs in South Carolina but tends to pay well above average. "We know that this is an industry sector that we will definitely want to pursue in the future," Commerce spokeswoman Adrienne Fairwell said. "We're hoping that through this partnership this will be another area of economic development that we're able to explore and push forward."

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley announced the arrival of Nephron Pharmaceuticals' manufacturing facility in West Columbia in 2011. The state Department of Commerce is studying the state's life sciences industry with SCBIO, a trade group representing the industry.

Associated Press: South Carolina looks to grow medical technology industry

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8lpC39R5

SC State Wire

State officials want to expand the medical technology industry in South Carolina and are embarking on a \$100,000 study with a trade group to find ways to do so. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports (<http://bit.ly/2aI5Diq>) that the state Department of Commerce is putting up half the cost of the study while the rest of the money is coming from the South Carolina Biotechnology Industry Organization which is based in Greenville. The industry includes everything from designing medical devices to making drugs. The study will assess the size of the existing industry and look at ways to expand it. Generally the industry is centered at the state's three research universities as faculty research helps generate startup companies. It is estimated the industry employs about 14,000 people statewide.

The State: Fort Jackson job fair draws more than 100 businesses

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/military/article93412332.html>

The U.S. and Columbia chambers of commerce hosted a job fair at Fort Jackson Tuesday for active duty military personnel, veterans and their spouses. The fifth annual Hiring Our Heroes-Columbia event attracted more than 100 businesses. The job fairs have become more important in recent years because of budget cuts spurred by the drawdown of troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

SC Political News:

The State: Columbia's Devine selected for national Women in Government program

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article93310287.html>

Sarah Ellis

Columbia City Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine has been selected as one of 25 national members of the Women in Government Leadership Program Class of 2017. The program highlights elected women from across the nation to acknowledge their contributions, provide leadership development and mentor the next generation of women leaders to run for office, according to a news release. Devine, a four-term Columbia council member, was selected from among more than 125 women nominated nationwide. "We are woefully behind other nations in terms of gender equality," Cathilea Robinett, president of the Governing Institute, said in a statement. The Governing Institute started the Women in Government Leadership Program in 2015. "Women at the state and local level in both parties need and deserve our support," Robinett said.

The State: South Carolina feds allege contractor, associates bilked government of \$350 million

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article93268827.html>

John Monk

Federal prosecutors have indicted five men, two women and two corporations, alleging they illegally won government contracts worth some \$350 million by misrepresenting themselves as straw companies controlled by either low-income men and women or disabled veterans. Most of the seven are from the Columbia area. An 18-count indictment in the case charges that Thomas Brock, 49 of Camden; Jerry Eddins, 66, of Aspermont, Texas; Harry Michael White, 65, of Columbia; Cory J. Adams, 43, of Columbia; Tory Brock, 51, of Camden; Alfonza McCutchen Jr., 39, of Irmo; and Allison Amanda Sauls, 46, of New York, N.Y., secretly set up an interlocking set of businesses and conspired to defraud the federal government by falsifying their eligibility to get government contracts. The conspirators also identified, created and recruited "businesses owned by qualifying minorities, women, veterans and disabled veterans" and "hid their roles in the companies from the Small Business Administration and the Veterans Administration," the indictment states.

LGBT Laws:

Charlotte Observer: Business executives tried hard to keep NBA All-Star Game in Charlotte

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/business/article93352822.html>

Rick Rothacker

It was early July, and N.C. lawmakers were leaving the capital without making substantial changes to House Bill 2. Top corporate leaders in Charlotte signed a letter urging the NBA to keep the 2017 All-Star Game in Charlotte anyway. One top executive, however, said he couldn't join in, saying his company did not want to be seen as tacitly approving of the controversial law limiting protections for LGBT individuals. Wells Fargo and other companies have a "constituency who feel strongly that any accommodation in light of HB2 is practically an overt support of it," David Carroll, one of the bank's top executives, wrote in a July 1 email. He cited opposition to HB2 from the Human Rights Campaign, an LGBT rights group. The email, which was among dozens of messages obtained by the Observer through a public records request, sheds new light on the deliberations of top Charlotte business executives as they urged lawmakers to make changes to HB2 – changes they hoped would dissuade the NBA from relocating the 2017 event.

Charlotte Observer : McCrory lets HB2 funding bill become law without signature

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/politics-government/article93108497.html>

Craig Jarvis

Gov. Pat McCrory has let become law without his signature a bill transferring money from a disaster-relief fund to pay to defend the state against lawsuits over HB2. The bill was part of the annual "technical corrections" legislation cleaning up budget-related matters. It ran 12 pages and included dozens of provisions. "The governor would have preferred that the money come from the Attorney General's budget since that's who is refusing to do his job," the governor's spokesman Josh Ellis said when asked why McCrory didn't sign the bill. Attorney General Roy Cooper has said he would not defend the constitutionality of the bill. Republican leaders have criticized him for taking that position.

SC after Police Shootings:

Independent Mail: VIDEO: Clemson residents show support for police at National Night Out

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/clemson-residents-show-support-for-police-at-national-night-out-3920f6ad-afb2-55fa-e053-0100007ff8d8-389014301.html>

Kirk Brown

Every August, Clemson police officers meet with residents on National Night Out. But with scrutiny of police shootings of unarmed suspects, and in light of recent attacks that killed eight law enforcement officers in Louisiana and Texas, this year's event took on added meaning, said Clemson police Capt. Jeff Stone. "It is really important to be able to interact with the community in a positive way," said Stone, who supervises the city's patrol officers. He was pleased that the gathering Tuesday night at Nettles Park attracted dozens of residents. "We've got a lot of support in Clemson," Stone said. Similar events happened Tuesday night in more than 16,000 communities across the nation. The Anderson County Sheriff's Office and Anderson Police Department present their annual Night Out in late October to coincide with Halloween. One of the main goals of National Night Out is to show residents that police officers are "here to protect them and keep them safe," said Clemson police Sgt. Shunna Kelley.

Morning News: Police, community come together to prevent crime during National Night Out

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_eead678a-590d-11e6-a54b-933be6f9f3e3.html

Jessica Imbimbo

The Florence Police Department visited various places throughout the city on Tuesday in celebration of the 33rd annual National Night Out, a day dedicated to bring law enforcement and communities together. National Night Out has been held each year since 1984 on the first Tuesday of August and is meant to honor community crime watch groups for their efforts in keeping neighborhoods safe. The celebration is also a useful tool to educate the public about the importance of building relationships between law enforcement and their communities. The goal, ultimately, is to create neighborhood camaraderie while working to prevent crime. On Tuesday, police officers were out in force, covering a wide range of areas in Florence. Officers manned a table in Target near Magnolia Mall, offering children educational coloring books, fingerprinting and face painting. Throughout the evening, officers visited multiple community crime watch groups in the city to talk with group members and show their appreciation.

Herald-Journal: Spartanburg Adopt a Cop program seeks to build police, community relationships

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160802/articles/160809916>

Allison M. Roberts

The Spartanburg Police Department announced a new initiative Tuesday afternoon that seeks to

establish stronger relationships between law enforcement and minority communities. Adopt A Cop is a program established by the police department chaplains and its goal is to match all 128 police officers with a local church, said Justin Kendrick, a volunteer chaplain with the department and pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church. "What we are putting before you today and before the citizens of Spartanburg is what we're calling an Adopt A Cop program," Kendrick said. "We are seeking to pair up officers with various churches throughout the community of Spartanburg in order to develop relationships between those officers and the community these various churches represent." Once the officers are partnered with a church, it's up to the church how to foster that relationship, Kendrick said. Kendrick said the department thinks this program could have a powerful and healing effect on the relationships between officers and the community.

Greenville News: Witness to contentious arrest: Body cams needed

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/08/03/greenville-county-body-cameras-arrest/87579740/>

Romando Dixon

A Greenville County deputy was talking to a man in a gas station parking lot when the seemingly routine encounter became confrontational. The man started yelling, rushed the officer and took a swing at him, leading to a brief tussle in which the suspect reached for the deputy's duty belt, the Sheriff's Office said. The volatile incident ended without gunfire or any significant injuries. Sheriff Steve Loftis said these types of arrests don't usually receive the attention of deadly-force incidents. Law enforcement officers frequently find themselves in situations where they don't know a suspect's state of mind and must make split-second decisions, he said. "They don't know how they are going to be confronted, or if they're going to be confronted," Loftis said. Barry Wilson, who witnessed the incident, said he believed it underscored the need for body cameras that can provide critical evidence to establish whether or not an officer acted in a justifiable manner.

Walter Scott Case:

Associated Press: Jurors in police shooting case to be extensively questioned

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=JnpWiz3Y

Bruce Smith

Potential jurors in the murder trial of a white former police officer charged with murder in the shooting death of a black motorist will be extensively questioned on their views about race and police conduct before being seated in the case. Circuit Judge Clifton Newman said Tuesday the jury pool will be sent a general questionnaire about race relations and police conduct with a jury summons. They will then fill out a more specific questionnaire asking what they know about the Walter Scott case when they get to the courthouse. Defense attorney Andy Savage had made a motion asking that jurors be sent the questionnaires to express thoughts on race and police conduct without fear of public embarrassment or reprisal.

Post and Courier: Defense in Michael Slager case alleges witness harassment by authorities

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160802/160809871/defense-in-michael-slager-case-alleges-witness-harassment-by-authorities>

Andrew Knapp

A defense attorney on Tuesday said members of the team prosecuting former North Charleston police officer Michael Slager intimidated two witnesses in the fatal shooting of Walter Scott. The witnesses stood in a downtown Charleston courtroom during a hearing in which a judge weighed various issues that must be resolved before Slager's murder trial. The attorney, Andy Savage,

identified them as brothers who signed affidavits alleging harassment by federal and state investigators and members of the 9th Circuit Solicitor's Office. How the men were involved with the case was not clear, but Savage said they had been threatened and told "they better not be talking" to the defense team. The accusation, which Solicitor Scarlett Wilson denied, was aired as an argument against Wilson's refusal to give up identifying information for witnesses. Wilson had cited a national problem with supporters of criminal defendants using the data to discourage witnesses from cooperating with authorities. Though she alleged no such issue in Slager's case, the prosecutor had argued that she was bound by state law to guard the information.

Opinion/Editorial:

Post and Courier: More ugly remarks from Trump

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160803/160809836/more-ugly-remarks-from-trump>

Editorial

Last week, people were offended when Donald Trump said he wanted to hit some of his critics who spoke at the Democratic National Convention. He wanted to hit them "so hard, their heads would spin." But his childish threat of physical violence was nothing compared to his thin-skinned reaction to Khizr and Ghazala Khan. That was sheer ugliness. And the impact it might have on fragile racial and ethnic relations in the country is a source of concern — and not just for Republicans looking askance at their party's standard bearer. Mr. Khan spoke to the convention as the father of a Muslim soldier who died while serving as a captain in the U.S. Army in Afghanistan. Yes, he called Mr. Trump out for disrespecting Muslims, other minorities, judges and "even his own party leadership." And Mr. Khan also said that, unlike his bereaved family, Mr. Trump has sacrificed "nothing and no one." People who hold elected offices — or who want to — should expect to be criticized, and should have the self-control to handle it. Not Mr. Trump. He injected the Khans' religion, Islam, into the issue by noting that Mrs. Khan just stood by while her husband spoke and conjectured that her silence was dictated by her religion. (She was actually too emotional to speak.)

NOTE: Veterans groups and political leaders — including top Republican leaders — expressed disbelief that the candidate did not show respect for the parents of a fallen soldier. S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley said, "My heart and my unending thanks go out to the Khan family for their enormous sacrifice for our country. As far as I'm concerned, they have the standing to say whatever they want in the political process and should not face criticism for it."

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: South Carolina resident contracts potentially fatal amoeba

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=SBqzJ4N0

SC State Wire

Health officials say a South Carolina resident has contracted a rare, potentially deadly brain-eating amoeba that is naturally present in warm fresh water. State Department of Health and Environmental Control epidemiologist Linda Bell tells news outlets the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed Tuesday that the patient was exposed to *Naegleria fowleri* (nuh-GLEER'-ee-uh FOW'-lur-ee), a one-celled organism that can cause primary amebic meningoencephalitis. Bell says the individual is believed to have been exposed to the amoeba while swimming July 24 near Martin's Landing on the Edisto River in Charleston County. The organism doesn't cause illness if swallowed, but can be deadly if forced up the nose. The CDC said only 10 cases or so are reported each year, nearly all of them fatal.

Post and Courier: S.C. resident contracts brain-eating amoeba in Edisto River

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160802/160809848/sc-resident-contracts-brain-eating-amoeba-in-edisto-river>

Lauren Sausser

A South Carolina resident contracted a potentially deadly brain-eating amoeba after swimming in the Edisto River in Charleston County last month. Late Tuesday, a spokeswoman for Medical University Hospital would not reveal the status of the patient. A lab test conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed that the individual suffers from an infection brought on by *Naegleria fowleri*, commonly called the "brain-eating" amoeba. The infection is usually fatal. "It is difficult to treat," said Linda Bell, an epidemiologist for the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. "And it's rapidly progressive."

Post and Courier : South Carolina awarded another \$400K to fight Zika

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160802/160809855/south-carolina-awarded-another-400k-to-fight-zika>

Derrek Asberry

South Carolina has received another \$400,000 to combat the spread of Zika after being awarded millions of dollars over the past month to fight the virus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced Tuesday that the state will use the money to help detect microcephaly — an often-fatal condition linked to Zika that can cause babies to be born with smaller-than-normal heads. Specifically, the money will help infants and families find health and social resources when combatting Zika, and to examine health outcomes of children who are born to women who have tested positive for Zika. "This CDC funding provides real-time data about the Zika epidemic as it unfolds in the United States and territories and will help those most devastated by this virus," CDC Director Tom Frieden wrote in a press release.

Associated Press: South Carolina receiving another \$400,000 to fight Zika

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=0MYg1vZO

SC State Wire

South Carolina is getting an additional \$400,000 from the federal government to battle the Zika virus. The Centers for Disease Control announced that the money will be used to help detect and treat microcephaly, an often-fatal condition in infants linked to Zika. Last month the federal government announced the state was receiving nearly \$4.5 million to battle Zika. There have been more than 20 reported cases of Zika in the state but none involving pregnant women and none involving people bitten in the state by mosquitoes carrying the virus. The reported cases involve people who acquired the virus outside South Carolina.

Local News:

Associated Press: Deputies: Toddler on life support after mom feeds her salt

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

SC State Wire

Authorities say a South Carolina mother has been charged with child abuse after feeding her 17-month-old daughter a teaspoon of salt. Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office spokesman Lt. Kevin Bobo says in a news release that doctors told them the salt caused the toddler to have seizures and a high fever. She is on life support. Investigators charged 23-year-old Kimberly Martines with felony child abuse. Police didn't know why she gave her daughter salt. Arrest warrants noted she went to the doctor in November and ignored the pediatrician's referral to another doctor because the baby

was not gaining weight and to an agency that helps babies who are slow to develop. Deputies say a twin sister and second sibling are in protective custody. Martines faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted. It wasn't known if she had a lawyer.

Associated Press: Boy, 12, dies in accidental shooting in South Carolina

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=zIk1Xqtd

SC State Wire

Authorities say a 12-year-old boy has died after being accidentally shot at a Florence County home. Deputies told media outlets a second child was wounded, but is expected to survive. Authorities said the shooting happened Tuesday afternoon in Coward as the three boys were playing with the weapon. Investigators did not release the type of gun or whether any adults were in the home when the shooting happened. An autopsy has been ordered and the investigation into how the boys got the gun continues, but deputies say all indications are the shooting was an accident.

Associated Press: Deputies: Facebook photo of teen inside tomb leads to arrest

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=tUJE2m9H

SC State Wire

Deputies say a 17-year-old man has been arrested after pictures of someone standing inside an above-ground tomb at a South Carolina church cemetery were posted on Facebook. Abbeville County Sheriff's Capt. Natalie Talbert told The Index-Journal of Greenwood (<http://bit.ly/2asfPLi>) that deputies went to Ridge Church in Iva after seeing the pictures and found several tombs had been damaged. Talbert says several photos of the church damage were on Facebook. The teen was charged with desecration of a human burial ground, destruction or removal of human remains, malicious injury to a place of worship and second-degree burglary. Deputies say charges against more people are possible.

Post and Courier: Job security distractions led to safety lapses at Mount Holly

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160802/160809852/job-security-distractions-led-to-safety-lapses-at-mount-holly>

David Wren

Uncertainty over the future of Century Aluminum's Mount Holly smelter apparently led to an increase in accidents at the Goose Creek facility in recent months. "Mount Holly did see far too high a number of incidences in May and June versus their history and versus our expectations," company CEO Mike Bless told analysts during a conference call last week. Bless said the higher number of accidents are "evidence to me at the stress of our people in this uncertain situation." Mount Holly had been pegged for closure by the end of this month because of high electricity costs. Bless announced in July that a new power agreement will keep the plant open at least through 2017, but at reduced capacity that cost 300 workers their jobs in December.

Associated Press: Officials: Deputy's daughter struck, killed on I-26

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=zagvl89p

SC State Wire

Authorities are investigating the death of the daughter of a Richland County deputy who may have been pushed out of a van on Interstate 26 in Orangeburg County. Media outlets report the Orangeburg Sheriff's Department says 21-year-old Dominique Davis of Columbia was struck and killed on the roadway near Bowman Monday night. A witness told investigators that Davis may have been pushed out of the van she was traveling in before being struck by a semi-truck. The witness said a woman's leg could be seen coming out of the van before the door closed. The witness said the door

reopened, and that's when Davis might have been pushed. An autopsy has been scheduled Wednesday to determine the cause of death. Davis is the daughter of Richland County Sheriff's Sgt. Latavish Ulmer.

The State: What are the odds? Improbable flooding strikes Columbia again

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article93211782.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan and Sarah Ellis

Columbia got smacked Monday night with a downpour so heavy that the chances of that much rain falling so quickly would occur about once in 200 years, according to weather data. Just 10 months after the Midlands suffered through what was deemed a 1,000-year rainfall and flood, parts of Columbia and Forest Acres saw what could be considered a once-in-200-years drenching by standards set out by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Monday's deluge was "one of the worst I've seen," Columbia Public Works director Robert Anderson said. "It's probably in the Top Five." The best chance for another round of thunderstorm and the damage they can cause is Tuesday night with the probabilities diminishing as the work week ends, forecasters said. Monday's rainfall amount was "extraordinary," National Weather Service meteorologist Dan Miller said. The weather service issued flash flood warnings at 8:26 p.m. and at 9:52 p.m., he said.

The State: Work on West Columbia riverfront project set to start by end of year

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article93379657.html>

Tim Flach

Work is set to start soon on a signature redevelopment project on the West Columbia riverfront after City Council signed off on final aspects of the plan Tuesday. "It puts us a lot closer (to starting)," developer Matt Mundy said after seven months of settling details with city leaders. "We're rounding third and heading to home." The \$40 million project overlooking the Congaree River will be home for up to 235 apartments and condominiums, stores, restaurants and offices in four multi-story buildings set amid small parks and plazas. City leaders hope it spurs more redevelopment after acquiring eight parcels a decade ago for \$3 million, reserving the site for a centerpiece. Nearby homeowners say too much will be put on the 4-acre site at State and Meeting streets near the Gervais Street bridge, known locally as "the pit" for its slope.

Associated Press: SC State president to receive \$230K salary, \$25K for housing

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=A2CC0ctU

SC State Wire

The new president of South Carolina State University will be paid a \$230,000 salary, with 85 percent of that coming from state taxes. The State newspaper reports Tuesday (<http://bit.ly/2atRo0Y>) the Agency Head Salary Commission approved a \$195,000 salary and \$25,000 yearly housing allowance for President James Clark. The nonprofit S.C. State University Foundation is adding \$35,000 to his salary. Clark became the 12th president of the state's only public historically black university on July 1. He had been a board trustee since last year, when the Legislature fired and replaced the previous board because of mounting debt and financial mismanagement. The salary for Thomas Elzey, the president that board fired last year, exceeded \$305,000. State taxes paid less than 60 percent of that. Elzey also received a \$25,000 housing allowance.

The State: Panel OKs \$195,000 salary for new SC State president

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/education/article93271147.html>

Avery G. Wilks

A state agency Tuesday approved a \$195,000-a-year salary for the new president of S.C. State

University. James Clark, named the Orangeburg school's 12th president in late June, also will get a \$25,000-a-year housing allowance, approved Tuesday by the state Agency Head Salary Commission. The nonprofit S.C. State University Foundation will contribute another \$35,000 a year toward Clark's pay, making his salary \$230,000 a year. The former S.C. State trustee and longtime, retired head of an AT&T computer division will receive a higher state-paid salary than past presidents of S.C. State, the state's only public historically black college. Most recently, interim president Franklin Evans was paid \$156,504 a year, plus a \$25,000 housing allowance, according to S.C. State. Thomas Elzey's state-paid salary as S.C. State president was \$172,080 a year before the school's trustees, under pressure from S.C. lawmakers to turn around the school's troubled finances, fired him in March 2015. However, Elzey's total annual pay was \$308,400, counting supplemental pay, deferred pay and a housing allowance, according to S.C. State.

Post and Courier: Commission increases Patriots Point director's salary, maintains Citadel president's

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160802/160809853/commission-increases-patriots-point-directors-salary-maintains-citadel-presidents>

Gavin Jackson

The state Agency Head Salary Commission approved a 14 percent raise for Patriots Point Development Authority Director Mac Burdette while maintaining Citadel President Lt. Gen. John Rosa's salary Tuesday. Patriots Point Development Authority Board Chairman Ray Chandler told the commission in a letter that Burdette deserved the bump to \$122,000 since he is "grossly underpaid" for the accomplishments over the past 5 1/2 years. "(Our agency) revenues are up 30 percent, provides education to over 20,000 South Carolina students annually, hosts 300 events annually (and) has become the second most popular camping venue in America," Chandler wrote. A flourishing foundation, partnerships with local municipalities and groups and a forthcoming, \$300 million mixed-use development were among other accomplishments listed by Chandler.

The State: BlueCross BlueShield wants to help SC teachers break new ground

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article93329887.html>

Sarah Ellis

Teachers wanting to break new ground in their classrooms have a chance to have their ideas realized by BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina. The health insurance company is seeking teachers' submissions of ideas for bringing the concept of "Live Fearless" to their classrooms. At least one submission will be rewarded with help in acquiring resources to achieve those goals that are aimed at "breaking new ground, overcoming adversity and expanding comfort zones," according to a BCBS news release. Photos, videos or written entries can be submitted to www.livefearlessSC.com. More information about the contest can be found on the website. Aug. 12 is the deadline for entries.

Morning News: National horseshoe event coming to Florence in 2018

http://www.scnw.com/news/article_f9d8754e-590a-11e6-b927-5fc462b44380.html

Joshua Lloyd

In July of 2018, thousands of professional horseshoe players and enthusiasts from across the world will converge at the Florence Civic Center for the National Horseshoe Pitching World Tournament. The tournament is a two-week event and is expected to draw more than 1,200 participants from all 50 states, Canada and several other countries. It is scheduled for July 9 to July 21 of 2018. Civic Center General Manager Kendall Wall said an event of this magnitude is good for the entire region, and it will move Florence toward becoming a destination rather than just a stop on I-95. "These people are coming from all over the country, and Canada, and a lot of them use it as a vacation-type getaway, so

they may go to some other towns while they're here," he said. "Florence is the hub, but we're also selling the surrounding areas. It'll be one of the biggest events we've ever done in Florence." The influx of people is expected to generate 8,000 or more room nights at local hotels and RV parks, with an estimated economic impact of about \$3.5 million. Mike Miller, president of the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce, said the impact this will have of Florence businesses is enormous – both immediately and for future business.

Herald-Journal: Tryon International Equestrian Center to bid for 2018 FEI World Games

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160802/articles/160809926>

Alyssa Mulliger

Tryon International Equestrian Center is tossing its hat into the arena to host the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games. The equestrian center in Mill Spring, N.C., plans to make a bid to hold the two-week international sporting event, after Bromont, a city in Quebec, Canada, withdrew from holding the 2018 games. The Bromont venue announced last week it was withdrawing from its hosting arrangement with the Fédération Equestre Internationale, the worldwide governing body of equestrian sport that oversees the games. The games take place in different parts of the world every four years and feature eight equestrian disciplines. Mark Bellissimo, managing partner of Tryon Equestrian Partners, said Tryon International Equestrian Center is immediately positioned to host the games in September 2018. If the Mill Spring venue is selected, it will be the second-ever U.S. location to hold the games. "There is really nowhere in the world that has something like we've built," Bellissimo said. "We're very, very well positioned not only for the event, but even more positioned to do it by planning it in just two years."

The State: Columbia is home to one of top beer chains in U.S.

<http://www.thestate.com/living/food-drink/article93305902.html>

Dwuan Sellers

Raise a pint and toast the Flying Saucer Draught Emporium. DRAFT magazine, a publication that specializes in beer-related news, named the bar one of the top six beer chains in the United States. Flying Saucer is made famous not only by its selection of more than 200 global and domestic beers but its "U.F.O. Club," which tracks the beers patrons try, with prizes along the way. Once these "beerknurds," as they're called, reach 200 different beers, they get their names on a brass plate in the Ring of Honor. "We founded Flying Saucer in 1995 because we love craft beer and wanted to spread the good word," said Keith Schlabs, who co-founded Flying Saucer with Larry Richardson and Shannon Wynne. "We love what we do, and it's great to be recognized for helping introduce more people to quality craft beer."

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: Trump taunts GOP, refusing to back Ryan, McCain

<http://bigstory.ap.org/9a7dfd8fb5fe4213a5756587eb2c9b44>

Erica Werner

Donald Trump is openly taunting the leaders of his own party by refusing to endorse House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin and Sen. John McCain of Arizona in their GOP primaries. Yet thus far, McCain, Ryan and other Republicans who've reluctantly declared that they plan to back Trump for president appear to be sticking with him. Trump's stunning slap at two of the nation's most prominent Republicans dramatically escalated GOP turmoil barely a week after a convention intended to promote party unity. With the general election campaign now squarely underway, Republicans found themselves once again forced to answer questions about the latest boundary-defying pronouncement

from Trump at a moment when most would rather be talking about Hillary Clinton's record. Trump made his declarations in an interview with The Washington Post in which he also lit into New Hampshire GOP Sen. Kelly Ayotte. All three lawmakers are facing primary challenges from the right in coming weeks, though all are expected to prevail, and each had criticized Trump's attacks on the Muslim American parents of an Army captain killed in Iraq.

The Herald : "It is awful and I hope there is a firestorm": York County Gold Star families outraged by Trump comments

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andrew-dys/article93300012.html>

Andrew Dys

His name was T.J. Dudley, and he was a United States Marine from Fort Mill with three kids with a wife and a momma. He died five years ago in July in Afghanistan. He was 29. It was his sixth deployment. T.J. Dudley never ran for office. He was a firefighter, a rescue squad member and a Marine. Donald Trump was and is none of these. Yet Trump, who wants to be president and is the Republican nominee, slammed both the father and mother of a Muslim American soldier who died in Iraq in war. Trump took to task these parents who dared challenge Trump's proposal to keep Muslim immigrants out of the country when their son died fighting for America and freedom. Donald Trump, says, Robyn Dudley, mother of T.J. Dudley, has crossed the line. The death of a son in a war is not for a politician to deride.

World News:

Associated Press: Emirates airliner with 300 onboard crash lands in Dubai

<http://bigstory.ap.org/6cadd4b8358d47ed81c5b8157a9d4fc3>

Adam Schreck

An Emirates flight from India with 300 people on board crash landed at Dubai's main airport on Wednesday, sending black smoke billowing into the air and halting all traffic at the Middle East's busiest airport. Authorities said all passengers were evacuated safely. Dubai-based Emirates said the accident happened around 12:45 p.m. local time as Flight EK521 was arriving from the southern Indian city of Thiruvananthapuram. It confirmed there were no fatalities and said "all passengers and crew are accounted for and safe." The Boeing 777 was carrying 282 passengers and 18 crew members, according to the airline, which had earlier provided a lower figure. The Dubai government's official media office separately said that all passengers were "evacuated safely and no injuries have been reported so far."

Associated Press : N. Korea fires mid-range missile toward waters near Japan

<http://bigstory.ap.org/36d4ba28436e4d61b30ffa2b065cf71e>

Hyung-Jin Kim

A medium-range ballistic missile fired Wednesday by North Korea flew about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) and landed near Japan's territorial waters, Seoul and Tokyo officials said, one of the longest flights by a North Korean missile. The U.S. Strategic Command said North Korea fired two presumed Rodong missiles simultaneously on Wednesday, not just one. The command's statement said initial indications reveal one of the missiles exploded immediately after launch, while the second was tracked over North Korea and into the Sea of Japan. North Korea has recently claimed a series of technical breakthroughs over its goal of acquiring a long-range nuclear missile capable of reaching the continental U.S. South Korean defense officials say North Korea doesn't yet have such a weapon, but some civilian experts believe the North has the technology to mount warheads on shorter-range Rodong and Scud missiles that can strike South Korea and Japan.

Associated Press: Fears about Rio Games? Don't forget Brazilian party skills

<http://bigstory.ap.org/9fecdfb0faf746eaa8d48614ad7103e4>

Peter Prengaman

For months, fears about the Rio de Janeiro Olympics have been hogging the spotlight. There are concerns about safety amid a surge of murders in Rio and extremist attacks in Europe and the United States. Polluted beaches and other waterways could make athletes and visitors ill, and the Zika virus has scared some competitors away. If all that wasn't enough, the state of Rio is so broke that months ago it stopped paying thousands of public employees; Angry police have periodically been greeting tourists in the international airport with signs that say, "Welcome to hell!" If history is a guide, however, a focus on the problems is all part of the script in the run up to the games. Once the competitions start, most if not all of the problems fade into the background — at least for the athletes, tourists and millions watching around the world.

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