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Subject: Morning Clips – Monday, April 18, 2016

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## Morning Clips – Monday, April 18, 2016

Governor Nikki Haley News:

ABC Columbia: Crime Victims Honored at Candlelight Vigil

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/2016/04/18/crime-victims-honored-at-candlelight-vigil/>

Ashley Dean

Governor Nikki Haley has proclaimed the week of April 18 as South Carolina Victims' Rights Week. In honor of week, the Victim Service Coordinating Council, State Office of Victim Assistance, and the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network will hold the Victims' Rights Week 2016 Unity Ceremony Candlelight Vigil on Monday. The candlelight vigil will take place from 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Doubletree by Hilton, 2100 Bush River Road.

Washington Post : While the GOP worries about convention chaos, Trump pushes for 'showbiz' feel

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/while-the-gop-worries-about-convention-chaos-trump-pushes-for-showbiz-feel/2016/04/17/482cc914-0322-11e6-9d36-33d198ea26c5\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/while-the-gop-worries-about-convention-chaos-trump-pushes-for-showbiz-feel/2016/04/17/482cc914-0322-11e6-9d36-33d198ea26c5_story.html)

Philip Rucker and Robert Costa

The volatility of the Republican presidential race threatens to undermine the -party's July convention, putting potential donors on edge, raising security concerns and prompting some GOP politicians, including those in competitive reelection battles, to skip the Cleveland gathering altogether. A bungled and possibly contested convention could have lasting repercussions not only for the eventual nominee but also for the Republican brand. Party leaders fear that a week of contentious floor fights, inflammatory rhetoric and potentially violent protests could project a negative image to voters nationwide. Compounding the challenges facing organizers are the expectations of Donald Trump, who asserted in an interview that he should have at least partial control over programming, stagecraft and other issues by virtue of his front-runner status — even if he does not have the delegates to secure the nomination beforehand. Trump blasted the GOP's last convention, in Tampa four years ago, as "the single most boring convention I've ever seen." The billionaire real estate mogul and reality-television star said it was imperative that this year's gathering have a "showbiz" quality — and he cast doubt on the ability of the Republican National Committee, which oversees the convention, to deliver. "It's very important to put some showbiz into a convention, otherwise people are going to fall asleep," Trump said in a 45-minute interview here last week in his Trump Tower office. "We don't have the people who know how to put showbiz into a convention."

Note: In Cleveland, Trump envisions this kind of "showbiz" element. He wants to give business leaders and other non-politicians speaking slots. Asked, for instance, if he would support giving the keynote slot to Gov. Nikki Haley of South Carolina — one of the party's shining stars and a Trump critic — Trump said, "Nikki Haley would not be my first choice."

General Assembly:

Aiken Standard: Roads bill takes detour: SC roads bill sent back to Senate with amendments

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160417/AIK0101/160419503>

Thomas Gardiner

The Department of Transportation Accountability Act made a U-turn back to the South Carolina Senate on Thursday after the House added amendments giving it more of a say in how highway commissioners are chosen. The bill was drafted by the House in an effort to reform the S.C. Department of Transportation and address funding shortfalls inhibiting the repair of crumbling state roads. It was first introduced by the House in February 2015. Gov. Nikki Haley urged the House to pass the bill. In a tweet sent from her official account April 12, she said, "House leadership knows if they amend the Roads bill it will die. Tell your Rep to concur (with) Senate Roads bill." The House vote to send an amended bill back to the Senate passed with an overwhelming count of 113-6. Representatives said that concerns over SCDOT commissioners were a major factor in their changes. "What the Senate sent over to us would have all but eliminated the House from having any say in SCDOT commissioners," said S.C. Rep. Chris Corley, R-Graniteville. Corley said there is still a major need for restructuring the SCDOT, but the House and Senate both need a voice in what happens with the department he characterized as being in a state of "chaos."

The State: Proposed changes to SC disturbing-schools law going no where

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article72342017.html>

Jamie Self

After a white sheriff's deputy forcibly removed an African-American Spring Valley High School student from her desk, S.C. lawmakers called for changes to a law they say unfairly criminalizes students. But, six months later, those reform efforts are going nowhere. To date, four S.C. bills aimed at changing South Carolina's disturbing-schools law remain stuck in committee, where they were sent shortly after being introduced in the Republican-controlled legislature. The bills are sponsored almost exclusively by Democrats. Two bills, one in the House and one in the Senate, would exclude students from the threat of being arrested under the law. Sponsors argue that the law was intended to protect students from outsiders coming on a school's campus, loitering there, causing a disturbance or threatening students' safety. The disturbing-schools law allows school administrators to call in law enforcement to manage just about any misbehavior, leading to criminal charges against students, critics say. S.C. Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman says she wants school districts to change the way they use school-resource officers as well as their discipline policies.

LGBT Law News:

News & Observer: Gov. McCrory defends NC's HB2 on 'Meet the Press'

<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/under-the-dome/article72324057.html>

Craig Jarvis

Gov. Pat McCrory defended North Carolina's law on LGBT rights Sunday morning on NBC's "Meet the Press," but said the issue warrants further discussion and not overheated rhetoric. The new law establishes a statewide nondiscrimination policy that excludes gender identity and sexual orientation as protected classes and forbids cities and counties from adopting their own policies. The governor said it wasn't the state's role to impose policies on the private sector. But McCrory acknowledged that the issue of bathroom use by transgender people – which was the basis of the current controversy, following Charlotte's attempt to allow choice according to gender identity, rather than physical sex at birth – needed to be addressed.

Aiken Standard: Column: Fashion-backward in North Carolina

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160415/AIK02/160419682>

Kathleen Parker

It's been a long while since South Carolina could look down upon its neighbor to the North. Thanks to North Carolina's anti-LGBT legislation (HB2), also referred to as the "bathroom bill," the state effectively has begun redefining itself from its long-popular characterization as a "valley of humility between two mountains of conceit" (South Carolina and Virginia). The new law, which ludicrously requires transgender people to use the restroom consistent with the sex on their birth certificates, has liberated South Carolina from its persistent place as the brunt of late-night jokes. Remarking on the law, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said her state doesn't have "that problem." Brava. The law in question was hurriedly passed last month and signed by North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory in response to what one state official called a restroom free-for-all, referring to sudden hysteria over the possibility of transgender individuals using the "wrong" restroom. How would anyone know? Will officials now post monitors at public restrooms to check birth certificates and human bladder-evacuation portals? This would be riotously funny if it weren't so patently discriminatory.

Associated Press: State proposals on LGBT rights push business into spotlight

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=jHNX6EWF](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=jHNX6EWF)

Kathleen Foody

Major corporations invested in Southern states have become some of the staunchest opponents of bills they consider discriminatory, facing off against Republican lawmakers eager to portray their states as the best home for global brands. The NFL, Apple and other behemoths have cajoled Republicans into rejecting or softening bills in recent years that supporters say protect people who oppose same-sex marriage on religious grounds. Companies are speaking up loudly again this year in states where such bills have been proposed as part of a backlash to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that effectively legalized gay marriage. Watchers of corporate America's approach to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues said such public statements are only one way companies have been supportive, pointing to several years of efforts to win over LGBT employees and customers.

SC Political News:

Post and Courier: Pro-Ted Cruz slate of GOP convention delegates elected in Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?>

[avis=CP&date=20160416&category=PC1603&lopenr=160419445&Ref=AR](http://www.postandcourier.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?avis=CP&date=20160416&category=PC1603&lopenr=160419445&Ref=AR)

Schuyler Kropf

Donald Trump's road to the Republican presidential nomination at this summer's convention took another hit Saturday when South Carolina Republicans in the 1st Congressional District elected Ted Cruz supporters as delegates. Sure, if Trump — the front-runner — continues to win primaries for the next two months and reaches the magic 1,237 national delegate threshold, it may not be an issue at the July convention in Cleveland. But if there's an open or contested convention and the selection goes beyond a first ballot, the six picked Saturday — which includes three voting delegates and three alternates — are likely to support Cruz, who most Republicans are siding with as the anti-Trump White House candidate. "It's just you've got to make a choice," said former state lawmaker Mike Rose of Summerville, the leading vote-getter Saturday. Under S.C. Republican Party rules, Rose is legally bound to vote for Trump on a first ballot since he was the winner of February's South Carolina GOP primary. But after that, Rose said he will back Cruz, the U.S. senator from Texas, who finished third in the primary behind Marco Rubio.

Opinion/Editorial:

The Herald: Opinion: It's not 'anti-LGBTQ' but 'pro-women'

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/community/fort-mill-times/article72374027.html>

Wendy Petzel

Have we all gone mad? Companies like PayPal, are threatening to move out of Charlotte because the state government created a law to protect half of its population, older women, teenage and elementary school girls of North Carolina from being accosted or embarrassed in front of guys in their bathrooms, changing rooms, or shower stalls. That's really what this boils down to. LGBTQ is calling this "anti-LGBTQ legislation," when in fact it is "pro women's rights and protections." I encourage common sense. Laws that allow any boy or man, transgender or merely claiming to be, to walk into a women's rest room, puts women at risk. That is the consequence of the transgender agenda. Can you even imagine we have come to the point in history where we have to make a law that states the obvious: guys go in guy restrooms and girls go in girl restrooms. Because of the world in which we live, South Carolina needs to take the lead and pass the bill that states people have to use the bathroom of their birth gender. Madness.

The State: Clary: At least tackle real bathroom danger

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/op-ed/article72070652.html>

Guest Columnist: Evelyn Clary

Bathrooms are scary places. Evil slime can spew from faucets. A werewolf can climb out of the toilet. A man in a dress can covertly sneak into a women's bathroom, just so he can harass a woman. Of course, these stories are fictional, and if the Legislature passes S.1203, it will solve a problem that does not exist — and create new problems to boot. The transgender bathroom bill will create chaos. How will we determine the gender someone had at birth? Must everyone in the state carry a birth certificate? What will we do about hermaphrodites? What about the heterosexual men who look effeminate and the heterosexual women who look masculine? Must everyone obtain a bathroom ID, and have someone check the IDs at the bathroom door? That would create jobs, and if this bill passes, we will need more of those, as many corporations want to protect their public image and do not want to do business in such a state. Just ask our neighbors in North Carolina how their bathroom law is sending their economy to the ... ahem ... toilet.

Sun News: S.C. public restroom 'protection' bill is blatant discrimination

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/opinion/editorials/article72405297.html>

Editorial

A powerful backlash to the ill-advised and hastily approved public restroom law in North Carolina unfortunately did not prevent an attempt at similar legislation in South Carolina, embodied in Senate bill 1203. Before a Senate committee heard testimony last week, opponents mobilized. State Sen. Lee Bright of Spartanburg, chief sponsor of S 1203, claims to have concern about the safety of women in restrooms. Following that reasoning, women using public toilets are vulnerable to potential attacks from men posing as women – or pretending to be transgenders. That illustrates distressing unenlightenment, but Bright adds, "If a (small percentage) of the population wants to be something that a majority of the population thinks is strange and abnormal, that's their business. You can't force people to accept something like that." Accept what? That human rights apply to everyone? Intellectually, Bright appears to have been on another planet – Mars, perhaps? – or paying no attention to the equality and civil rights issues at stake. Sen. Marlon Kimpson of Charleston alluded to the intrusive aspect of enforcement. "We're going to have the Lee Bright genitalia patrol for bathrooms in South Carolina."

Post and Courier: S.C. State is vital to 'One Orangeburg' and state growth

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160418/PC1002/160419425>

Editorial: Charles S. Way Jr.

In this close-knit community we call Orangeburg, there lies one common goal: to make Orangeburg County an even greater community where we all can be proud to live, work and play. Efforts toward this attainable goal are made every day by individuals, businesses and organizations that are invested in making this goal a reality. Persons from all walks of life are welcome here. Businesses and industries stake a claim in the economic success of the county and city, and recreational and cultural activities are offered throughout Orangeburg. For South Carolina State University, the push to advance the unifying movement of One Orangeburg became even more evident when Orangeburg City Council made an unyielding statement demonstrating its ongoing support of South Carolina State. On April 5, council members voted to fund up to \$1 million of work to improve campus roads and sidewalks. The Bulldog community is immensely grateful for the generous support provided by the council. This display of magnanimous support demonstrates that the city recognizes the public value of S.C. State as a formidable economic engine and appreciates the countless benefits it provides to the community.

The State: SC Rep Atwater: Business license reform can spur growth

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/op-ed/article72071037.html#storylink=apmobile>

Guest Columnist: Todd Atwater

South Carolina isn't a particularly large state, but we have more than 220 cities and seven counties with separate requirements and processes for issuing business licenses. Each has its own unique system and due dates. Worse still, companies regardless of size are required to hold a license in every municipality and county where they have sales; larger operations may have to maintain more than 25 separate licenses simultaneously. Can you imagine it? The original intent of licensing was to keep track of what kind of businesses were operating in our state. What started as a helpful practice, however, has become unwieldy and unnecessarily complex. In fact, the current system actually punishes companies seeking to comply, because the proliferation of municipalities and counties overseeing licensing, classifications, forms, fees and deadlines means that the requirements change regularly, at the whim of a jurisdiction. The bottom line is that the process of obtaining and renewing business licenses in South Carolina has become a major obstacle.

Aiken Standard: Satterwhite, Pontoon cases show need for Aiken police body cameras

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160416/AIK0201/160419632>

Editorial

Video recorded by police dashcams has driven debate in recent news stories in the Aiken area. After waiting nearly two years, Aiken area residents last week finally caught a glimpse of dashcam footage from the patrol car of Justin Craven, the former North Augusta police officer who for about 15 minutes pursued Ernest Satterwhite Sr. Craven ultimately fatally shot Satterwhite Sr. in the driveway of his Edgefield County home in February 2014. Also in 2014, mounted dashcam from an Aiken Department of Public Safety patrol vehicle captured the audio and partial visual from a traffic stop that a lawsuit says included a public cavity search of Aiken resident Elijah Pontoon in broad daylight. In both the Satterwhite and Pontoon cases, the public learned far more about the police response than by simply reading an officer's incident report (an incident report wasn't filed after the Pontoon stop, by the way). While dashcam recordings from both cases have answered some questions, they've raised new ones. Having both video and audio brings complete clarity to a police stop.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Branden Grace wins RBC Heritage for first PGA Tour title

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Rdes4yIL](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Rdes4yIL)

Pete Iacobelli

Branden Grace has had his share of big moments. He believes winning the RBC Heritage is his biggest, by far. The 27-year-old South African had won 10 times overseas, finished in the top five last year in the U.S. Open and PGA Championship, and went 5-0 for the International team at the Presidents Cup. On Sunday, he shot a 5-under 66 to overtake Luke Donald for his first title on the PGA Tour. "This really puts the cherry on top of the cake," Grace said. "And I'm excited for things to start."

Associated Press: Hundreds expected at SC rally about police practices

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ng9ODIt7](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ng9ODIt7)

SC State Wire

Hundreds of people are expected to attend a rally in North Charleston being held a year after a white police officer was charged in the shooting death of a black man fleeing a traffic stop. The Charleston Area Justice Ministry holds the rally Monday. The group wants a reduction in the number of contact stops in which motorists are stopped but no citations written. Figures show a disproportionate number of black people are subject to such stops. Mayor Keith Summey and Police Chief Eddie Driggers are not attending. A city spokesman says when they have met with the group previously, they were simply rebuked. Michael Slager is charged with murder in the death of Walter Scott last April. Slager was fired after he was charged.

The State: Flood-displaced families still struggle to find housing

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article72371457.html#storylink=apmobile>

Avery G. Wilks

For the past three months, Dorothy Pearson has spent most evenings either in front of a computer screen or behind the wheel of her Chevy Trailblazer, scouring Richland and Lexington County neighborhoods for her family's next home. The 42-year-old single mother estimates she has put hundreds of miles on the SUV that way since her family was evicted for failing to come up with rent. The eviction was one of several "dominoes" that fell after the historic Oct. 4 storm, Pearson said. Local housing leaders have said the storm exacerbated the existing shortage of low-cost housing. More than six months later, they say the situation has improved little, if at all. "There's still a whole lot of people out there who are displaced," said Brian Huskey, executive director of the Midlands Housing Trust Fund. "I think it's going to be a long road to recovery." Others see the same thing. Some families are only now moving out of their homes because of flood-related issues, such as outbreaks of black mold, Miller said. Others, she said, have overstayed their welcome with friends and family and now are looking for new lodging. The stories have a familiar refrain, she said. "At first a sister said, 'Come on, bring your family. You can live with me for a while.' Well, that time is up. It's time to get out."

Local News:

Greenville News: Proposed GSP pod car system would be a first

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2016/04/17/proposed-gsp-pod-car-system-would-first/82949112/>

Rudolph Bell

Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport is soliciting bids for a pod car transit system that would

be the first of its kind at a U.S. airport and the sixth such system in the world, according to experts. The proposed Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) system – if it gets built – would carry passengers between GSP's economy parking lot and the airport terminal building. Passengers would ride in driverless, computer-controlled pod cars along a dedicated guideway that would be nearly 14 feet high in places. They'd use kiosks to summon the pod cars at any time of day or night, beginning their rides at a passenger station on the north side of the terminal building or at one of two or three stations in the economy parking lot. The electricity-powered trip would take an average of five minutes. Each pod car would be capable of carrying four to six passengers and their luggage. The cars would come equipped with security cameras and intercoms to enhance safety.

Post and Courier: Cost soars to send recyclables up the coast

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160416/PC16/160419538>

Diane Knich

Charleston County's cost to ship recyclables to Horry County for processing has risen four-fold since the deal was struck last summer. The original arrangement had Charleston County transporting the material to Horry, which cost about \$525 per truckload. In turn, Horry County paid Charleston \$425 for each load. Since then, the numbers have changed, as the market for recyclable material continues to plummet, said County Councilwoman Colleen Condon, who chairs the solid waste committee. Now, Horry isn't paying anything. The amount that Horry pays Charleston could change again under the contract signed by both groups, depending on the market for recyclables, she said. "We still believe this is the most cost-effective way in the short run," Condon said. Eventually, the county will open its own new recycling facility in North Charleston.

Sun News: CCU football stadium expansion plans awaiting phase 2 state approval

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/sports/college/big-south/coastal-carolina-university/article72348387.html>

Ryan Young

Coastal Carolina University's football stadium expansion project remains in a holding pattern pending approval from the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, which chose not to move the project forward in a committee meeting this month. That isn't being seen as a roadblock or significant setback by university officials, though, but rather just part of the process. Coastal Carolina is seeking phase two state approval for bonding for a budget not to exceed \$38 million to more than double the seating capacity of Brooks Stadium in conjunction with the Chanticleers' upcoming move to the Sun Belt Conference and jump up from the NCAA's Football Championship Subdivision to the Football Bowl Subdivision.

Post and Courier: Schools' 'pay for performance' plan cost millions, got few results

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160417/PC16/160419510>

Paul Bowers

Three years and \$11.7 million later, the Charleston County School District doesn't have much to show for its controversial program that linked teacher pay to student performance. The Bridge program, devised during previous Superintendent Nancy McGinley's administration and funded by a \$23.7 million Teacher Incentive Fund grant, was supposed to encourage and retain quality teachers by rewarding them financially for good performance. Instead, teacher turnover increased at most of the program's pilot schools, and internal polls showed that teachers weren't motivated by the sometimes-paltry payouts. The district has spent more than half of the grant so far, with only \$614,900 going to teacher bonuses since 2013. The bulk has gone to pay consultants and a top-heavy bureaucracy of teacher coaches and evaluators to keep the program running.

The State: SC school superintendent killed in collision with deputy

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article72325842.html>

The superintendent of Newberry County schools died in a weekend traffic collision that also involved a sheriff's deputy. Bennie D. Bennett, 56, of Prosperity, died at the scene from his injuries in the Saturday night accident, Newberry County Coroner Craig Newton said in a news release Sunday. Bennett had been chief at Newberry County schools for 10 years. "The school district family and entire Newberry community has lost an outstanding leader and even greater man," the district said in a statement released Sunday. "His passion for his family, his staff, his school district and his students was exemplary."

The State: Incident at Oconee Detention Center sends two correctional officers to hospital

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article72382272.html>

Noah Feit

An incident occurred at Oconee County Detention Center on Sunday that resulted in two inmates and two correctional officers being sent to an area hospital. Law enforcement officers from the Walhalla Police Department and the Oconee County Sheriff's Office responded to the Detention Center around 4:22 p.m. after an altercation was reported. The detention center was put on lockdown, and at approximately 5 p.m., the inmates were all secure in their respective cells, said sheriff's office public information liaison Jimmy Watt. There was no information about the injuries, but those involved were treated by paramedics on the scene and two correctional officers along with two inmates were transported to Oconee Memorial Hospital. The incident remains under investigation.

Sun News: Myrtle Beach police investigating phony five dollar bill

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article72355742.html>

Emily Weaver

A five dollar bill didn't make it past the counterfeit pen test at a local restaurant Saturday and now police are investigating exactly where the phony bill originated. Myrtle Beach police were called to the McDonald's at 2607 S. Kings Highway around 8:36 a.m. in reference to a counterfeit \$5 bill. A clerk told police a man had tried to pay for his order with the bill, but when she marked it with a pen used to detect counterfeit currency it tested positive. The customer told police he had other bills in his possession and the rest of his money was found to be legitimate. He paid for his breakfast and told police he had received approximately four five dollar bills from a local candy store the night before, according to a police report. The officer on scene inspected the bill and found the currency had no raised edges, lacked the proper paper thickness and had faded ink on one side of the bill. There were no watermarks or ink dots in the grain of the bill when held to the light, police said in the report.

National News:

Associated Press: Pentagon misled lawmakers on military sexual assault cases

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:23aed8a571f64a9d9c81271f0c6ae2fa>

Richard Lardner

The Pentagon misled Congress with inaccurate and vague information about sexual assault cases that portrayed civilian law enforcement officials as less willing than military commanders to punish sex offenders, an Associated Press investigation found. Local district attorneys and police forces failed to act against U.S. service members who were subsequently prosecuted in military courts for sex crimes, according to internal government records that summarized the outcomes of dozens of cases. But in a number of cases, the steps taken by civilian authorities were described incorrectly or

omitted. Other case descriptions were too imprecise to be verified. There also is nothing in the records that supports the primary reason the Pentagon told Congress about the cases in the first place: To show top military brass as hard-nosed crime fighters who insisted on taking the cases to trial. The records were obtained through the Freedom of Information Act by the advocacy group Protect Our Defenders, which provided the documents exclusively to AP.

World News:

Associated Press: Fights loom after Brazil's lower chamber OKs impeachment

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:db9518ff610a4efba78e3bb34f7e5b84>

Jenny Barchfield and Mauricio Savarese

For the second time in under a quarter century, Brazil's Chamber of Deputies voted to open impeachment proceedings against a democratically elected leader, dealing a devastating blow to President Dilma Rousseff, whose left-leaning Workers' Party came to power 13 year ago on the promise of improving the lot of the poor. The 367-137 vote late Sunday in favor of impeachment was well over the 342 votes needed for the proceedings to move ahead to the Senate, where a majority vote will determine whether Rousseff is put on trial and suspended while Vice President Michel Temer temporarily takes over. The exact date of the Senate vote is not known, but it's widely expected by the middle of next month. That throws the country's political landscape into confusion as Brazil prepares to host the Olympic Games in August. The vote in the lower house sparked elation among many Brazilians who hold Rousseff responsible for everything from the devastating recession to chronic high taxes and poor public services. At the same time, a broad swath of the population was deeply upset by the results, which many decried as anti-democratic.

Associated Press: In quake-devastated Ecuador, loss piles up amid the rubble

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:09370a8a55224def9a96ce42f79e9861>

Allen Panchana

As Ecuador digs out from its strongest earthquake in decades, tales of devastating loss are everywhere amid the rubble. The 7.8-magnitude earthquake left a trail of ruin along Ecuador's normally placid Pacific Ocean coast, buckling highways, knocking down an air traffic control tower and flattening homes and buildings. At least 272 people died, including two Canadians, and thousands are homeless. President Rafael Correa said early Monday that the death toll would "surely rise, and in a considerable way." "The Ecuadorean spirit knows how to move forward, and will know how to overcome these very difficult moments," Correa said. Portoviejo, a provincial capital of nearly 300,000, was among the hardest hit, with the town's mayor reporting at least 100 deaths.

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