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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Greenville News: Governor comes to Easley to sign ethics reform bills

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2016/06/23/governor-comes-easley-sign-ethics-reform-bills/86287086/>

Ron Barnett

Gov. Nikki Haley traveled to Easley on Thursday to sign two legislative ethics reform bills into law and to credit Sen. Larry Martin with getting the long-sidelined bills passed this year. “The reason we are here, I have to say, is because of Larry Martin,” she said. Her visit came as Martin was facing a runoff in the Republican primary for the Senate District 2 seat against former House member Rex Rice. She rebranded Martin, who has represented Pickens County in the Senate since 1992 and in the House before that, as a member of the “new guard,” despite his long tenure in Columbia. “We have a situation in Columbia right now where it’s the old guard and the new guard,” she said. “Senator Martin has got with the new guard trying to get the old guard to change.”

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley signs ethics reform into law, endorses Sen. Larry Martin

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160623/160629720/gov-nikki-haley-signs-ethics-reform-into-law-endorses-sen-larry-martin>

Maya T. Prabhu

Gov. Nikki Haley said it was a long campaign to get the General Assembly to make strides on ethics reform as she signed the bill into law Thursday but stressed there is more to be done. Haley said she was “giddy as can be” during the signing ceremony at the Easley Law Enforcement Center. Lawmakers and advocates spent the past four years working to upgrade the state’s ethics laws, finally passing bills that address independent investigations into lawmaker misdeeds and income disclosure. Both came about during the final hours of the 2016 session. Sen. Larry Martin, R-Pickens, said that after the ethics reform effort had stalled last year, it was unusual for lawmakers to take the topic up again in this year’s second part of a two-year session. Martin is credited with working more than anyone to move the legislation through the Senate chamber.

Associated Press: Haley signs election law changes after 4-year push

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=U84B0aAY

SC State Wire

Gov. Nikki Haley has signed two ethics laws on income disclosure and independent investigations of legislators. The Republican governor signed the measures Thursday in Easley, where she thanked Senate Judiciary Chairman Larry Martin for his work on ethics reform over the last four years. She also endorsed Martin, who's in a primary runoff Tuesday for the Pickens County seat. Starting next year, all elected and appointed officials must report their private income sources - but not the amounts - on their annual ethics filings. They must also report who pays their spouses and dependent children. The other law sends complaints against legislators to a restructured State Ethics Commission, allowing for an independent review.

ABC Columbia: WATCH: Haley to Sign Ethics Bill

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/2016/06/23/watch-haley-to-sign-ethics-bill/>

Rochelle Dean

Governor Nikki Haley has received the second ethics bill she requested and is now gearing up to sign it into law later today. Watch to see how the two ethics bills will change the workings of South Carolina Government.

General Assembly News:

Times and Democrat: Legislature can get work done in less time

http://thetandd.com/legislature-can-get-work-done-in-less-time/article_3e67e310-c3d3-50c2-944b-1d6c608e066e.html

The South Carolina General Assembly has long been criticized for the length of time it spends in Columbia. But lawmakers have been unable to agree on shortening the January-June session. Bill after bill to tighten the calendar has failed over the past two decades. Differences between the House and Senate on the issue heretofore have been as much about tradition and procedure as partisan politics. The House sees the Senate's deliberation and filibustering as procedural wastes of time and has annually called for a shorter session. The Senate sees the House as a fast-moving body passing legislation that is not well thought out. Senators have been unable to agree on shortening the time in Columbia. In 2016, the chambers have gotten together, realizing the people of South Carolina really don't buy into – literally – any reasoning on why the state's business should take our lawmakers so much longer than the business of other states takes their leaders.

SC Political News:

Newsmax: Lindsey Graham: I'm Voting 'Down-Ballot' in November

<http://www.newsmax.com/Politics/lindsey-graham-voting-down-ballot/2016/06/22/id/735161/>

Todd Beamon

Sen. Lindsey Graham said Wednesday that he is not voting for either Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton in the November presidential election and would instead support those Republicans seeking House and Senate seats. "I probably won't vote for Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump," the South Carolina Republican, who dropped out of the nomination race in December, told Wolf Blitzer on CNN. "It hurts to not support your party, but he's taking the party in a direction I cannot go on — immigration, foreign policy. "I hate the fact that I can't support my party nominee. I want to help my House and Senate colleagues, and I'll support them enthusiastically."

Post and Courier: South Carolina Senators divided on compromise gun legislation

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160623/160629719/south-carolina-senators-divided-on-compromise-gun-legislation>

Emma Dumain

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham has been trying to sell his colleagues on a compromise bill to keep firearms out of the hands of terrorists. On Thursday it became clear he still had more work to do, even when it came to convincing the Palmetto State's junior and fellow Republican Sen. Tim Scott. Just as House Democrats were dissolving their 25-hour "sit-in" to demand a vote on gun control legislation in the wake of the Orlando, Fla., mass shooting, senators were voting on whether to table — or kill — the proposal co-sponsored by Graham and championed by moderate Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine.

Post and Courier: Democrats end House floor 'sit-in' after 25 hours, promising more action to come
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160623/160629741/democrats-end-house-floor-sit-in-after-25-hours-promising-more-action-to-come>

Emma Dumain

After 25½ hours, House Democrats concluded their “sit-in” to protest a lack of action on gun safety legislation. But that won’t be the end of it. Party members closed out their marathon demonstration on the chamber floor a little after 1 p.m. Thursday, promising to take up the fight again when the House returns from recess on July 5. “When we return to these hallowed halls,” U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S. C., declared, “we will be operating under a new sense of purpose.” Indeed, Democrats united to accomplish the unprecedented: Shutting down legislative business as usual until Republicans guaranteed them a vote on legislation to ban gun sales to individuals on the “no fly” list.

SC Elections:

The State: Efforts mount to oust firebrand senator

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article85608122.html>

Cassie Cope

With only four days to go until Tuesday’s GOP runoff, state Sen. Lee Bright is fighting for his political life. Known for his controversial proposals – advocating the state coin its own money and ban transgender South Carolinians from the bathrooms of their choice – Bright is opposed by former state Rep. Scott Talley in District 12’s race Tuesday. Bright is facing an uphill fight in the district, which includes parts of Spartanburg and Greenville counties In the four-candidate June 14 primary, 62 percent of Republican voters cast their ballots against Bright and for one of his three challengers.

Post and Courier: Charleston Republican primary runoff endorsements announced

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160623/160629738/charleston-republican-primary-runoff-endorsements-announced>

Schuyler Kropf

Thursday was a day of candidate political endorsements ahead of Tuesday’s primary runoff elections. In Senate District 41, North Charleston Mayor Keith Summey endorsed Republican primary candidate Sandy Senn. “Even in the face of such national and local police scrutiny, Sandy remains dedicated to first responders and to making sure they are protected,” Summey said in a letter dated last month. In the same race, James Island Town Mayor Bill Woolsey endorsed Roy Maybank. “I’ve closely looked at each of the candidates and believe Roy has a better understanding of the issues and needs of James Island and West Ashley,” Woolsey said in a media release. In the Republican House District 110 runoff to represent Mount Pleasant and Charleston in the Statehouse, four Mount Pleasant Town Council members this week endorsed Russell Guerard.

Post and Courier: Judge upholds GOP’s right to certify its candidate

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160623/160629734/judge-upholds-gops-right-to-certify-its-candidate>

Schuyler Kropf

A circuit judge has rejected a private citizen’s attempt to challenge the legality of a Republican Statehouse candidate. Judge Doyet Early III said Thursday the Republican Party is the rightful authority to determine whether the qualifications for its candidates are met. The move came after local attorney Margaret Fabri challenged Republican candidate Sandy Senn’s qualifications as a

voter and resident of Senate District 41 after she moved into the district last year. Republicans leaders say Senn met all the required thresholds, including changing her legal address and voter registration. GOP attorney Bart Daniel said the party certified Senn as a candidate after the filing period closed in March. She was one of five Republicans in the race.

Independent Mail: Campbell calls for audit of solicitor's office; Adams says 'dirty politics'

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/campbell-calls-for-audit-of-solicitors-office-35f6af5d-f5f0-7a57-e053-0100007f0816-384159251.html>

Nikie Mayo

Candidate Rame Campbell criticized the financial management in the 10th Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office again Thursday, but acknowledged that when he was overseeing some operations there, he did not do anything about the way money was spent. Campbell, who has already called for an audit, will be in a runoff against Deputy Solicitor David Wagner on Tuesday. The winner will become the top prosecutor in Anderson and Oconee counties. Solicitor Chrissy Adams, who has held the job for more than a decade, is not seeking re-election because of an ongoing battle with cancer. Before resigning to campaign, Campbell was an assistant solicitor who ran the circuit's Anderson County office while Adams dealt with health problems. Campbell said some things he saw bothered him, but he did not raise serious questions about them while he was handling the office.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: 168 law agencies to receive money for police body cameras

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=g4vik3gt

Seanna Adcox

More than 160 law enforcement agencies across South Carolina will split the \$5.8 million legislators provided for police body cameras, their maintenance and video storage. The state's Public Safety Coordinating Council is distributing the money to all 168 agencies that applied for funding. That includes four solicitors' offices, Ports Authority police, and public safety at four airports and 16 colleges. In all, the agencies requested \$13.8 million; 31 applications were fully funded by the council's votes last week, said Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Sherri Iacobelli. The council isn't yet announcing how much each agency will get. Notifications will be sent with the money after the fiscal year starts next month, she said.

The State: Four more S.C. residents have Zika virus

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article85565622.html>

Avery G. Wilks

Four more S.C. residents have contracted Zika virus, bringing the state's total number of cases of the illness to five. All five cases were travel-related, according to the state Department of Health and Environmental Control. The state agency said it was notified of the positive confirmation for the most recent four cases Wednesday. None of the five were pregnant women. "There's no threat to the public health from these cases," DHEC spokeswoman Cassandra Harris said. DHEC confirmed the first travel-associated case of Zika virus in South Carolina in late April.

Post and Courier: Four more South Carolina residents contracted Zika; no longer a threat to public

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160623/160629725/four-more-south-carolina-residents-contracted-zika-no-longer-a-threat-to-public>

Derrek Asberry

At least four more South Carolina residents have contracted the Zika virus, according to an update

from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. "It's important to note, there is no risk to public health from these cases," said Cassandra Harris, DHEC spokesperson. "All due to travel to countries with widespread Zika transmission." She added that, due to federal privacy restrictions, DHEC is unable to provide other information about the patients, including their physical condition, hospitalization, age, sex and residence.

Local News:

Associated Press: Greenville deputies look for man who escaped patrol car

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=eK7rwoIB

SC State Wire

Greenville County sheriff's deputies are looking for a man who escaped after being placed in a patrol car near Greer. Sgt. Jennings Autrey said in a news release that deputies had taken a man into custody around 10:30 p.m. following an auto break-in. Autrey said Xavier Wenstrup had been placed in the back of a patrol car with his hands behind him in cuffs while deputies gathered other information. Autrey said Wenstrup managed to roll down the window and escape from the car. He is a white man with brown hair in dreadlocks with blue eyes and is 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighs about 125 pounds.

Post and Courier: Dash cam video shows Forest Acres officer fire at fleeing driver

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160623/160629718/dash-cam-video-shows-forest-acres-officer-fire-at-fleeing-driver>

Tony Bartelme

A suburban Columbia officer fired six shots at a driver last month as the driver turned the wheel and drove away, a dashboard video obtained by The Post and Courier shows. The video shows Robert Cooper, an officer with the Forest Acres Police Department, on a darkened street and screaming, "Stop! Stop!" The driver then backs up his Honda Accord, the video shows, and Cooper moves into its path with his gun trained at the car's front windshield. "Stop! Stop! Do not make me shoot you!" Cooper shouts. The driver then raises his right hand but turns the wheel with his left. As the car passes by, Cooper fires into the front windshield at point-blank range and then five more times as it passes by. "Shots fired! Shots Fired! He tried to hit me with the vehicle," Cooper can be heard saying.

Greenville News: Suzanna Simpson found guilty on all counts

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/06/23/updates-suzanna-simpson-trial/86295348/>

Romando Dixon

Suzanna Simpson was found guilty on all counts in the deaths of her children and shooting of her husband. Simpson was charged with two counts of murder in the death of her children, and one count of attempted murder and one count of possession of a weapon during a violent crime. Simpson was sentenced to consecutive life sentences on the murder charges. Thirty years on attempted murder and 5 years on possession of a weapon during a violent crime. A Pickens County jury started deliberations Thursday afternoon and returned the verdict in about two hours.

Associated Press: The Latest: Mom in reincarnation case gets life for killings

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=x7uuAxZi

SC State Wire

A 38-year-old South Carolina woman has been sentenced to life in prison without parole for killing her two children in a shooting she said she thought would reincarnate her kids in a better world. Judge Brian Gibbons said Thursday that Suzanna Simpson's actions were so shocking she deserved the

harshest sentence possible after a Pickens County jury found her guilty of murder. Simpson showed little reaction, mouthing "bye" to her family as she walked out of court.

Associated Press: Mom who killed kids in reincarnation case gets life

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

Jeffrey Collins

When Suzanna Simpson spent six days in the hospital for severe mental illness, doctors urged her husband to get all of the guns out of their house for safety. About a year later, Simpson woke up at 4 a.m., put on a headband with a small light, worked the combination on the gun safe and ambushed her husband, and their 7-year-old daughter and 5-year-old son as they slept. She said she tried to kill herself, but loaded the wrong ammunition in the gun. Simpson told a psychiatrist she thought the whole family would be reincarnated in a better world. Four days of testimony ended Thursday with Simpson found guilty of murder. The 38-year-old was sentenced to life in prison.

The Herald: York Co. father gets probation for leaving kids alone in truck for hours

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andrew-dys/article85380197.html>

Andrew Dys

Late Tuesday afternoon at the Moss Justice Center in York, a father of four named Jason Ray Grant waited his turn. The one-time Fort Mill wrestling coach stood up and pleaded guilty – admitting he had left his four children alone in his truck for four hours on the day after Thanksgiving 2015. Also in the truck with the kids – ages 13, 11, 7 and 5 – guns and ammunition. He pleaded guilty to felony unlawful neglect of a child charges. "I would never intentionally put my kids in danger," said Grant, who once coached wrestling at Fort Mill High School and has taught youth wrestling clubs.

The State: Was it ever OK to leave kids in the car alone? The times are changing

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article85548222.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

No one wants to be known as the parent who left a kid in a hot car. That's what one Lexington County woman discovered last week, when deputies charged her with two counts of unlawful conduct toward a child. Maria Rivas-Velazques, 34, had tried to play it safe. She told law enforcement that her 5-year-old daughter and 23-month-old son were inside a locked, air conditioned truck for just a few minutes while she ran into Lowe's on Augusta Road near West Columbia, according to the incident report from the Lexington County Sheriff's Department. She still spent the night in jail and faces an October court date and up to 10 years in prison. South Carolina – and the nation – is facing a change in standards about what's acceptable. Parents who might have been left on their own when they were young wouldn't dream of leaving their own kids nowadays.

Independent Mail: Clemson tuition, room and board going up

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/clemson-tuition-room-and-board-going-up-35f4b29b-b5e7-580b-e053-0100007f79ae-384139821.html>

Mike Eads

Housing and tuition costs are going up for Clemson University students. The university's Board of Trustees voted via teleconference Thursday to raise tuition rates for the 2016-17 school year for in-state and out-of-state students, and pass along state-mandated cost-of-living increases for Clemson employees. Undergraduates from South Carolina will pay an extra 3.14 percent, or \$218 on average per semester, while out-of-staters will pay an extra 4.27 percent, or \$700 per semester on average. Meal plans will rise 4 percent on average, from \$1,860 to \$1,940, and housing will go up 6 percent, from \$2,698 to \$2,865 on average. Vice President for Finance and Operations Brett Dalton told board

members that the tuition increases were in line with hikes from recent years, and the room and board is going up because the state Legislature mandated improved pay and benefits for all public employees in the new state budget that goes into effect next week.

Sun News: CCU students will have to shell out a little more next year

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article85582292.html>

Christian Boschult

Students at Coastal Carolina University should save up a few extra dollars for the next school year. The board of trustees Thursday approved a 3.29 percent increase in tuition and fees next year for both in-state and out-of-state students. The cost of housing and meal plans didn't change, resulting in a 1.7 percent increase (\$173) in total costs per semester for in-state and on-campus students from \$10,150 in fiscal year 2015-2016 to \$10,323 in fiscal year 2016-2017. For part-time in-state students, the cost per credit hour will increase \$14 from \$442 to \$456. Out-of-state students will face an increase of \$400 per semester.

Greenville News: 3 tournaments in a week bring \$6.5 million economic impact

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/2016/06/23/3-tournaments-week-bring-65-million-economic-impact/86289810/>

Amanda Coyne

Three sports tournaments being held in Greenville County facilities are bringing \$6.5 million in economic impact to the area, according to Jeff Poole, of Greenville County Parks Recreation and Tourism's sports tourism department. This weekend, 440 swimmers will pack the Westside Aquatic Center for the annual Dash and Splash youth swim meet. The baseball and swimming events have seen an increase in participants, which increases expected economic impact. The soccer tournament is expected to have approximately the same economic impact as it did when it was held in the Upstate in 2012: \$4.2 million.

Post and Courier: Mount Pleasant mayor: 'We kind of had to shut down the port'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160623/160629732/mount-pleasant-mayor-we-kind-of-had-to-shut-down-the-port>

Dave Munday David Slade and John McDermott

On the fourth day of extensive port-related traffic backups, Mount Pleasant police temporarily blocked all commercial traffic from the road leading to the Wando Welch Terminal, South Carolina's largest container port. "We kind of had to shut down the port," Mayor Linda Page said. Page said local businesses have been essentially shut down since Monday due to the truck jam, adding that parents can't pick their kids up at gymnastics and residents can't get home or run errands. The port didn't actually shut down, but the town police department did not allow port-bound trucks on Long Point Road for about an hour. It was a call that the head of the State Ports Authority said "I have to respect," given the situation. "The port is of great importance to the region," Page said, "but the town has a duty to the 81,000 residents who live here, and it was not a safe situation."

The Herald: Veterans group gets \$90,000 for monument, park in York

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article85611017.html>

Jennifer Becknell

A proposal to move the York County Veterans Memorial to a prominent site in the county seat has received the financial support to begin moving forward. State Sen. Creighton Coleman, D-Winnsboro, said the S.C. Legislature approved \$90,000 for the memorial, at the discretion of the York County Veterans Advisory Council. The council wants to move the 30-year-old memorial out of Lakeview

Memory Gardens, a cemetery on U.S. 321 north of York, to a central site in downtown York. The council's plans call for moving both the county monument, which bears the names of 214 county residents killed in every conflict since World War I, and a Purple Heart Monument that stands at the York Recreation Complex.

National News:

Associated Press: After Capitol all-nighter, Democrats push on for gun control

<http://bigstory.ap.org/d291163e345a487ba38be239dc8c6c48>

Erica Werner

Exhausted but exuberant, House Democrats vowed to fight on for gun control Thursday as they ended their high-drama House floor sit-in with songs, prayers and defiant predictions of success. Republicans offered a dose of political reality, denying House Democratic demands and holding a Senate vote designed to show a bipartisan gun compromise can't pass. "They're staging protests. They're trying to get on TV. They're sending out fundraising solicitations," House Speaker Paul Ryan complained in an angry denunciation of the Democrats' 25-hour occupation of the Capitol chamber. "If this is not a political stunt, then why are they trying to raise money off of this, off of a tragedy?" Ryan said the House would not be giving in to Democrats' calls for votes on legislation expanding background checks for gun buyers and keeping people on the no-fly list from getting guns in the wake of the Orlando shooting. And in the Senate, GOP leaders scheduled a vote on a bipartisan compromise by moderate Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, but only to show the "no-fly" legislation does not command the 60 votes needed to pass.

Associated Press: Obama immigration plan blocked by 4-4 tie at Supreme Court

<http://bigstory.ap.org/22b44f178c984e549aac5dd4b6192fce>

Mark Sherman

The Supreme Court deadlocked Thursday on President Barack Obama's immigration plan that sought to shield millions living in the U.S. illegally from deportation, effectively killing the plan for the rest of his presidency. The outcome underscores that the direction of U.S. immigration policy will be determined in large part by this fall's presidential election, a campaign in which immigration already has played an outsized role. People who would have benefited from Obama's plan face no imminent threat of deportation because Congress has provided money to deal with only a small percentage of people who live in the country illegally, and the president retains ample discretion to decide whom to deport. But Obama's effort to expand that protection to many others is effectively stymied.

World News:

Associated Press: Powerful tornado strikes east China; 78 reportedly dead

<http://bigstory.ap.org/d88662509c30445694bda7ad16238006>

Christopher Bodeen

A tornado and hailstorm struck the outskirts of an eastern Chinese city on Thursday, killing at least 78 people and destroying buildings, smashing trees and flipping vehicles on their roofs. The tornado hit a densely populated area of farms and factories near the city of Yancheng in Jiangsu province, about 800 kilometers (500 miles) south of Beijing. Nearly 500 people were injured, 200 of them critically, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. Roads were blocked with trees, downed power lines and other debris. Heavy rain and the possibility of further hailstorms and more tornadoes complicated rescue efforts, state broadcaster CCTV reported. The disaster has been declared a national-level emergency, and on a trip to Uzbekistan, Chinese President Xi Jinping ordered central government

bodies to provide all necessary assistance.

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