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To:
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Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, July 6, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Area Development: Prysmian Group North America Expands Abbeville, South Carolina, Manufacturing Plant

<http://www.areadevelopment.com/newsItems/7-5-2016/prysmian-group-north-america-abbeville-south-carolina.shtml>

Prysmian Group North America, a worldwide leader in the production of electrical cables, will invest \$1.9 million to expand its existing operations at 569 S.C. Highway 28 Bypass in Abbeville, South Carolina. According to the South Carolina Department of Commerce, Prysmian Group North America, a manufacturer of low, medium and high voltage electrical cables, is upgrading the equipment at its Abbeville County plant to meet increased customer demand.

NOTE: “We are proud to announce another expansion with our friends at Prysmian Group in South Carolina. They have called Abbeville home for over 50 years and this \$1.9 million investment and creation of new jobs is another commitment to their partnership with our state,” Governor Nikki Haley said.

The State: Richland, Lexington counties left out of SC flood recovery plans

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article87860957.html>

Avery G. Wilks

South Carolina has \$96.8 million in federal flood recovery money available, but state officials do not plan to spend any of it in Richland or Lexington counties, hit hard by record rainfall last October. State flood-recovery officials say they will spend the state’s share of the nearly \$157 million in U.S.

Department of Housing and Urban Development grants – made available to South Carolina after last fall’s historic deluge – on helping vulnerable S.C. residents elsewhere in the state. Columbia and Lexington and Richland counties – where broken dams contributed to tens of millions in damage – received their own direct allocations from the federal housing agency. Those grants totaled more than \$59.8 million – or 38 percent of the state’s total share.

NOTE: Columbia and Lexington and Richland counties – where broken dams contributed to tens of millions in damage – received their own direct allocations from the federal housing agency. Those grants totaled more than \$59.8 million – or 38 percent of the state’s total share. Retired Army Col. Kevin Shwedo, who until last week led the state’s Disaster Recovery Office, said recently that state officials do not want to make flood aid “about the state against Richland and Lexington.”

NOTE: There are limits on how the federal housing aid can be spent. At least 70 percent of the money must be used to benefit low- to moderate-income residents – those who do not make more than 80 percent of the median income for their area.

NOTE: S.C. disaster officials and S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley have said for months the state’s priority is to ensure its most vulnerable residents – the poor, elderly and disabled – have safe housing. And S.C. officials say they will use all of the \$96.8 million to start addressing a \$521.6 million unmet housing need left by the storm, according to a preliminary state action plan for how to spend the money.

WIS: How South Carolina is working to combat domestic violence

<http://www.wistv.com/story/32379152/how-south-carolina-is-working-to-combat-domestic-violence>

Rebecca Atkins

South Carolina is number one in the country for deadly domestic violence against women. But there are programs to try to improve that troubling statistic. Gov. Nikki Haley started a domestic violence task force and prosecutors are in place to only handle these cases, and some counties are even offering courses to stop batterers from repeating their abuse. Investigators in Pickens County said they often see repeat offenders in their jurisdiction. "We can actually see the progression in each case, you know every time that we respond to the same house, and it's sometimes frustrating for us because we want to get that victim out of there," said Lt. Rita Burgess with the Pickens County Sheriff's Office. She oversees the Special Victims unit for the Sheriff's Office, and said often the victims aren't compliant with the steps their deputies take to help them. "We make the arrest and get them out of there temporarily, once the suspect is released from the detention center, the victim often times allows them to come back in," said Burgess.

Dylann Roof Case:

Post and Courier: Arguing federal charges are unconstitutional, Dylann Roof lawyers seek dismissal

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160705/160709681/arguing-federal-charges-are-unconstitutional-dylann-roof-lawyers-seek-dismissal>

Andrew Knapp

Defense attorneys on Tuesday asked a judge to dismiss the federal case against Dylann Roof because it's unconstitutional. The motion came after Roof's two-man defense team added a lawyer, Sarah Gannett, with experience in appeals courts. Gannett argues in the filing that all 33 indictments against Roof should be thrown out for various reasons, including that they assert federal jurisdiction in a case that should be left to South Carolina authorities. The argument is based partially on the Constitution's Commerce Clause and the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery. Such a move was expected. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel had asked the defense to file any challenges to the charges by Tuesday. The attorneys offered to drop the challenge if federal prosecutors stop pursuing his execution and agree to a lifetime prison sentence. The prosecutors must respond by July 25.

Post and Courier: Without statewide jury, feds fear '11th-hour' move to derail Dylann Roof trial

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160705/160709713/without-statewide-jury-feds-fear-11th-hour-move-to-derail-dylann-roof-trial>

Andrew Knapp

Federal prosecutors fear an "eleventh-hour" maneuver by defense lawyers could derail Dylann Roof's trial unless a jury is picked from all parts of South Carolina, court documents stated. Roof's attorneys have said in past filings that they have no "present" intention to ask for the trial to be moved outside Charleston. But to Assistant U.S. Attorney Jay Richardson, the lawyers' refusal to rule that out altogether indicates that they could seek a different venue if the court struggles to find impartial jurors among local residents. In a filing Saturday, Richardson said that using a statewide group of prospective jurors would help stave off that dilemma. "After requesting (a local jury pool), Roof's counsel may change tack and raise issues concerning a Charleston-area jury in a challenge to venue," Richardson wrote. "Indeed, the possibility of just such an approach appears to be what leads Roof to refuse to affirmatively waive a subsequent challenge."

LGBT Laws:

WBTV: Department of Justice asks judge to halt implementation of HB2

<http://www.wbtv.com/story/32379476/department-of-justice-asks-judge-to-halt-implementation-of-hb2>

Nick Ochsner

The United States Department of Justice asked a federal judge on Tuesday to halt implementation of controversial legislation requiring individuals to use the bathroom corresponding with the gender on their birth certificate. The request was made in a legal filing late Tuesday night, the same day President Barack Obama visited the state with Hillary Clinton, his party's presumptive nominee for president. Separately, Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee for president, also held a campaign event in the state. Attorney General Loretta Lynch announced in May her department was taking action to permanently stop HB2. Attorneys for the DOJ outlined their argument as to why the law should be stopped in a 70-page legal brief. In the brief, the government argues that it is likely to be successful in its case seeking to strike HB2 altogether based on a recent ruling from the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals involving a transgender student's access to a bathroom in a Virginia school district. The request comes less than a week after the North Carolina General Assembly failed to pass a bill that would have made a number of changes to HB2.

SC Political News:

McClatchy DC : S.C. Republicans react to FBI: "The rules are different for the Clintons"

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/congress/article87864097.html>

Vera Bergengruen

South Carolina Republicans lashed out at Hillary Clinton on Tuesday after FBI Director James Comey announced that he did not recommend filing charges against her for using a private email server while she was secretary of state, although he scolded Clinton and her staff for being "extremely careless."

NOTE: "It has become clear that the rules are different for the Clintons than they are for every day Americans, and that must stop," Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., tweeted on Tuesday after Comey took the unusual step of making a public statement on the matter before the Justice Department had made its final decision. The email controversy has been a persistent shadow over Clinton's presidential campaign.

NOTE: Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-S.C., also took to Twitter to vent about what Republicans denounced as special treatment of Clinton. "I suppose the takeaway here is pretty clear: just as some banks were too big to fail, some people in our society are just too big to jail," he tweeted. "And apparently you can get caught in those lies, and 50% of the country still thinks you'd be a super President."

NOTE: "While the FBI has made their decision, it won't change the fact that Secretary Clinton flouted oversight and transparency norms," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., adding that Clinton had left "sensitive, classified information vulnerable to America's enemies" by using a private server.

"Secretary Clinton has shown a serious lack of judgement in this entire episode," he said.

NOTE: Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., agreed with Graham, saying that Clinton's actions were "remarkably careless and displayed a lack of judgement." "The FBI couldn't rule out that her server could have been hacked, endangering lives and putting American families at risk," he said.

The State: SC Democrats road-trip to Charlotte to see Clinton, Obama

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article87847132.html>

Bristow Marchant

Some S.C. Democrats jumped at the chance Tuesday to get an up-close view of President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, who hopes to be his successor when voters take to the polls in November. With Obama campaigning with Clinton in Charlotte, some S.C. supporters drove as many

as three hours to get to the 3 p.m. event. The S.C. Democratic Party gave out its own allotment of tickets for the event Tuesday morning at its Columbia headquarters, which is where Kathryn Hensley of Lexington met up with a group making the drive. "I just kind of took it on myself to get some kind of organization together," Hensley said. "I was getting emails from 20 or 30 people about going ahead of time." The Charlotte stop likely will be the closest Obama and Clinton will get to South Carolina through the November elections – and likely after.

Greenville News : Rex Rice agrees with Martin on 'dark money' donors

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/07/05/rex-rice-agrees-martin-dark-money-donors/86710826/>

Tim Smith

Rex Rice may have benefited from the use of "dark money" in his successful campaign to replace Sen. Larry Martin of Pickens but that doesn't mean Rice agreed with the fliers and what was being said about his opponent. In fact, Rice told The Greenville News, he would like to see donors to dark-money organizations disclosed. "People were handing out fliers and doing it on behalf of our campaign," he said. "Quite honestly they were negative and I didn't like that and I didn't want them in my neighborhood." Rice defeated Martin, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and a 24-year Senate veteran, June 28 in a runoff for the Senate District 2 seat. Martin had been the target for months by non-candidate groups that by law do not have to disclose who funds them. At times they made calls to voters and at times they sent out mailers or fliers.

Post and Courier: 15 S.C. mayors urge Obama to say no to seismic blasting

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160705/160709732/15-sc-mayors-urge-obama-to-say-no-to-seismic-blasting>

Robert Behre

Most Lowcountry mayors have signed a letter urging President Barack Obama to oppose seismic airgun blasting for the Atlantic Ocean. Beaufort Mayor Billy Keyserling led the effort, and he was joined by the mayors of Charleston, Mount Pleasant, James Island, Isle of Palms, Sullivan's Island, Folly Beach, Seabrook Island, Rockville and Edisto Beach, among others. In March, the federal government decided not to permit drilling for oil and natural gas off the South Carolina coast, but three companies currently have state approval for seismic testing offshore for oil and natural gas — and none have withdrawn their applications. Conservation groups now are targeting those permits.

The State : Police report: Columbia councilman, wife delayed calling police

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article87865827.html>

Clif Leblanc

More than an hour passed before police were called – either by accused Columbia Councilman Moe Baddourah or his estranged wife – in a domestic dispute that landed him in the county jail briefly last week, according to a police record. Baddourah is said to have raised a clenched fist at his estranged wife in the parking lot of Rockaway's Athletic Club restaurant and bar but did not strike her, according to accounts in a Richland County Sheriff's Department incident report obtained Tuesday by The State newspaper. The argument between Moe Baddourah and Carrie Rhett was sparked by his unwillingness for the children, ages 4 and 6, to take to his estranged wife's home certain toys they played with during visitation with him on June 29, the report states.

WIS: 911 calls released in Moe Baddourah CDV case

<http://www.wistv.com/story/32367356/911-calls-released-in-moe-baddourah-cdv-case>

Jeremy Turnage

Officials have released 911 calls placed on the day Columbia City Councilman was accused of

criminal domestic violence outside of a well-known restaurant. Councilman Moe Baddourah, 53, is charged with second-degree criminal domestic violence and turned himself in over the weekend to face those charges. According to the Richland County Sheriff's Department, a verbal argument turned physical when the councilman slammed his wife's leg in the car door at Rockaways on Rosewood Drive back on June 29. Investigators say Baddourah and his wife are going through a divorce and conduct child custody exchanges at the restaurant. Baddourah dialed 911 shortly after one of these exchanges and explained the situation to the dispatcher.

Herald-Journal: Upstate solicitors welcome addition of new prosecutors

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160705/articles/160709867>

Daniel J. Gross

Upstate solicitors soon will be adding more prosecutors to their offices to help reduce caseloads. The next budget cycle, which runs July to June, includes \$7.8 million in previously approved state funds to hire an estimated 104 prosecutors statewide. Six new prosecutors will be hired in the 7th Judicial Circuit, which includes Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties. Solicitor Barry Barnette expects the new prosecutors to join the team by mid-August. Barnette said four will likely handle Spartanburg County cases, one will go to Cherokee and one will likely float between counties.

SC Agency News:

Post and Courier: Corrections department to begin notifying inmates of proposed mental health lawsuit settlement

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160705/160709701/corrections-department-to-begin-notifying-inmates-of-proposed-mental-health-lawsuit-settlement>

Maya T. Prabhu

An estimated 3,500 South Carolina inmates with serious mental health issues will learn next week the details of a proposed lawsuit settlement with the S.C. Department of Corrections. Judge Robert Hood on Tuesday gave SCDC the authority to begin notifying the plaintiffs in the 10-year-old class-action suit accusing the department of inadequately treating the mentally ill. The lawsuit alleged SCDC had a lack of effective counseling and overly relied on tactics such as isolation and pepper spray to subdue unruly mentally ill prisoners. Hood commended the state and Protection & Advocacy for People with disabilities on reaching an agreement.

NOTE: Among those changes, SCDC Director Bryan Stirling said, is a more intense screening process for inmates who could potentially be diagnosed with a mental disability for the first time. "We've been working on this for the better part of two years," Stirling said. "We didn't want to wait to go through the court process before making changes (that benefit inmates)."

The State: S.C. prison system to notify 20,000 inmates of pending mental illness settlement

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article87712832.html>

John Monk

Over the next five weeks, officials at the S.C. Department of Corrections will conduct a massive outreach to make sure all inmates in the state prison system are notified of a pending landmark proposed settlement in a longstanding lawsuit over how mentally ill inmates are treated. The outreach in the class action lawsuit was approved by state Judge Robert Hood at a Tuesday hearing at the Richland County courthouse. Hood gave lawyers until Aug. 19 to report back to him. Of the approximately 20,000 inmates in South Carolina's 22 institutions, approximately 3,500 are estimated to have mental illnesses that will qualify for the state prison system's new and sharply upgraded mental health care program.

NOTE: The schedule to notify inmates was jointly agreed to by S.C. corrections director Bryan Stirling, as well as Stuart Andrews and Dan Westbrook, lawyers for disabled rights group Protection

and Advocacy for People with Disabilities. Eleven years ago, that group sued the department seeking better treatment for mentally ill prisoners.

Opinion/Editorial:

Greenville News: Editorial: Keep closer watch on reapportionment

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2016/07/06/editorial-keep-closer-watch-reapportionment/86614688/>

Greenville News Editorial Board

When South Carolina legislators redraw district boundaries every 10 years they are supposed to give consideration, among other things, to “not dividing county boundaries” according to rules the Senate used after the last census in 2010. Nearly lost in last week’s run-off election when Sen. Lee Bright was defeated by challenger Scott Talley is that the Legislature let Bright and then-colleague Phillip Shoopman ignore that consideration when they made a back-room deal to redraw the boundaries of their Senate districts in 2011. No doubt many in the state will view Bright’s defeat as political Karma given his recent support for a controversial bill regarding transgender rights. There’s little room to debate whether he and Shoopman skirted the spirit of reapportionment law back in 2011 – they did. Clearly. The deal came to light after Bright’s defeat because, ironically, the majority of Bright’s margin of defeat came from the 12 precincts from Greenville County that were added to his Spartanburg County district in 2011 to bolster his chances of reelection then.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: South Carolina drying out in the summer heat

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=9ulloTGF

SC State Wire

South Carolina seems to be drying up in the summer heat. The Greenville News reported (<http://grnol.co/29hvgnb>) the South Carolina Drought Response Committee is to meet Friday. State Climatologist Hope Mizzell says several Upstate counties are likely to be declared in the first stage of drought. Mizzell says Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties are among the hardest hit parts of the state. The National Weather Service reports that the Greenville-Spartanburg area has gotten only 1.2 inches of rain since June 1. That’s more than 3 inches below normal.

Local News:

Associated Press : Civilian on ride-along helps deputy detain man

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=NIL0NKX7

SC State Wire

A civilian doing a ride-along with a Kershaw County Sheriff’s deputy helped detain a man. Sheriff James Matthews says the civilian helped arrest 27-year-old Richard Herman Roach III during Saturday morning’s ride-along. Matthews says the deputy noticed a vehicle speeding near Camden and attempted to pull the driver over. Roach, who was driving the car, sped off before losing control and crashing the vehicle. As the deputy approached the car, he saw Roach reach for something under his seat. The deputy pulled Roach from the car, but Roach struck him and a scuffle ensued. The civilian then came to the deputy’s aid and helped place Roach in handcuffs.

Independent Mail: Pendleton police force to be back on patrol Aug. 1

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/pendleton-police-force-to-be-back-on-patrol-aug-1-36edfc79->

[d229-5847-e053-0100007f8894-385635151.html](http://www.d229-5847-e053-0100007f8894-385635151.html)

Mike Eads

The town's relaunched police force will start patrols next month, according to Chief Doyle Burdette. Burdette, hired last fall to restart the police department after it had a 10-year hiatus, told the Town Council on Tuesday night that he and his men would begin regular operations Aug. 1. They will host an open house July 31 on the town square from 5-6:30 p.m. so people who live in the area can meet the officers and ask questions. The three-man force won't be able to provide round-the-clock coverage at the outset, so the Anderson County Sheriff's Office will respond to call in off hours, Burdette said. The Sheriff's Office has responded to calls in the town since the police department was shuttered in 2006.

The Herald: 101 degrees Friday and Saturday? York police give out fans to vulnerable, elderly

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andrew-dys/article87758082.html>

Andrew Dys

As temperatures reach close to 100 degrees this week – or maybe higher Friday and Saturday – police in York arrived Monday at the York County Council on Aging Senior Center just in the nick of time, with a load of 20 fans for seniors who have no air conditioning or other means to keep cool. Brenda Long of York, on a fixed income without even a few dollars to spare, sure needed the help after her fan died in a power outage late last week. And she has no air conditioning, either. "I didn't know what I was going to do; this fan is a true blessing," Long told police Sgt. Dale Edwards. "Did God send y'all by here today?" It wasn't God, just Edwards and several other York cops with a truckload of fans Edwards, community outreach officer for the department, bought the fans from the Lowe's Home Improvement store in York, which gave him a discounted price. Edwards collected donations, and officers even kicked in from their own money to make sure the elderly, the poor and the vulnerable in York have some way to try to keep cool.

Morning News: Timmons ville ousts police chief, establishes dress code

http://www.scnow.com/townnews/politics/article_1cb6084a-4323-11e6-b7f6-6f8cea79f66c.html

Shamira McCray

Timmons ville Mayor Darrick Jackson said Tuesday that he is separating police Chief Gregory Palmer from the Timmons ville Police Department, on behalf of the town. The mayor's action came at a council meeting after an executive session. In a separate matter, the council passed the second reading of Ordinance 543 to establish a dress code in the town. The ordinance was presented to council last month by Councilman Walter Washington. Jackson said his decision regarding the police chief was not an issue for the council to take action on. He said the town's type of government did not require a vote from the council. "As I stated earlier, there was numerous reasons (for the termination)," Jackson said. "As mayor and council, we have lost the confidence in his ability to lead the department

The State: Man who hit cop on I-126 was Uber driver, lawyer says

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article87850477.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

A driver who struck a Columbia cop on Interstate 126 in May was logged in to the Uber app at the time of the crash, according to the S.C. Department of Public Safety. Lt. Kelley Hughes told The State on Tuesday that the driver – Jason Bigby, then 28 years old, of Columbia – was logged in to the ride-sharing app when he struck Pete Conklin, a 28-year-old officer with the Columbia Police Department. Conklin had stopped on the Broad River bridge May 24 during evening rush hour traffic to work the scene of an accident. He was out of his patrol car when he was hit by a passing vehicle. Conklin and

his attorneys say Bigby was driving for Uber and are looking at taking legal action against Bigby and Uber. Right now, they're waiting on the findings of an investigation by the S.C. Highway Patrol, said Brad Hewett with the Mike Kelly Law Group.

Post and Courier: Man who shot North Charleston officer had history of domestic violence arrests
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160705/160709738/man-who-shot-north-charleston-officer-had-history-of-domestic-violence-arrests>

Dave Munday

The man who was fatally wounded after shooting a North Charleston police officer Monday had a long history of arrests on domestic violence charges. The Charleston County Coroner's Office identified him as William Tracy Patterson, 34. Patterson was out of jail on \$20,000 bail after being arrested last month and charged with second-degree domestic violence, according to Charleston County records. He had been arrested in May and charged with third-degree domestic violence and third-degree assault and battery and released on \$6,000 bail. Patterson was also arrested Christmas Day in Berkeley County. He was charged with domestic violence of a high and aggravated nature and released on a \$75,000 personal-recognition bond, according to court records.

Post and Courier: North Charleston violence fuels dizzying homicide rate in year's first half
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160705/160709971/north-charleston-violence-fuels-dizzying-homicide-rate-in-years-first-half>

Andrew Knapp

In the first half of 2016, North Charleston recorded a steadier rate of homicides than New York City, Los Angeles and Chicago. While the city has fewer people — 108,000 compared with 2.7 million in Chicago, the smallest but most violent of the other three — 15 killings this year make it deadlier. Thirty-three people also were wounded. Homicide rate is an annual tally of slayings adjusted for population. If the killing pace persists through the last six months of 2016, North Charleston's rate would be nearly 28 deaths per 100,000 people, while Chicago's would be 24. Hundreds of deaths this year have made the Windy City the focus of national notoriety, but local officials and observers have puzzled over the problem much closer to home. North Charleston accounted for nearly half of the tri-county area's 32 homicides in the first half of 2016 but only 15 percent of the region's population. By the halfway point in 2015, the city had recorded only three slayings.

Associated Press: Sanitation worker killed after garbage truck backs into him
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5VmaeAGU

SC State Wire

Charleston's mayor is expressing grief after one of the city's contract workers was killed in an accident involving a city vehicle. Mayor John Tecklenburg says Tuesday's death is being investigated by the South Carolina Highway Patrol. The sanitation worker was hit when a city garbage truck was backing up in downtown Charleston.

Greenville News: Michelin says Mexico plant won't affect its SC operations
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2016/07/05/michelin-says-mexico-plant-wont-affect-its-sc-operations/86721548/>

Rudolph Bell

Michelin says a plant it's building in central Mexico will have no effect on its operations in South Carolina. The French tire maker announced plans to build its 21st North American plant in Leon, Guanajuato, to produce tires for passenger cars and light trucks. The \$510 million plant is expected to commence production in late 2018 and initially make four to five million tires a year to supply auto

factories in Mexico and the North American consumer market, Michelin said. Stephanie Tarbet, a spokeswoman for Greenville-based Michelin North America, said Tuesday that the Mexican plant would have no impact on the company's operations in South Carolina. In a statement to The Greenville News, she called the plant "good news for our company in Mexico, North America and globally."

Associated Press : Duke Energy Progress to ask for 15 percent rate hike in SC

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=55Z57mpb

SC State Wire

Duke Energy Progress is asking officials in South Carolina to allow the utility to raise electric rates by nearly 15 percent for its 168,000 customers in the state. The utility said in a press release it is the first time in nearly 30 years it has requested a raise in the base cost of its electric rates. Duke Energy says it needs the increase to pay for investments the utility has made in cleaner energy sources, like four solar energy sites in South Carolina and North Carolina. The utility says a new natural gas generation plant has allowed Duke Energy to reduce its fuel charge for customers by \$16 million. That cuts the effective rate increase to closer to 12 percent. The company serves customers in South Carolina's northeast corner.

Post and Courier: Drone-powered live stream of Patriots Point fireworks show draws more than 15,000 viewers

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160705/160709689/drone-powered-live-stream-of-patriots-point-fireworks-show-draws-more-than-15000-viewers>

Thad Moore

Filming fireworks from drones is still a pretty novel idea. Streaming that footage live is even newer. So when Daniel Island-based Infinite Takes sent two drones airborne and streamed Patriots Point's July 4 fireworks show on its Stre.am service, thousands of people tuned in. More than 15,000 people watched the video live Monday night, said Will Jamieson, the company's chief marketing officer — and, on Monday, a drone pilot. Most of them came from South Carolina, but viewers came from all 50 states, watching on smartphones, computers and Apple TV, Jamieson said. The video may have been seen by more people when other sites picked up the feed, he added, but the company doesn't have statistics on those viewers.

Island Packet: Hilton Head dodges list of drunkest beaches

<http://www.islandpacket.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/david-lauderdale/article87747402.html>

David Lauderdale

How did we stumble into this? Hilton Head Island is not even mentioned in a new list of America's drunkest beaches. That's a pretty lush reward for a place sometimes called Cirrhosis Shores. We were leaders in filtering state law to get bars open on Sunday. Before that, the locals, wink-wink, could waltz back to the kitchen of a favorite eatery and get their coffee cups filled with spirits. When the old swing-span bridge was knocked out of service by a barge, the state of emergency that required political intervention was how to refill the shelves of the Red Dot stores. But now we are not considered worthy of a look by the Vinepair site when it ranked 20 popular beaches using blood alcohol content levels. Myrtle Beach ranked first. Miami was 20th. Go figure.

Sun News: New parking rules lead to tickets, sparse beaches, mixed reactions

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article87831502.html>

Emily Weaver

New parking rules from the Golden Mile to the city's northern limits went into effect Tuesday and with

mixed emotions beach-goers greeted the changes that stripped the last free beachfront spaces from Myrtle Beach's shoreline. Spaces in beach access lots along Ocean Boulevard north of 31st Avenue North now require motorists to pay with a pay-by-phone mobile application or with a credit card by phone to reserve time in the lots. "We didn't have any problems at all," Danielle Dorsaneo, of Conway, said about using the new pay-by-phone system, required of motorists who do not have current city parking decals. "We used to come and there wasn't anything (charging us) at all, but it's easy" to use the new system, she said.

National News:

Charlotte Observer: Trump blames 'rigged' system for FBI recommendation on Clinton

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/politics-government/election/article87873252.html>

Colin Campbell and Bryan Anderson

Donald Trump blasted rival Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server at a packed rally at Raleigh's Memorial Auditorium on Tuesday evening, saying the FBI's recommendation not to pursue criminal charges against Clinton shows "the system is rigged." Tuesday's rally is Trump's second visit to North Carolina since he became the presumptive Republican nominee in a presidential race that is expected to be closely contested in the Tar Heel State. The billionaire spoke on the same day Clinton, the former secretary of state, held her first campaign appearance with President Barack Obama in Charlotte.

Associated Press: Trump praises late Iraqi leader Saddam as terrorist killer

<http://bigstory.ap.org/7239d6b6a1e04999ab7c63a66695cc4c>

Presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, who frequently criticizes U.S. foreign policy under President Barack Obama and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, has praised former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's ruthlessness. "Saddam Hussein was a bad guy, right? ... But you know what he did well? He killed terrorists. He did that so good," Trump told a campaign rally Tuesday night in Raleigh, North Carolina. "They didn't read 'em the rights, they didn't talk. They were a terrorist, it was over." Trump has previously said the world would be "100 percent better" if dictators like Hussein and Libya's Moammar Gadhafi were still in power. Prior to the U.S. invasion, Iraq was listed by the U.S. as a state sponsor of terrorism. Jake Sullivan, a Clinton senior policy adviser, said Trump's "praise for brutal strongmen seemingly knows no bounds." Sullivan said such comments "demonstrate how dangerous he would be as Commander-in-Chief and how unworthy he is of the office he seeks."

World News:

Associated Press: Iraq inquiry chief: UK planning for war 'wholly inadequate'

<http://bigstory.ap.org/b8fcedd93b6b456b80a028070990cc23>

Jill Lawless

The head of Britain's Iraq War inquiry released a damning report Wednesday on a conflict he says was mounted on flawed intelligence, was executed with "wholly inadequate" planning, and ended "a long way from success." Retired civil servant John Chilcot, who oversaw the seven-year inquiry, said "the U.K. chose to join the invasion of Iraq before the peaceful options for disarmament had been exhausted. Military action at that time was not a last resort." The 2.6-million-word report is an exhaustive verdict on a divisive conflict that — by the time British combat forces left in 2009 — had killed 179 British troops, almost 4,500 American personnel and more than 100,000 Iraqis. Chilcot said then-Prime Minister Tony Blair's government presented an assessment of the threat posed by

Saddam Hussein's weapons with "certainty that was not justified." He also found military planning for the war and its aftermath were not up to the task.

Associated Press: Islamic State pressured after Turkey tightens jihadi highway

<http://bigstory.ap.org/9a4aca0330fa4b8c987b284c1c3781c7>

Dominique Soguel and Aya Batrawy

A long the border near the southern Turkish city of Gaziantep, a wall of giant concrete blocks is going up as Turkey tries to seal off a region that for years was a jihadi highway through which thousands of extremist fighters flowed to join the Islamic State group in neighboring Syria. Turkey has always denied permitting the movement of IS militants into Syria and insists it has been doing its best to stop the transit, even before construction on the massive wall began late last year. Documents obtained by The Associated Press, however, tell a different story, showing a pattern of porousness along Turkey's 566-mile- (911-kilometer-) long border with Syria that has been vital for the extremist group's expansion as it built its self-declared "caliphate." The AP analyzed 4,037 "entry documents" logged by the Islamic State group for its fighters entering from Turkey into Syria between September 2013 and December 2014. Around three-quarters of them entered through three particular crossing areas.

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