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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, May 4, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Reuters: South Carolina Gov. Haley says 'not interested' in being vice president

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-election-haley-idUSKCN0XV2MU>

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, a Republican who has been mentioned as a possible vice presidential pick, said on Wednesday she is not interested in the post but will support the party's eventual nominee. "While I am flattered to be mentioned and proud of what that says about the great things going on in South Carolina, my plate is full and I am not interested in serving as vice president," Haley, a popular Indian-American governor, said in a statement.

CNN: Trump begins weighing VP options

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/05/04/politics/donald-trump-vice-president-search/>

Jeremy Diamond, Jim Acosta, and Sara Murray

Donald Trump's campaign is scrambling to ramp up its planning for the general election, including scraping together a list of potential vice presidential candidates, after Trump abruptly became the presumptive Republican nominee Tuesday night. The Trump campaign, blindsided by rival Ted Cruz's sudden exit from the race, is now beginning internal deliberations about potential vice presidential candidates, two Trump campaign sources tell CNN.

Note: A senior Trump campaign source said Wednesday that the campaign's early favorites for vice president are now New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio. Note: And Haley said her "plate is full." "I have great respect for the will of the people, and as I have always said, I will support the Republican nominee for president," she said in a statement. "While I am flattered to be mentioned and proud of what that says about the great things going on in South Carolina, my plate is full and I am not interested in serving as vice president." Haley, who endorsed Sen. Marco Rubio against Trump in her state's primary, has been highly critical of Trump and warned voters against flocking to "the siren call of the angriest voices" -- a thinly veiled dig at Trump.

Politico: Nikki Haley signals support for Trump

<http://www.politico.com/blogs/2016-gop-primary-live-updates-and-results/2016/05/nikki-haley-donald-trump-222819>

Daniel Strauss

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley on Wednesday tried to dispel any speculation that she would be Donald Trump's running mate, but also signaled she would support him in the general election. "I have great respect for the will of the people, and as I have always said, I will support the Republican nominee for president," Haley said Wednesday according to the Charleston Post and Courier. "To the members of the press who are asking, while I am flattered to be mentioned and proud of what that says about the great things going on in South Carolina, my plate is full and I am not interested in serving as vice president."

Post and Courier: Haley won't be Trump's running mate

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160504/PC1603/160509702>

Schuyler Kropf

South Carolina's top Republican Party leader says it's time to put aside any lingering bad blood and unite behind Donald Trump for president. And while Gov. Nikki Haley confirmed she will support Trump in November, she's giving up on being considered as a possible vice presidential pick. "I have great respect for

the will of the people, and as I have always said, I will support the Republican nominee for president," she said Wednesday. "To the members of the press who are asking, while I am flattered to be mentioned and proud of what that says about the great things going on in South Carolina, my plate is full and I am not interested in serving as vice president."

The State: Path clear for Trump, SC's Haley 'not interested' in being vice president

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article75643302.html>

Jamie Self

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley ruled out being Donald Trump's vice presidential running mate Wednesday as his path to the nomination cleared. Haley said in a statement: "I have great respect for the will of the people, and as I have always said, I will support the Republican nominee for president." "To the members of the press who are asking, while I am flattered to be mentioned and proud of what that says about the great things going on in South Carolina, my plate is full and I am not interested in serving as vice president."

Note: Speculation about Haley's prospects as a potential vice-presidential candidate intensified last year after she led an effort to remove the Confederate flag from the S.C. State House grounds. Calls for the flag's removal came in response to a racially motivated shooting at a Charleston church.

Note: Sometimes critical of Trump, Haley endorsed U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida in the S.C. Republican presidential primary. When Rubio dropped out of the race, Haley threw her support behind U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas.

WLTX: Haley Says She's Not Interested in Being VP

<http://www.wltx.com/news/politics/haley-not-interested-in-being-vp-says-shell-support-trump/170861966>

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley says she's "flattered" but "not interested" in being vice president. Haley received questions again about the issue Wednesday, the day after Donald Trump became the presumptive nominee for president. Her name was mentioned in some media reports as a possible pick for the Trump ticket in the fall. But Haley deflected those questions, saying, "my plate is full." She did add that she will "support the Republican nominee for president" out of her "great respect for the will of the people," but did not mention Trump by name in a statement released from her office. Haley has frequently been mentioned as an appealing candidate for the GOP nominee. But she's crossed swords with Trump - who won the South Carolina primary - over immigration and other issues.

WIS: Gov. Nikki Haley will support Donald Trump, but no thanks on VP nod

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31892881/gov-nikki-haley-will-support-donald-trump-but-no-thanks-on-vp-nod>

Jeremy Turnage

Gov. Nikki Haley says she is flat out not interested in becoming the next vice president of the United States, South Carolina's governor said in a statement late Wednesday evening. The night after billionaire businessman Donald Trump became the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, Haley said she would support his candidacy because it reflected the "will of the people." However, despite political press speculation, she will not be serving in possible Trump presidency as his vice president.

WMBF: HALEY: "I am not interested in serving as vice president"

[http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/31892751/haley-i-am-not-interested-in-serving-as-vice-president?](http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/31892751/haley-i-am-not-interested-in-serving-as-vice-president?clienttype=generic)

[clienttype=generic](http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/31892751/haley-i-am-not-interested-in-serving-as-vice-president?clienttype=generic)

Brad Dickerson

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said thanks, but no thanks, to the notion of serving as vice president. In a statement, Haley said she has great respect for the will of the people and will support the Republican nominee for president. "While I am flattered to be mentioned and proud of what that says about the great things going on in South Carolina, my plate is full and I am not interested in serving as vice president," Haley said.

WSPA: SC Gov. Haley: "I will support the Republican nominee for president"

<http://wspa.com/2016/05/04/sc-gov-haley-i-will-support-the-republican-nominee-for-president/>

South Carolina Nikki Haley says she will support the Republican nominee for president. She says she is also not interested in serving as vice president. "I have great respect for the will of the people, and as I have always

said, I will support the Republican nominee for president. To the members of the press who are asking, while I am flattered to be mentioned and proud of what that says about the great things going on in South Carolina, my plate is full and I am not interested in serving as vice president," Said Haley.

Associated Press: House passes SC farm aid bill setting up showdown with Haley

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

SC State Wire

A bill to give \$40 million to South Carolina farmers who lost much of their crops in last year's massive floods is on its way to a showdown with the governor. The House voted 85-2 Wednesday to agree to the version of the bill the Senate passed 33-3. The proposal allows farmers in disaster-declared counties to request grants of up to \$100,000 to cover up to 20 percent of their 2015 crop losses.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley has said while she feels badly for farmers, she feels badly for small businesses too, and farmers shouldn't be treated differently.

General Assembly News:

Associated Press: South Carolina House gets information about \$2B road bill

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=KM0N7IYv

SC State Wire

A House panel received information about a plan passed by the Senate to borrow more than \$2 billion to widen interstates and repair bridges over the next decade. The subcommittee took no action Wednesday, but Rep. Chip Limehouse promised a vote before the next meeting of the whole House Ways and Means Committee. State Department of Transportation Secretary Christy Hall says the bill is a good first step. She told the lawmakers she wants the DOT to show the public it can spend this money wisely so the agency will be trusted with more money to try and bring the entire state highway system into good condition. The bill would use \$200 million a year in fees and vehicle sales taxes to borrow the \$2 billion.

Post and Courier: House gets first look at \$2.2 billion roads bill

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160504/PC1603/160509701>

Gavin Jackson

Lawmakers on a House budget panel began work Wednesday to advance a multi-billion roads bond bill the Senate overwhelmingly approved last week. Several panel members echoed their trust in the plan to use \$200 million annually to finance a \$2.2 billion borrowing package since the priority list was developed by S.C. Department of Transportation's widely praised Secretary Christy Hall.

Note: "We generally like the way this particular bill is set up with the funding directed to the agency, then the lead transportation agency deciding what the highest, greatest needs are," Hall said. "Then we utilize the State (Transportation) Infrastructure Bank as a banking mechanism to help leverage dollars as needed."

Associated Press: Senate returns \$7.5B budget that includes 4 percent raises

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

Seanna Adcox

The South Carolina Senate has approved a \$7.5 billion state budget that puts an additional \$300 million into K-12 education, covers the state's expenses from last fall's historic flooding and provides \$40 million in grants to flood-devastated farmers. Senators voted Wednesday to return their spending plans for the fiscal year beginning July 1 to the House.

Associated Press: House approves legislation spreading fees to cellphones

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5IAZsaeT

Seanna Adcox

The South Carolina House has approved legislation that spreads the cost of phone services to cellphone customers, lowering fees on landline bills. The 103-2 vote Wednesday follows a Public Service Commission ruling requiring cellphone companies to pay into the state's Universal Service Fund, which the Legislature created in 1996 to extend and maintain lines in rural areas.

Associated Press: Tongue-and-cheek effort to impose Viagra wait fails in SC

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

SC State Wire

A South Carolina representative's last-ditch effort to require a 24-hour waiting period for a Viagra prescription in the state has failed. Rep. Mia McLeod has said her bill was meant as a tongue-in-cheek rebuke of South Carolina's abortion laws. It includes the waiting period and counseling about celibacy that are also required before women get an abortion. The Columbia Democrat tried to attach her proposal Wednesday to a bill establishing the rules on how doctors can practice medicine remotely.

Post and Courier: Columbia lawmaker makes last-ditch effort to debate erectile dysfunction bill

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160504/PC1603/160509710>

Maya T. Prabhu

Seeking to get the floor debate on erectile dysfunction medication she said she was denied by House members, Rep. Mia McLeod attempted to amend a bill regulating doctors who primarily tend to patients via the phone. The amendment mirrored the Columbia Democrat's proposed bill, which essentially was killed Tuesday. The bill would have regulated men's access to erectile dysfunction medication as a protest to the way abortion is governed in South Carolina. The attempt to regulate the distribution of medication, such as Viagra, failed after some lively — and comical — discussion from House members.

Post and Courier: Southard intends to seek re-election to House seat

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160504/PC16/160509716>

Brenda Rindge

A state lawmaker who resigned in the wake of ethics charges last month said Wednesday he could be re-elected in November. Eddie Southard, who served in the state house for five years before resigning April 27 after a statehouse page filed a sexual harassment allegation against him, said he is not asking to have his name removed from the Nov. 8 general election ballot for the District 100 seat. He was running unopposed.

LGBT Laws:

Associated Press: US government: North Carolina LGBT law violates civil rights

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:4ee618dda16d43ddb6ca12fc2f09b37d>

The U.S. Justice Department says a North Carolina law that limits protections to LGBT people violates federal civil rights laws. The Obama Administration agency on Wednesday put North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory on notice that that state officials must confirm by Monday that they will not comply with or implement the law called House Bill 2. A letter from the Justice Department obtained by The Associated Press said the law violates Title IX of the Civil Rights Act, which bars discrimination in education based on sex. That could lead to North Carolina losing hundreds of millions of dollars in federal school funding.

Charlotte Observer: US Justice Department: HB2 violates federal Civil Rights Act

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/politics-government/article75601912.html>

Jim Morrill

U.S. Justice Department officials Wednesday notified Gov. Pat McCrory that House Bill 2 violates the U.S. Civil Rights Act. The department gave state officials until Monday to address the situation "by confirming that the State will not comply with or implement HB2." The letter says HB2, which pre-empted Charlotte's anti-discrimination ordinance, violates Title IX of the Civil Rights Act, which bars discrimination in education based on sex, and Title VII, which bars employers from discriminating. If that determination is upheld, North Carolina could lose millions in federal school funding.

Associated Press: Illinois families sue over transgender access to locker room

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:2cf38282a4204596bdcdf54ee13b799>

Michael Tarm

Dozens of families are taking legal action in a bid to stop a suburban Chicago school district from allowing a

transgender student to use a girls' locker room. Attorneys for conservative groups Alliance Defending Freedom and Thomas More Society filed the lawsuit Wednesday in Chicago federal court. They represent 51 families with links to the Palatine-based Township High School District 211. The district last year agreed to let a student who was born male but identifies as female access the girls' locker room. Federal officials had found the district violated the student's rights. Under the agreement, the student can use a separate changing area in the girls' locker room.

Associated Press: Alabama city's leaders vote to recall bathroom ordinance

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:6666a7e44a4f47e78b890724dea9f395>

Phillip Lucas

Leaders of an east Alabama city have voted to recall an ordinance that would have imposed criminal penalties on people for using restrooms that don't match their sex at birth. The Oxford City Council held a special meeting Wednesday and recalled an ordinance that members had unanimously approved last week. The measure would have levied a misdemeanor charge, a fine of up to \$500 and up to six months in jail.

Savannah River Site News:

Associated Press: Government wants regional group out of nuke fuel lawsuit

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=wjOY1sA7

Meg Kinnard

An economic development group shouldn't be allowed into South Carolina's lawsuit against the U.S. Energy Department, attorneys for the federal government argued in court papers filed this week. According to lawyers representing the Energy Department, the nonprofit Southern Carolina Alliance doesn't have legal standing to intervene in the case, which should remain solely a dispute between the state and the federal government.

Aiken Standard: Department of Energy files motion to oppose Southern Carolina Alliance intervention in MOX lawsuit

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160504/AIK0101/160509768>

Thomas Gardiner

The U.S. Department of Energy met deadline in the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility, or MOX, legal battle Monday with their oppositional response to the Southern Carolina Alliance motion to intervene. Both entities in the suit have asked the judge, J. Michael Childs, to deny the Alliance's intervention. It may be possible for the Alliance to file a lawsuit against the State for its claim to the economic assistance payments. In its motion against the intervention, the DOE said the Alliance may pursue a lawsuit separate from the battle over MOX between the federal government and the State of South Carolina. The DOE has filed a motion to dismiss the case but also has a looming deadline in coming weeks. The federal government is expected to respond to the State's motion requesting a summary judgement from the court.

Note: South Carolina filed a response in opposition to the intervention April 18, and Gov. Nikki Haley's office has stood by its opposition. In a statement released at the time, her office said, "Federal law requires the Department of Energy to make economic and impact assistance payments to the State of South Carolina. The law is clear, these payments are due to the State alone, not other individuals or groups that may also wish to collect." Haley's opposition is mirrored by the DOE.

SC Agency News:

WFXG: SC Department of Corrections gets additional \$8 million in budget after attack

<http://www.wfxg.com/story/31854659/sc-department-of-corrections-gets-additional-8-million-in-budget-after-attack>

Sharon Johnson

This week, South Carolina lawmakers added millions of dollars to the state's prison system. This comes after an attack nearly three weeks ago at Perry Correctional Institution in Greenville County. An officer was stabbed, held hostage, and sent to the hospital in that incident. We're now learning lawmakers are adding an

additional \$8 million to the prison budget to prevent these kinds of attacks. The understaffing prompted lawmakers to agree this week to add \$8 million to the South Carolina Department of Corrections budget. The money will increase prison guard pay by \$1,500 and help with retention.

Note: According to the Senator, "being understaffed has led them to have to do controlled movement, sometimes lockdown just to control the facility. What we want and what is ideal in the criminal justice arena is that you are locking down an inmate when they have committed some infraction or there's a serious security breach."

SC Political News:

Post and Courier: Let's all vote for Trump, head of S.C. GOP says

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160504/PC1603/160509724>

Schuyler Kropf

The head of the South Carolina Republican Party says it's time for all GOP voters in the state to get behind Donald Trump as their candidate for the White House. "I officially support the Republican Party's nominee, Donald Trump," Chairman Matt Moore told The Post and Courier today. "I also support the Republican ticket and will encourage voters to vote Republican straight ticket." Moore added the target remains the same: preventing the Democratic nominee, presumably Hillary Clinton, from winning the general election.

South Carolina News:

The State: South Carolina ranks in bottom 10 states for test scores

<http://www.thestate.com/news/databases/article75523192.html>

Nick Selbe

State testing is among the most widely used tools for evaluating public schools, with exams given annually to students of all grade levels. Though standardized tests have a history of mishaps — most recently in Tennessee, where officials suspended elementary and middle school testing because of a failure by vendors to deliver tests on time — they remain a valued method of assessing performance. With this in mind, StartClass ranked the states based on their performance on assessment test scores using data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress, also known as the "Nation's Report Card." SOUTH CAROLINA #41; Grade 4 Math: 36 percent; Grade 4 Reading: 33 percent; Grade 8 Math: 26 percent; Grade 8 Reading: 28 percent.

Post and Courier: Southeast's aerospace job growth gaining attention of South Carolina, national researchers

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160504/PC05/160509705>

David Wren

With the Southeast establishing itself as the nation's fastest-growing aerospace employment center, researchers are hoping to get a better idea of what makes the region's industry tick. Since 2013, Boeing has increased its South Carolina workforce by 24.4 percent, to 8,265 workers, despite an announcement last month that it has offered involuntary layoffs to a small number of engineers. South Carolina's aerospace industry is growing at nearly six times the state's overall industrial growth, according to the state's Commerce Department. More than 400 aerospace companies and suppliers have operations in the state, representing \$2.2 billion in capital investment.

Associated Press: Feds indict cop, alleged members of Gangster Disciples

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=YXt45bam

Kate Brumback

Alleged members of the Gangster Disciples, including high-ranking leaders and a former Atlanta-area police officer who prosecutors say claimed to be a hit man for the gang, have been charged with racketeering in federal indictments unsealed Wednesday. Among those indicted in Atlanta were three people who prosecutors say served as governors of governors at various times: Alonzo Walton oversaw a region that included Georgia, Florida, Texas, Indiana and South Carolina; Terrance Summers oversaw Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina and Florida; and Adrian Jackson was governor of governor for the western states, including California.

Associated Press: Florida teen's family suing over death on SC ropes course

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

Meg Kinnard

The family of a Florida teen has sued over her death at a high ropes course last summer in South Carolina, accusing the group that ran the camp and the company that sold the swing she fell from of negligence. Authorities have said Olivia Paige Grimes, 16, of Lakeland, Florida, died in July after falling more than 100 feet from a pendulum swing at Carolina Point Camp in Sunset, on the South Carolina-North Carolina state line.

Local News:

The Herald: Breaking news: Parole granted to York teen police say wanted to join ISIS

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/crime/article75548377.html>

Andrew Dys

The South Carolina juvenile parole board granted parole Wednesday to a York teen of Syrian heritage who police and prosecutors say wanted to join ISIS and plotted to kill American soldiers. The board ruled Wednesday after the teen's second parole hearing Monday. The board denied the teen's release following a February hearing. Police again asked the board to reject the request from the teen, who is now 17, for early release after the teen was sentenced to prison possibly up to age 21 last year. Officers from the York Police Department and York County Sheriff's Office had lobbied the parole board to keep the teen in custody until he cooperates with authorities and explains more fully his purported rejection of radicalism.

Herald-Journal: Spartanburg call center prepares for text-to-911 service

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160503/articles/160509892>

Daniel J. Gross

Spartanburg residents may soon have another way to request help in an emergency. Call takers at the Spartanburg Communications/9-1-1 department are preparing to handle 911 requests sent via text message by 2017. Spartanburg Communications/9-1-1 Director Mike Flynn has been working on the call center's latest infrastructure upgrade, and a text-to-911 program is a part of the plan, he said. The program will allow those who may be in circumstances where they can't talk to send a text message to 911 with the location of their emergency and what services they need. A dispatcher can then reply to the person texting and gather more details while sending help, Flynn said.

Post and Courier: Prayer gathering honors local police

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160504/PC16/160509704>

Paul Bowers

Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg encouraged local law enforcement officers with a passage from the Gospel of Mark during the Police Appreciation Prayer Service on Wednesday morning at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be servant of all," Tecklenburg said. "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

The State: Midlands Gives beat last year's fundraising effort

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article75546942.html>

Jane Moon Dial

Despite technical issues on its donations website, Midlands Gives squeaked past last year's amount raised during the annual online giving challenge. The event, hosted by Central Carolina Community Foundation, allowed 383 nonprofits in 11 Midlands counties to raise a collective \$1,592,048. That number is subject to change as officials continue to calculate donations. Last year's event raised \$1,543,032.65 through 11,372 gifts to 251 nonprofits, doubling what it made its inaugural year in 2014.

The State: New seed money program targets vacant buildings for renovation into retailers, offices

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article75563992.html>

Clif Leblanc

Columbia launched a \$200,000 program Wednesday that will allow eligible property owners or tenants to get up to \$20,000 to improve vacant or abandoned buildings in blighted areas of the city. Awards of \$1,000 to \$20,000 are intended to help people who have lined up private financing but need a little more money to close the deal, said Felicia Maloney, director of the Columbia Empowerment Zone, which announced the program.

Greenville News: Clemson researchers get \$10.5 million grant from National Institutes of Health

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/05/04/clemson-researchers-get-105-million-grant-national-institutes-health/83924252/>

Amanda Coyne

A group of Clemson University researchers have received one of the biggest grants the school has ever gotten -- \$10.5 million -- to research ways to fight infectious disease. The National Institutes of Health grant, announced Wednesday morning, will help a team from Clemson's Eukaryotic Pathogens Innovations Center (EPIC) in their effort to discover new ways to fight potentially deadly diseases like African sleeping sickness, fungal meningitis and amoebic dysentery.

Independent Mail: Clemson center gets \$10.5 million National Institutes of Health grant

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/clemson-center-gets-105-million-nih-grant-31f89625-a6a7-1508-e053-0100007f00ae-378121911.html>

Clemson University researchers announced on Wednesday that they received a \$10.5 million federal grant to fight infectious diseases that threaten people around the globe. The National Institutes of Health grant, made through that organization's Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence, is meant "to develop a critical mass" of scientists and researchers to fight dysentery, fungal meningitis, African Sleeping Sickness and other diseases ravaging populations in the developing world.

Island Packet: Port of Port Royal finally transferred from SC Ports Authority

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article75552682.html>

Stephen Fastenau

The Port of Port Royal property has finally been transferred from the S.C. Ports Authority, four months after state law mandated the transaction. The Department of Administration's General Services division, which now controls the property, has 30 days from the date of the transfer in late April to hire an appraiser. Once appraised, the property will go to public auction, where it must sell for 80 percent of the appraised value.

Post and Courier: Minnesota wire maker expands to South Carolina Lowcountry

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160504/PC05/160509715>

John McDermott

A Twin Cities metal manufacturer is setting up shop in the Lowcountry and creating about 50 jobs. St. Paul, Minn.-based J&L Wire is investing \$2.5 million to establish its first South Carolina operations in Walterboro, according to the Colleton County Economic Alliance. J&L Wire is a maker of galvanized wire products used in decking and shelving for the warehouse, material handling and logistics industries. The company's brand names include Galva-Deck and Boss Hog. "We are excited about the market opportunities in the Southeast, and believe the South Carolina site will position us to profitably expand our core business," said Gary Hyde, general manager.

Herald-Journal: Sales of Spartanburg-made BMW vehicles declined in April

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160504/articles/160509856>

Sales of BMW vehicles manufactured in Spartanburg County declined in April. BMW brand vehicle sales dropped 7.4 percent in April and sales have seen a 9.4 percent decline so far this year compared to 2015, according to a statement from BMW of North America. There were a total of 24,951 BMW brand vehicles sold in April compared to 26,952 vehicles sold in April 2015. Year-to-date, 95,564 vehicles have been sold compared to 105,444 sold in the first four months of 2015.

Hartsville Messenger: GSSM named a top-performing U.S. School by The Washington Post

http://www.scnow.com/messenger/news/article_2703c182-120b-11e6-9106-cfe1c51d7043.html

The South Carolina Governor's School for Science & Mathematics has been named one of "America's Top-Performing Schools with Elite Students" by The Washington Post. The Governor's School, which is in Hartsville, was the only South Carolina school included in the list. The 25 schools, listed in alphabetical order, were described as "non-neighborhood schools with SAT or ACT averages above the highest averages for neighborhood schools nationally."

National News:

Associated Press: AP sources: Kasich to end bid for Republican nomination

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:99e5d4f134b446118803fc5a89e7f8e8>

Kathleen Ronayne

The last man standing in Donald Trump's path to the Republican nomination, Ohio Gov. John Kasich will end his campaign Wednesday, making Trump the party's presumptive nominee. Three campaign officials told The Associated Press that the Ohio governor plans to announce his decision in a statement from his home state later Wednesday. The officials spoke anonymously because they are not authorized to disclose Kasich's decision.

Associated Press: Obama drinks filtered city water in Flint to show it's safe

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:5240da8aca5e44e8800d5a1d31dbd735>

Kevin Freking

Showing support for the beleaguered residents of Flint, Michigan, President Barack Obama drank filtered city water on Wednesday to show that it is again safe following a lead-contamination crisis. After officials briefed Obama on the federal government's response to the contamination, a reporter asked if he would drink the water in a glass on the table. The president said he usually avoids publicity stunts. But he took a drink, saying he wanted to show the water must be safe if he's drinking it. "This used a filter," Obama said of the water. "The water around this table was Flint water and it just confirms what we know scientifically, which is, if you're using a filter, if you're installing it, then Flint water at this point is drinkable."

Associated Press: Navy SEAL killed in Iraq was part of rescue team

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:23159882aec94f34b51c27fe1393de51>

Lolita C. Baldor

A Navy SEAL killed during a firefight in Iraq was part of a quick reaction force that moved in to rescue U.S. military advisers from an Islamic State attack, the Pentagon said Wednesday. The attack triggered a massive coalition air response that destroyed equipment, buildings and killed up to 60 militants. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Charles Keating was shot and killed when he and other special operations forces went to the rescue of the U.S. forces that got caught in a gun battle involving more than 100 Islamic State fighters, Army Col. Steve Warren said.

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