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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Friday, August 26, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press : Haleys' income and charitable giving falls over last 2 years

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=UYRFqOI2

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and her husband earned a combined \$171,000 in 2015, a steep drop from two years ago and the couple's lowest income of her tenure, according to 2014 and 2015 tax returns she allowed reporters to view Friday. The decline is largely due to no more profits from her book and less investment income. A real estate investment with her father earned \$19,200 in 2014 and 2015, compared with \$70,500 in income from several properties in 2013. Details on the investment were not provided. In 2013, the Haleys reported earning more than \$282,000. Their actual income was higher, though how much is unclear. Michael Haley's income wasn't taxable during his 11-month deployment to Afghanistan that year with the South Carolina Army National Guard and therefore was not reported. The Haleys' charitable donations plummeted from \$126,000 in 2013 to \$2,500 last year. During her fifth year as South Carolina's CEO, she gave \$1,000 each to Mt. Horeb United Methodist and the Palmetto Health Foundation and \$500 to the Special Olympics. The couple's taxable work wages fell from \$164,600 in 2014 to \$144,600 last year.

The State: Gov. Haley, first gentleman's income falls, tax returns show

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article98068247.html>

Jamie Self

South Carolina's first family reported an income of \$170,661 last year and about \$20,000 more in 2014, according to Gov. Nikki Haley's tax returns for the last two years. The governor and First Gentleman Michael Haley also paid \$43,600 in federal taxes and \$13,893 in state taxes over the two years, and made \$6,130 in charitable contributions. Released Friday to reporters, the couple's reported earnings in 2014 and 2015 both fell short of the \$284,556 in income the couple reported in 2013. That year, their income was boosted by more than \$100,000 the governor was paid for her 2012 memoir, "Can't is Not an Option," and about \$70,500 from real-estate investments. The governor has reported about \$94,000 in taxable annual income for her job as the state's chief executive.

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley, husband earnings drop in 2015

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160826/160829555/gov-nikki-haley-husband-earnings-drop-in-2015>

Gavin Jackson and Schuyler Kropf

Gov. Nikki Haley and her husband Michael earned \$171,000 in 2015, according to tax returns released Friday, as the governor took one step that GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump hasn't. Haley shared her tax returns for the last two years with state media, continuing a practice that has long been associated with South Carolina governors. Haley allowed reporters to view the documents but not to make copies. She chose to release tax years 2014 and 2015 together after the scheduled disclosure of her 2014 returns last summer were postponed because the Emanuel AME

Church shooting in Charleston and subsequent removal of the Confederate battle flag from the Statehouse grounds took priority, her office said. In total, the Haley family income fell roughly \$20,000 from 2014 after first husband Michael Haley, a captain, became part-time with the S.C. National Guard.

Greenville News : Haleys release tax returns for 2014 and 2015

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/08/26/haleys-release-tax-returns-2014-and-2015/89394712/>

Tim Smith

The total income for Gov. Nikki Haley and her husband dropped last year, according to state and federal tax returns the couple released Friday. Haley, who has released tax returns in prior years following the practice of her predecessors, on Friday released forms for 2014 and 2015. They show the couple's total wages for 2015 were \$144,578 and their total income was \$170,661, down from wages of \$164,593 and total income of \$191,581 for 2014. Michael Haley, a captain in the South Carolina Army National Guard, transitioned from a full-time employee to a part-time role last year, according to the Governor's Office, accounting for the drop in his wages from \$70,695 in 2014 to \$51,039 in 2015. Haley's taxable income as governor for 2014 was \$93,897, slightly higher than the \$93,537 reported as taxable income in 2015. The couple reported total taxable income of more than \$284,000 in 2013, aided by investments and the governor's book sales. Last year, the Haleys paid \$19,681 in federal taxes and \$7,692 in state taxes, down from \$23,919 for federal taxes paid in 2014 and \$7,692 in state taxes. The Haleys received \$4,750 in federal refunds for 2015, which were credited toward the next year's taxes, and \$2,871 in state refunds. That's down from \$7,244 in federal refunds and \$6,917 in state refunds due the couple in 2014.

Index- Journal: A dozen Lakelands police departments secure state body cam funds

<http://www.indexjournal.com/news/A-dozen-Lakelands-police-departments-secure-state-body-cam-funds-17937108>

Adam Benson

A dozen Lakelands law enforcement agencies -- from tiny Due West to sheriff's offices in Greenwood, Laurens and McCormick counties -- are among the 169 statewide to receive funding for the purchase of body cameras. And the Greenwood Police Department, at \$225,213, was the third highest recipient by dollar amount, behind the state Department of Public Safety and Sumter police. In June 2015, Gov. Nikki Haley made South Carolina the first state requiring every law enforcement agency to wear body cameras. Under the measure, departments would be reimbursed for equipment purchasing costs. In total, the state distributed \$5.7 million. "The goal was to provide funding to each requesting agency, and all agencies that requested funding received some portion," Lt. Roger Hughes, a spokesman for the state Department of Public Safety, said in an email. "The amount of approved funding was based on agency size, number of officers expected to use the body-worn camera hardware, requests made by agencies for storage and maintenance and content in the application itself."

SC Political News:

Associated Press : Career prosecutor retires from SC Attorney General's Office

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=qqa2oCAa

SC State Wire

A longtime prosecutor in South Carolina is retiring after a 50-year career spanning work at the local, state and federal levels. The Attorney General's Office announced Friday that John McIntosh would be leaving his post as chief deputy attorney general. McIntosh has served in that role since 1998, for

three attorneys general. That includes Henry McMaster, under whom McIntosh also served in the U. S. Attorney's Office.

McIntosh also previously worked as chief deputy at the 5th Circuit Solicitor's Office and as a public defender. Robert Bolchoz is taking over for McIntosh as chief deputy attorney general, a post he previously held from 1995-98. A lawyer for more than 25 years, he also has worked as a solicitor in Charleston.

The State: S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson names new chief deputy

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article98044917.html>

Cynthia Roldan

State Attorney General Alan Wilson named Robert Bolchoz on Friday as his new second-in-command. Bolchoz will assume the position of chief deputy attorney general Jan. 2. He replaces John McIntosh, who is retiring after nearly 20 years. McIntosh served under three attorneys general since 1998 and has worked for the agency since 1995, according to a release by Wilson's office. Before that, McIntosh worked as an assistant public defender and chief deputy solicitor. He also worked at the U.S. Attorney's Office. Wilson called McIntosh "one of the most experienced and respected prosecutors" in South Carolina. "John's legal knowledge is second-to-none and to work with him and learn from him has been invaluable to me," said Wilson in a statement.

Post and Courier : Robert Bolchoz to replace retiring Chief Deputy Attorney General John McIntosh

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160826/160829559/robert-bolchoz-to-replace-retiring-chief-deputy-attorney-general-john-mcintosh>

Maya T. Prabhu

South Carolina's Chief Deputy Attorney General John McIntosh will end his 21-year career with the state at the end of the year, with private attorney Robert Bolchoz replacing him in January. McIntosh has served as chief deputy for three attorneys general since 1998. He's been with the office since 1995. "It has been my honor and privilege to work with one of the most experienced and respected prosecutors in the state," Attorney General Alan Wilson said in a press release. "John's legal knowledge is second to none and to work with him and learn from him has been invaluable to me as attorney general." McIntosh has spent 50 years in the legal realm, previously working as an assistant public defender, chief deputy solicitor and first assistant in the U.S. Attorney's Office. Bolchoz is returning to the Attorney General's Office after working as chief deputy under former Attorney General Charlie Condon from 1995 to 1998.

Associated Press : MUSC board spent \$560K in 5 years on hotels, meals and booze

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=SVgYgL5f

SC State Wire

Two state legislators say they plan to investigate "excessive" spending by the Medical University of South Carolina's unpaid governing board. The Post and Courier reported Friday (<http://bit.ly/2bFPInK>) that Board of Trustees members were reimbursed \$560,000 over five years for upscale hotels, dining and liquor while in Charleston for meetings. That doesn't include an additional \$290,000 spent by the public university's separate Board of Visitors, which has no governing role. Spending included \$37,400 on a 2014 Christmas banquet and \$160 bottles of wine. An exemption in state law allows university trustees to set their own travel rates. University officials contend most of the reimbursements come from a private nonprofit, so it's not public money. The newspaper's investigation found that, among public universities in South Carolina, only Clemson's board spent more.

Post and Courier: MUSC board members rack up thousands on luxury hotels, meals

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160826/160829697/musc-board-members-rack-up-thousands-on-luxury-hotels-meals>

Doug Pardue and Lauren Sausser

A Post and Courier investigation found that the unpaid 16-member board has spent some \$560,000 for food, drink and lodging since 2011. And that doesn't include an extra \$290,000 spent to wine and dine members of the MUSC Board of Visitors, who function as community ambassadors for the public research university but have no governing role. All told, members of both boards spent nearly \$850,000 in five years. The trustees' spending continued even after internal auditors and the General Assembly's watchdog agency warned the board about its "inappropriate" and possibly illegal habits in the late '90s. MUSC leaders say board members follow the rules regarding spending and reimbursement. The Board of Trustees developed those guidelines in 2015, but records show, on at least one occasion since then, a board member broke them. Two state lawmakers recently made aware of the newspaper's investigation renewed calls to review the group's expenses.

Post and Courier : MUSC board members spend big on secret meetings

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160826/160829598/musc-board-members-spend-big-on-secret-meetings>

Doug Pardue and Lauren Sausser

Last summer, four MUSC board members convened in Charleston for a compensation plan committee meeting, but if any minutes were recorded or any decisions were made, they weren't made public. Three expense reports filed by MUSC Trustees Tom Stephenson, Jim Battle and Charles Schulze offer the only apparent record that it took place. The fourth board member who attended — Kiawah Island resident Bill Baker — has never filed an expense report to MUSC and the receipts provided by MUSC do not make clear if he attended dinner after the meeting. Those records do show board members ordered wine and bourbon that night at Indaco, a fashionable Italian restaurant on Upper King Street. They ate a margherita pizza and a sausage pizza, a pasta dish and a wreckfish entrée. Their dinner bill totaled \$225. Stephenson, a Greenville lawyer, sent the receipt for that meal and his \$190 tab from The Ordinary — another high-end Upper King Street restaurant — to MUSC's physicians' group for reimbursement. He also billed MUSC for his \$222 room at Charleston Place, \$246 for his round-trip mileage and \$32 for valet parking. Board members Jim Battle and Charles Schulze billed MUSC for their rooms at Charleston Place and their mileage, too.

The State: Sanford opponent wants to avoid Armageddon by finding 'Planet B'

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article98134917.html>

Avery G. Wilks

U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford's general election opponent thinks it is time "we started colonizing other planets." Democratic political activist Dimitri Cherny says humankind needs a backup plan should NASA scientists one day discover an object barreling toward Earth, bringing annihilation with it. The former long-haul truck driver and die-hard Bernie Sanders fan lists "Finding Planet 'B'" on his campaign website among eight pieces of legislation that he would push if elected in the coastal 1st District. However, Sanford is heavily favored to win re-election, and he says he's not too worried about finding mankind's next home. Cherny, 56, suggests diverting some of the country's defense spending toward locating and, ultimately, colonizing other inhabitable planets. The concept so far has been explored in science fiction and by British entrepreneur Richard Branson, who has launched a space tourism company with plans to colonize Mars.

Greenville News: House race flips norms on defense spending

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/08/26/house-race-flips-norms-defense-spending/89419396/>

Mary Orndorff Troyan

This year's race in the 5th Congressional District is twisting political norms when it comes to defense spending. Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-Indian Land, running for a fourth term, has a long record of pushing spending cuts as a way to shrink the federal debt — no surprise for a Republican. But Mulvaney veers outside traditional GOP orthodoxy in saying defense programs should be subject to that same belt-tightening. "If we are going to balance the budget, then all spending needs to be scrutinized, including the Pentagon," Mulvaney wrote recently in a Facebook message to constituents. It's a controversial position for a Republican to take in a conservative, Southern state with several military bases, thousands of active and retired military personnel and a general affinity for a strong national defense. The Democrat running for the 5th District seat, Fran Person of Tega Cay, has criticized Mulvaney's position and opposes defense cuts, giving his party a rare opportunity to claim the pro-military mantle. "Congressman Mulvaney on some issues is in a very vulnerable spot," Person said in a recent interview. "He supported the sequester cuts, which I wholeheartedly disagree with because they gutted the military when it was needed the most."

Post and Courier : S.C. Democrats make Electoral College picks

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160826/160829509/sc-democrats-make-electoral-college-picks>

Schuyler Kropf

The S.C. Democratic Party's Executive Committee has announced its nine Electoral College designees who would cast ballots if Hillary Clinton wins South Carolina in the Nov. 8 presidential election. The nominees for electors, along with their congressional district or at-large designation, are: party Chairman Jaime Harrison, at-large; Kaye Koonce, at-large; Katie Catalon, 1st Congressional District; Don Fowler, 2nd Congressional District; Sheila McDaniel, 3rd Congressional District; former governor Richard Riley, 4th Congressional District; Debbie Gudenas, 5th Congressional District; Clay Middleton, 6th Congressional District; and Sara Lisenby, 7th Congressional District. Republicans announced their picks earlier this week.

Greenville News: Sen. Tim Scott to honor Desert Storm vets in Greenville

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2016/08/26/sen-tim-scott-honor-desert-storm-vets-greenville/89411130/>

Anna Lee

Ted Kinsler, a Greenville native who served in Operation Desert Shield/Storm, will be among hundreds of veterans honored Saturday at the TD Convention Center. U.S. Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina is hosting the event to recognize the 25th anniversary of the end of Desert Storm. More than 200 veterans are expected to attend. Kinsler, 47, served with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves 4th Supply Battalion and was one of the 217 members of the Greenville Ammunition Company called into active duty during the conflict, arriving in Saudi Arabia on Dec. 24, 1990. "Our mission was to liberate Kuwait and that's exactly what we did," said Kinsler, now a training manager for the Greenville County Department of Safety. Kinsler's ammunition company was stationed in Khafji in northern Saudi Arabia, about 30 miles south of occupied Kuwait. "We could see the aircraft flying over us just night and day, back and forth, on bombing runs," Kinsler said. They were so close to enemy forces that they could feel the ground shake on impact. But Kinsler mostly tries to focus not on what he saw in combat but on the little boy who came up to him on the day Kuwait City was liberated.

SC Agency News:

Island Packet: South Carolina still silent on locations of 41 Zika cases

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article98117577.html>

Rebecca Lurye

South Carolina health officials won't disclose the counties with confirmed cases of Zika virus, even as Georgia confirms three cases in neighboring Chatham County. Robert Yanity, a spokesman for the S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, said Friday the state is being "overly cautious" in order to protect the privacy of Zika patients. He admits releasing county-level information would not violate HIPAA, and that South Carolina developed its policy based on guidance, not requirements, from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "At this point, they're not health concerns," Yanity said of Zika cases in the state. "There's no reason to give out more information, and we want to protect the privacy of the people involved." One species of mosquitoes found in Beaufort County, *Aedes albopictus*, is capable of spreading the virus by biting a person who is sick, becoming infected and biting other people. That means people who are sick with Zika should wear bug spray, long sleeves and pants, or avoid prime biting hours to prevent the virus from spreading.

Post and Courier: DHEC: 8 travel-related Zika cases among Charleston County residents, most in state

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160826/160829515/dhec-8-travel-related-zika-cases-among-charleston-county-residents-most-in-state>

Derrek Asberry Charleston County leads the state with eight travel-associated Zika cases, according to a county map posted online by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. The map shows that at least one resident in 12 of the state's 46 counties has contracted the virus. Dorchester and Berkeley counties have a documented four cases and three cases, respectively. Lexington and Greenville counties have reported seven cases apiece; Richland has had six cases, and Spartanburg has three. Oconee, Pickens, York, Newberry and Florence have each reported a single case among their residents. As of Thursday, 42 patients contracted Zika when they traveled to impacted areas and tested positive when they returned. A 43rd case involved a resident who had sexual contact with someone who acquired the Zika infection while traveling abroad.

Opinion/Editorial:

The Herald : Is it legal to wear a Confederate flag shirt for jury duty in South Carolina? Apparently, yes.

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andrew-dys/article98135217.html>

Andrew Dys

In South Carolina, the Confederate flag that so many see as the worst symbol of racism and hate in American history, and apparently some still see as heritage, is never too far away. It flew above and next to South Carolina's Statehouse in Columbia for 54 years. That Rebel flag finally came down last year – to the applause of millions. It took the slaughter of nine black people in a Charleston church to prompt state leaders to move the flag off Statehouse grounds. But the flag came back this week – to court in York County. It came on a shirt, worn by a woman who was a prospective juror. She walked into the Moss Justice Center in York, after she was summoned for jury service, wearing a T-shirt with not just the Confederate flag on the front, but surrounded by a common saying among heritage not hate types: "If this flag offends you, you need a history lesson." The flag – offensive to so many millions, a reminder of racial hatred and a war waged to fight slavery, Jim Crow and segregation, co-opted by the KKK and other hate groups – is not illegal. And the Confederate flag is apparently not grounds for juror disqualification – even if it shouts from a woman's chest.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Tropical Storm Gaston is moving northwest in the Atlantic

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

SC State Wire

Tropical Storm Gaston is moving northwestward in the Atlantic with no change in strength. The storm's maximum sustained winds early Friday are near 65 mph (110 kph). The U.S. National Hurricane Center says strengthening is forecast during the next two days and Gaston could re-strengthen to a hurricane by Friday night or on Saturday. The storm is centered about 1,110 miles (1,790 kilometers) east-southeast of Bermuda and is moving northwest near 17 mph (28 kph). Meanwhile in the Pacific, Tropical Storm Lester is moving westward away from land. Lester's maximum sustained winds are near 60 mph (95 kph) with some strengthening forecast over the next two days. Lester is centered about 520 miles (835 kilometers) southwest of the southern tip of Mexico's Baja California peninsula and is moving west near 7 mph (11 kph).

Greenville News : SC scores at the bottom of cancer prevention ranking

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/08/26/sc-scores-bottom-cancer-prevention-ranking/89422270/>

Liv Osby

South Carolina got low scores on an American Cancer Society ranking of states for their cancer prevention programs. The report looks at 10 policy indicators, such as tobacco taxes, smoke-free laws, indoor tanning restrictions for minors, funding for cancer screening and tobacco prevention and cessation programs, and increased access to health care through Medicaid. It scores each state on a color-coded system: red is falling short, yellow reflects some progress and green means the state is doing well. South Carolina — which got a red on nine of the 10 indicators and a yellow on the last — is one of only two states that failed to measure up on any of the 10 areas ranked in the report. "We've made tremendous progress in the way we diagnose and treat cancer across the country," said Nancy Cheney, South Carolina's government relations director for the society's Cancer Action Network. "But to leverage this progress, South Carolina legislators must take advantage of the opportunities to pass evidence-based laws and policies that are proven to save lives and money," she said. "We can't wait to take action when the stakes are that high."

Local News:

Associated Press: Lawyers plan civil suit in '44 execution of black youth

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=JURAcJ5F

Bruce Smith

Attorneys are investigating the possibility of filing a civil-rights lawsuit in the case of a black teenager electrocuted more than 70 years ago for the killings of two young white girls in a segregated South Carolina mill town. George Stinney was 14 when he was arrested, convicted of murder in a one-day trial and executed in 1944. A state judge in 2014 tossed out the conviction, saying a grave injustice had been done. "It's an awful part of our history and one that we have to tackle," Charleston School of Law President Ed Bell said Friday as he announced that law students will help research the legal grounds for suing over something that happened seven decades ago. Bell said that the lawyers, law enforcement and court officials who participated in the case have long since died. Their descendants can't be sued and research will determine whether the state or Clarendon County, where the trial was held, can be named as defendants, he said.

Post and Courier: 'The George Stinney case is back': Attorneys plan civil rights suit

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160826/160829547/the-george-stinney-case-is-back-attorneys-plan-civil-rights-suit>

Deanna Pan

More than 70 years after the execution of the youngest person ever in modern U.S. history, attorneys plan to launch a civil rights lawsuit on behalf of the young boy's surviving siblings. George Stinney Jr., a 14-year-old African-American boy from Alcolu, was sentenced to death in 1944 in the killing of two white girls. In 2014, a state judge vacated his murder conviction after finding "fundamental, Constitutional violations of due process" in Stinney's prosecution. Charleston School of Law professor Miller Shealy was one of the attorneys hired by Stinney's siblings to exonerate their brother. Under Shealy's supervision, 17 third-year law students will assist on the case through the school's new clinical externship program. "The George Stinney case is back," said Charleston School of Law President Ed Bell, an attorney based in Georgetown, at a press conference Friday. "We're going to fight for that family."

Associated Press : Court: Columbia must release complaints against former chief

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=dOnhT7po

SC State Wire

The state Court of Appeals says Columbia must release complaints against former police chief Randy Scott. The court issued the order Wednesday.

resigned from the police department in 2013, citing post-traumatic stress disorder. His resignation came after the department was sued by a former officer who said she was made a scapegoat in a botched investigation. Scott returned to the Richland County Sheriff's Department, where he had worked before becoming Columbia's police chief in 2010. Sheriff's Lt. Curtis Wilson told local media Scott left the sheriff's department July 19 because of medical problems. The Appeals Court order said there are certain emails and other complaints that should be released. City Attorney W. Allen Nickles says he doesn't know yet if the city will appeal to the state Supreme Court.

The State: Richland County deputy charged after doctor found bruises on step-child

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article98091537.html>

Jane Moon Dial

A Richland County deputy found himself on the other side of the law when he was charged after a doctor found bruises on a child. Lexington County deputies responded to a medical center Monday after doctors raised concern about a child, according to a news release from the Richland County Sheriff's Department. The victim, an 8-year-old boy, had an appointment with the doctor, who observed bruises on the child's lower body. The doctor alerted law enforcement of his findings. The victim is the stepson of Richland County Deputy Brandon Robins, the release stated. Robins, 45, turned himself into the Lexington County Sheriff's Office Friday. Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott stated he has been placed on suspension without pay pending an internal review. A post on the department's Facebook page indicated Robins was promoted to investigator in November. Robins was charged with unlawful conduct toward a child. The release stated Robins was transported to the Lexington County Jail, though his mugshot was not available on its website Friday afternoon.

Associated Press: Sounding the Alarm: Dog alerts master that man stuck in hole

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=03dqCqAg

SC State Wire

It wasn't quite Timmy in the well, but a dog named Tuxx is credited with sounding the alert about a

Loris man trapped in a collapsing hole. Local media outlets report it took rescuers five hours Monday night to dig out 17-year-old Jarad Johnson. He was using excavation equipment on family property when he got off the machine and fell into a 10-foot hole that began collapsing. The Sun News of Myrtle Beach reports (<http://bit.ly/2bUaWeS>) that Tuxx, a 2-year-old pit bull mix, sounded the alarm. Chris Cooper says when he returned from work, Tuxx was fussing at the door. Cooper thought the dog wanted to play. He threw a ball and Tuxx retrieved it once but then dashed to the accident site. Johnson was released from the hospital Wednesday.

Post and Courier: FBI agent: Missing teen Brittanee Drexel was kidnapped, shot and dumped in alligator pit

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160826/160829517/fbi-agent-missing-teen-brittanee-drexel-was-kidnapped-shot-and-dumped-in-alligator-pit>

Doug Pardue and Glenn Smith

A teenage girl who disappeared from Myrtle Beach seven years ago was abducted, gang-raped, shot to death and thrown into an alligator-infested swamp in the dense forests near McClellanville, according to the FBI. FBI agent Gerrick Munoz this week gave the first detailed account of what investigators think happened to 17-year-old Brittanee Drexel after she disappeared in 2009. His account, contained in a federal court transcript obtained by The Post and Courier, is based on a statement from a prison inmate who claims he was present when she was killed. But a McClellanville woman whose husband and son have been implicated by the inmate says the story is just a bunch of "craziness" adopted by federal authorities desperate to solve a vexing case. For years, tips repeatedly have sent state and local investigators on wild goose chases from Myrtle Beach to McClellanville searching in vain for clues to the young woman's disappearance or her remains.

Associated Press: Drugs used to make methamphetamine seized at Charleston port

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Nfk565Ro

SC State Wire

Federal agents in South Carolina have seized 35 tons of a chemical used to make methamphetamine at the Port of Charleston and are investigating whether the contraband is tied to a drug operation. The Drug Enforcement Administration tells local media outlets that the chemical, benzaldehyde, was found in 55-gallon drums at the port August 17. There was enough of the chemical to fill two 20-foot steel shipping containers. It was enough to make about 60 tons of meth. The drug was not properly declared through customs and authorities think it was being shipped by drug traffickers.

Island Packet: School board member questioned after alleged gun threat

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article98073162.html>

Rebecca Lurye

A threatening phone call to a Veterans Affairs caseworker this week prompted deputies to question a longtime Beaufort County school board member and candidate for state government. Beaufort County sheriff's deputies went to the St. Helena Island home of Michael Rivers, 57, on Wednesday to perform a health and welfare check after he allegedly told a caseworker he had a gun and would use it at an unspecified Veterans Affairs facility, according to a report on the incident. Rivers, who was not home at the time, later denied the allegations both to law enforcement and a reporter. "That's crazy," he said when reached Thursday evening, adding that he did not realize officers had come to his house the day before. Rivers, an Air Force veteran, has served 17 years on the Beaufort County school board representing District 3 — Beaufort, Lady's Island and St. Helena — and is also running as a Democrat for the District 121 seat of the S.C. House of Representatives. The Sheriff's Office plans to follow up with the caseworker who spoke to Rivers, but Capt. Bob Bromage said he doesn't

expect any further investigation.

The Herald: York County Library director fired by board amid investigation into management

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article98041432.html>

Jennifer Becknell

The York County Library director was fired Friday morning in a unanimous vote of its library's Board of Trustees, amid an unfinished investigation into her management that was sparked by an anonymous email. Five of the nine board members attended Friday's meeting at the library's system's Rock Hill branch, where the vote took place with no discussion. The director, Colleen Pappas, who served as chief of the county library system for nine years, has been on administrative leave since an Aug. 11 library board meeting, pending an investigation into allegations listed in the email. Barbara Boulware, chair of the library trustees, said after Friday's meeting that the decision was the result of "our investigation on the accusations that have been made to the board." Boulware declined to comment further on those allegations, or to say whether she believes any of the accusations were found to be accurate.

Herald-Journal: All Spartanburg County family courtrooms closed due to mold

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20160826/all-spartanburg-county-family-courtrooms-closed-due-to-mold?rssfeed=true>

Bob Montgomery

Citing health concerns, Spartanburg County Clerk of Court Hope Blackley ordered all four family courtrooms closed today and business relocated to the circuit court area after more mold than expected was discovered in walls Thursday night. Blackley estimated that 70 employees and more than a hundred citizens were affected by the relocation, she said. Family court occupies about one-third of the total space in the courthouse, Blackley estimated. No one had to leave the building, but people were told to move from the second-floor family courtroom area and judges' chambers to the circuit courtrooms near the front entrance of the courthouse, Blackley said. "Whatever this is that was visible, I was advised this could be a health issue," said Blackley. "I want to make sure we are being mindful of the citizens and employees who work here." The additional mold was discovered when someone pulled back wallpaper along walls and wooden trim in one of the courtrooms scheduled for mold removal work Thursday night, she said.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press : Smoother ride for Clinton? She says controversies behind her

<http://bigstory.ap.org/fb2946b7e60d4bc2ba7a7127de5d5396>

Lisa Lerer and Ken Thomas

Hillary Clinton vigorously defended her family's foundation against Donald Trump's sniping on Friday and declared she's confident there will be no new blockbuster accusations on the foundation, her emails or anything else that could undermine her chances of defeating him in November. She said the private Clinton Foundation's charitable programs would continue if she's elected, even as Trump and other critics argue they would present a conflict of interest. In an interview on MSNBC's "Morning Joe," the Democratic presidential nominee kept up her verbal assault on Trump's campaign, asserting it is built on "prejudice and paranoia" and caters to a radical fringe of the Republican Party. Clinton is looking to counter Trump's attempts to win over moderate voters who have been unsettled by his controversial remarks and policy proposals. In the meantime, he has been softening his tone on immigration and reaching out to African-Americans, a traditional Democratic constituency.

Associated Press: Deportations just latest topic where Trump has wavered

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_CAMPAIGN_2016_TRUMP_REVERSALS?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Jill Colvin

As he powered through his rivals in the Republican primary, Donald Trump sold himself as the "tell-it-like-it-is" candidate, a brash truth-teller whose policy pronouncements wouldn't be swayed by the polls. "I've never wanted to learn the language of the insiders and I've never been politically correct," he said recently. "But one thing I can promise you this: I will always tell you the truth." Yet again and again, Trump's positions have swayed, as he has reversed his stances in the face of criticism and in front of different audiences. His rival, Hillary Clinton, has also wavered over the course of her career, including reversing her support for the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement. But Trump's pivots have often induced whiplash, with the nominee sometimes offering contradictory views within hours. On immigration, he seems to offer conflicting stances every day.

National News:

Associated Press : FDA expands Zika screening to all US blood centers

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/d643db408f4c457dad6accfe37eaf5f1/fda-advises-zika-screening-all-us-blood-centers>

Matthew Perrone

The government told all U.S. blood banks Friday to start screening for Zika, a major expansion intended to protect the nation's blood supply from the mosquito-borne virus. Previously, blood testing was mostly limited to parts of Florida and Puerto Rico, where Zika is spreading. Screening will initially extend to states along the Gulf Coast and a few others. "There is still much uncertainty regarding the nature and extent of Zika virus transmission," Dr. Peter Marks said in a Food and Drug Administration release. "At this time, the recommendation for testing the entire blood supply will help ensure that safe blood is available for all individuals who might need transfusion." Blood banks already test donations for HIV, hepatitis, West Nile and other blood-borne viruses. The Zika virus stays in the blood for about one week, but is thought to remain in other bodily fluids longer.

Associated Press : Lawmakers call Maine governor unhinged after obscene tirade

<http://bigstory.ap.org/199b66011d624222b095f1f23934abf5>

Marina Villeneuve

Maine's bombastic Republican governor has built a reputation on his unfiltered comments, but his obscene tirade unleashed on a liberal lawmaker prompted Democratic lawmakers Friday to warn that the governor was coming unhinged and to call for a political intervention. Gov. Paul LePage apologized to "the people of Maine" — but not to the legislator — after he left a voicemail message for Democratic Rep. Drew Gattine that said "I am after you" and then told reporters he wished he could challenge Gattine to a duel and point a gun "right between his eyes." LePage said the angry outburst was justified because Gattine had called him racist — something Gattine denied. In Portland, Assistant House Democratic Leader Sara Gideon called for a "political intervention" from members of both parties to ensure either that the governor "gets the help that he needs" or that he's removed from office.

World News:

Associated Press : Quake damaged roads threaten access to Italy town

<http://bigstory.ap.org/158facbee87e4ab1a3c9bd486eb539e5>

Paolo Santalucia and Nicole Winfield

Rescue workers acknowledged Friday they might not find any more survivors from Italy's earthquake as they confronted a new obstacle to their recovery work: a powerful aftershock that damaged two key access bridges to hard-hit Amatrice, threatening to isolate it. Mayor Sergio Pirozzi, warned that if new roads weren't quickly cleared to bypass the damaged ones, Amatrice risked being cut off at a time it needs as many transport options as possible to bring emergency crews in and some of the 281 dead out. "With the aftershocks yesterday but especially this morning the situation has worsened considerably," Pirozzi told reporters. "We have to make sure Amatrice does not become isolated, or risk further help being unable to get through." The biggest aftershock struck at 6:28 a.m., one of the more than 1,000 that have hit the area since Wednesday's quake. The U.S. Geological Service said it had a magnitude of 4.7, while the Italian geophysics institute measured it at 4.8.

Associated Press : Kerry says 'clarity' achieved with Russia on most steps to renew Syria truce; narrow issues still to be resolved

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/8608ce733fca4e8f92512a6bca3ac818/kerry-says-clarity-achieved-russia-most-steps-renew-syria>

Kerry says 'clarity' achieved with Russia on most steps to renew Syria truce; narrow issues still to be resolved.

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