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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Thursday, April 28, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Haley: Feds have left South Carolina in dark on Guantanamo

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#label/Clips/1545e0b218f806be?compose=new>

Meg Kinnard

Gov. Nikki Haley on Thursday criticized the federal government for keeping her in the dark about plans to potentially transfer Guantanamo detainees to South Carolina, telling a U.S. House panel that she has heard no details about what she says could be detrimental for her state. "They've handled this very much on their own and have not included us in the process," Haley, a second-term Republican, told a U.S. House Homeland Security subcommittee examining the implications of moving prisoners to certain communities. Haley has been outspoken in her opposition to transferring the 80 remaining detainees from the prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. On Thursday, she told lawmakers that Defense Department officials surveyed the Naval brig 15 miles from Charleston but have said nothing about whether they still considering bringing prisoners there.

McClatchy DC: Nikki Haley says she'll help Obama find the money to keep Guantanamo open

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/congress/article74421512.html>

Vera Bergengruen

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley came to Washington, D.C., on Thursday with one clear message – keep Guantanamo detainees out of South Carolina, and if you need extra money to keep the prison open I'll help you find it. "You could pay the state of South Carolina to host these terrorists, and we wouldn't take them. For any amount of money," she said in her testimony before a House Homeland Security subcommittee on the local impact of transferring prisoners from the facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. "Imagine my surprise," she said. "Not only was it against federal law (...) but why would anyone want to put terrorists in Charleston?"

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley testifies before Congress on repercussions for relocating Gitmo detainees to S.C.

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160428/PC1603/160429372>

Emma Dumain

Guantanamo Bay and the shootings at Emanuel AME Church were both subjects of debate Thursday when Gov. Nikki Haley was on Capitol Hill to argue against relocating prisoners from the Cuban detention center to the Naval Consolidated Brig Charleston. Invited to testify in front of the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency, Haley said Charleston had already been through enough to be forced to share a ZIP code with suspected terrorists. "Last summer the people of Charleston stared hate directly in the eye. We know true hate, and we know what real fear feels like," Haley said in her opening remarks. "We don't need to see it again, nor do we wish it on any other state. Keep the terrorists where they are, where they belong. Don't bring them to my home."

Note: Haley did not take the bait when Democrats on the committee asked her to explain why it is more dangerous to house international terrorists than to house Dylann Roof, the alleged perpetrator of the deadly church shooting last year.

Greenville News: Gov. Nikki Haley condemns plan to transfer Gitmo prisoners

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/04/28/gov-nikki-haley-condemns-plan-transfer-gitmo-prisoners/83608256/>

Mary Orndorff Troyan

Relocating terrorist detainees from Guantanamo Bay to the U.S. would create a new domestic target for terrorists and probably wouldn't save taxpayer dollars, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley told Congress Thursday. Haley told members of the homeland security subcommittee on oversight and management efficiency that Obama's goal — to eliminate Guantanamo Bay as a propaganda tool for terrorists — is futile. "This line of thinking is giving these terrorists too much credit and too much validity," she said. "Terrorists do not need a jail to hate us. They hate us on their own."

WIS: Haley testifies to Homeland Security committee about possible relocation of detainees

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31840295/haley-testifies-to-homeland-security-committee-about-possible-relocation-of-detainees>

Gov. Nikki Haley is in Washington Thursday to voice her concerns over the possible transfer of Guantanamo detainees to sites including the U.S. Naval brig near Charleston. The hearing before the House U.S. Homeland Security Committee addressed what moving potentially dozens of Guantanamo detainees to United States would mean for the Palmetto State's future. The panel discussion was focused on implications for state and local communities if the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, prison is closed, according to the Associated Press. Haley has remained outspoken in her opposition to the transfer of remaining detainees in the brig in Hanahan.

WLTX: Haley: Putting Terrorists in SC Would Put a Target on State

<http://www.wltx.com/news/politics/haley-putting-terrorists-in-sc-would-put-a-target-on-state/157773312>

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley blasted a White House plan to move Guantanamo Bay detainees to South Carolina, telling Congress Thursday it would put a target on the state. Haley was invited Thursday to speak before the U.S. House subcommittee looking at an Obama Administration proposal to shut down the terrorist detention facility in Cuba and transfer those prisoners to the mainland United States. "Keep the terrorists where they are, where they belong" Haley told Congressmembers. "Do not bring them to my home." "Why would anyone want to put terrorists in Charleston?," Haley said. "It makes zero sense."

WSCS: Gov. Haley testifies on possible transfer of Gitmo detainees to U.S. Naval brig

<http://www.live5news.com/story/31837079/gov-haley-testifies-on-possible-transfer-of-gitmo-detainees-to-us-naval-brig>

Aaron Maybin

Gov. Nikki Haley wrapped up testimony in Washington, DC about her concerns over the possible transfer of Guantanamo Bay terror suspects to sites in this country, including the Naval Brig in Hanahan. The hearing before the U.S. Homeland Security Committee is addressing the potential impact on the Palmetto State's future of moving potentially dozens of Guantanamo detainees to United States. Haley said one of the concerns is the economic impact of moving detainees here to South Carolina.

Note: "How am I to tell these companies that they will be sharing an address with the most heinous and dangerous terrorists on earth -- that the city that they chose to call home is now going to be one of the most high-profile, terrorist targets in the world? The truth is -- I can't and I won't," Haley said.

The Hill: Haley pleads with Congress not to bring Gitmo detainees to SC

<http://thehill.com/policy/national-security/278020-haley-pleads-with-congress-not-to-bring-gitmo-detainees-to-sc>

Julian Hattem

Haley, a rising star in the Republican Party, told members of a House Homeland Security subcommittee that proposals to bring suspected terrorists to the Naval Consolidated Brig in Charleston, S.C., would dramatically affect the local economy, make the community vulnerable to extremist violence and cast a shadow of fear over the public. "You could pay the state of South Carolina to host these terrorists and we wouldn't take them for any amount of money. There is no price," she claimed. "What company is going to invest in a state where they keep these heinous terrorists? They're not going to," Haley added. "Who's going to come vacation in a state that is now known to house these terrorists?" There are 80 detainees remaining at the U.S. prison at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. Of those, 46 have been deemed too dangerous for release.

Huffington Post: Nikki Haley Called Out For Hypocrisy After Refusing To House Guantanamo Detainees

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/nikki-haley-guantanamo-detainees_us_57223c15e4b0f309baf00069

Jessica Schulberg

It's "the city we call the holy city," "the number one vacation spot in the country," "the friendliest state in the union," "the most patriotic state in the Union," Haley told members of the House Oversight and Management Efficiency Subcommittee. "Why would anyone want to put terrorists in Charleston?" The South Carolina governor then switched to a more somber note. "We looked hate in the eye last year," she said, referring to the shooting by a white gunman, who killed nine people at a historic black church in Charleston. "Our state is still recovering from that." Homeland Security Committee ranking member Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.), a black lawmaker who has been outspoken about calling the Charleston shooting an act of domestic terrorism — a term Haley has also used to describe the attack — jumped at the chance to point out a contradiction in her logic.

McClatchy DC: The Confederate flag will continue flying at The Citadel, for now

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/national/article74504082.html>

Vera Bergengruen

The Confederate battle flag will continue to fly at The Citadel for the time being, after the rejection of a defense budget amendment in the early morning hours on Thursday. South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who was on Capitol Hill on Thursday to testify at a hearing about the potential transfer of Guantanamo detainees to the Naval Brig in Charleston, said the state did not need Congress to interfere in the controversial debate. "They could very easily move the Confederate flag to the museum, which is right next door to where it's being housed now," Haley told reporters. "But they would have to do that through the same ways that we did it at the statehouse. As South Carolinians we handled that ourselves in South Carolina, so I don't think we need to go through a D.C. plan to do that, I think that's a matter of South Carolinians making that decision."

Note: Haley said that the process should go through the state legislature, which would have to make an exception for the college due to a S.C. state law called the Heritage Act. "What I told the cadets is that if this is a concern they need to contact their legislators, they would need to open the Heritage Act just for that specific facility and handle it accordingly, but right now we haven't seen any action," she said.

General Assembly News:

Associated Press: Senate passes \$40M aid bill for flood-devastated farmers

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4bEEJXMX

SC State Wire

The Senate has approved a bill providing \$40 million to South Carolina farmers devastated by last fall's flooding. Senators voted 33-3 Thursday on legislation allowing farmers in disaster-declared counties to apply for up to \$100,000 in grants covering up to 20 percent of crop losses. The amended bill returns to the House, which passed its version 95-6. Agriculture officials say October's torrential rains wiped out \$330 million worth of crops at harvest time. Farmers lost an additional \$45 million because they couldn't plant winter crops in bogs. Supporters say the bill aims to help family farms survive until the next harvest.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley has threatened to veto the bill, saying while she feels badly for farmers, she feels badly for small businesses too, and farmers shouldn't be treated differently.

Post and Courier: Farm relief bill passes Senate, sets up veto showdown with Gov. Nikki Haley

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160428/160429356/farm-relief-bill-passes-senate-sets-up-veto-showdown-with-gov-nikki-haley>

Cynthia Roldan

South Carolina's Senate passed a bill that would grant relief for farmers affected by October's floods, setting up the chance of a veto showdown with Gov. Nikki Haley. The bill, which sets aside \$40 million for relief, would allow farmers to apply for a grant on a first-come, first-served basis for up to \$100,000 to pay for production expenses, such as seeds and fertilizer.

Note: "We're going to keep cheering and supporting the farmers in every way that we can to help them get back on track," Haley said. "I don't think we should treat them any differently than we do everybody else." Despite Haley's threat, both chambers passed the bill with a large majority, making a veto override by the

General Assembly likely. A request for comment from Haley's office was not immediately returned.

Associated Press: Ministers, refugees ask House to block anti-refugee bill

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=E1cDHk34

Seanna Adcox

Opponents of legislation that requires refugees in South Carolina to register and holds liable those who help them resettle are asking a House panel to block the bill. Ministers, volunteers and college students said Thursday the bill discourages churches from their Christian mission of helping people while targeting people who are fleeing persecution at home. Noor Amiri told the panel he'd be dead if not for the federal refugee program. The Kabul, Afghanistan, native worked alongside U.S. Army soldiers for six years as their interpreter before coming to South Carolina in 2014. He pleaded with legislators not to "punish the people who need protection the most." The panel postponed voting on the bill. The Senate passed it last month. All two dozen people who testified opposed the bill.

Post and Courier: House members work to delay decision on refugee registry bill

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160428/PC1603/160429355>

Maya T. Prabhu

Lawmakers amended the bill to make it so that civil legal liability is only applied for a sponsor if the group knew, or should have known, a refugee resettled through their organization posed a threat and committed an act of terrorism or a violent crime. To be held liable, there would have to be clear and convincing evidence presented in court. Smith said he appreciated the effort by subcommittee members to make the bill more palatable, but still opposed it overall. "When you build upon a pile of garbage, you've still got a pile of garbage," he said. "There's no way to fix it when it's foundation is a load of crap." Previously the bill did not call for the high standard to prove civil liability.

Post and Courier: Outlook for smelter dims as bill to save Mount Holly plant dies

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160428/PC05/160429374>

David Wren

A state Senate bill that would have let Century Aluminum buy all of its electricity on the open market failed to get past a subcommittee hearing Thursday, dimming the possibility of a last-minute deal to save the company's Mount Holly smelter and its 300 jobs. "I never want to definitively say something is dead, because as long as we're in session there's always a possibility," said state Sen. Larry Grooms, R-Charleston and one of the bill's sponsors. "But I don't see a reasonable possibility at this point." Grooms said the bill, introduced earlier this month, got a late start in the legislative session and was gaining support but ran out of time.

Associated Press: Portrait of slain Sen. Pinckney to be unveiled next month

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

SC State Wire

The South Carolina Senate will unveil its official portrait of slain Sen. Clementa Pinckney next month. Sen. Gerald Malloy said Thursday that the Senate will hold a ceremony at 4 p.m. on May 25. A Senate committee picked artist Larry Leiby to paint Pinckney's picture. He has portraits of other South Carolina civil rights heroes like Benjamin E. Mays and Modjeska Simkins. Leiby has said he will bring Pinckney's smile back to the Senate.

Post and Courier: Senate to unveil Clementa Pinckney portrait in May

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160428/PC1603/160429368>

Cynthia Roldan

A portrait of fallen state Sen. Clementa Pinckney will be unveiled during a ceremony in the Senate next month. The portrait unveiling will be done May 25 in the Senate chamber and will be limited to invitations only. Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, said Pinckney set an "example of statesmanship for the rest of us." "Sen. Pinckney was among those who would always show compassion," Leatherman said. "He showed compassion for those considered less fortunate among us."

Aiken Standard: Senate to unveil portrait of the late Sen. Clementa Pinckney on May 25

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160428/AIK0101/160429446>

The S.C. Senate has announced it will unveil a portrait of the late Sen. Clementa Pinckney on May 25. On behalf of the Senate, Sen. Gerald Malloy announced Thursday it will formally unveil the portrait to honor the memory and service of Pinckney, who was murdered June 17, 2015, along with eight others at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. "This portrait will be a lasting tribute to the life of Senator Pinckney, appropriately reflecting his service to our citizens and his church," Malloy said. "But more importantly, it will be a constant lesson of the power of grace in the face of tragedy."

LGBT Laws:

Associated Press: Caitlyn Jenner uses women's room at Trump hotel, posts video

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:42298f96a6e8472c8497a48a5085b01e>

Caitlyn Jenner has taken up Donald Trump's offer and used the women's restroom at one of his luxury buildings. The Republican presidential candidate said last week that he believes transgender people should be able to use whichever bathroom they choose. Trump said North Carolina's so-called "bathroom law," which directs transgender people to use the bathroom that matches the gender on their birth certificates, has caused unnecessary strife. Trump said that if Jenner — who won an Olympic gold medal as Bruce Jenner — were to walk into Trump Tower, she could use whichever bathroom she wanted. Instead, Jenner used the women's room — without incident — at the Trump International Hotel and Tower in Manhattan.

CNN: Alabama city: Use bathrooms matching biological sex or face 6 months in jail

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/04/28/health/oxford-alabama-transgender-bathroom-law/>

Holly Yan

Transgender people in Oxford, Alabama, could now face six months in jail for using restrooms labeled for the gender with which they identify. The Oxford City Council passed the ordinance this week after the retail giant Target announced it would allow transgender employees and customers to use the restrooms they feel comfortable with. Target has a store in Oxford. In the ordinance, the Council says people in public restrooms "do not reasonably expect to be exposed to individuals of the opposite sex while utilizing those facilities."

BuzzFeed: Republican Operatives Advise Governors: Be Careful With Trans Bathroom Bills

https://www.buzzfeed.com/tariniparti/republican-operatives-advise-governors-be-careful-with-trans?utm_term=.ggNXM2EmW#.vcx4kyA7X

Tarini Parti

Republicans closely involved in gubernatorial races are advising governors — who might be pushed to consider similar bills or asked about the law by reporters — to keep precise wording and perception in mind. They believe the broadly written bill in North Carolina created a PR nightmare for the governor, one that's made it more difficult for him to explain his position to voters. "If there's an appetite in the state, something we've been advising is that perception needs to be on par with the wording," said one such Republican granted anonymity to speak candidly about strategy in dealing with transgender-bathroom bills. Governors, especially those who have difficult re-election battles ahead — whether it's this cycle or next — are being advised to distance themselves from the issue entirely.

Note: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley also quickly dismissed the need for such a bill.

WSPA: Tryon billboard protesting NC HB2 law defaced, removed

<http://wspa.com/2016/04/28/tryon-billboard-protesting-north-carolina-hb2-law-defaced/>

A billboard that was put in place near Tryon — in response to North Carolina's HB2 law — was defaced and has now been removed. The sign which read "Welcome to North Carolina. Due to our stance on LGBT rights, please set your clock back 100 years." The words "Be not deceived. God is not mocked" were written in black spray paint at the bottom of the billboard. The sign had been up for more than a week at Skyuka Road and Highway 108 in Polk County. The new law in North Carolina limits LGBT rights and the use of restrooms by transgender people in public places.

SC Agency News:

WLTX: SCDOT Honors Fallen Workers

<http://www.wltx.com/news/local/scdot-honors-fallen-workers/157982420>

The South Carolina Department of Transportation is remembering its workers who have lost their lives on the job. A ceremony in their honor was held Thursday morning at the agency's headquarters on Park Street. The event highlighted the lives of three workers who died last year. They include Paul Fee and Ray Norris Jr., both men were highway maintenance workers who were struck and killed by trucks while on the job. A third victim, Timothy Gibson, lost his life while working during last year's historic floods.

Associated Press: Big changes coming to SC bank that loans out money for roads

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=o9JxH1ZW

Jeffrey Collins

Big changes are coming to the agency that helps get loans for massive road projects in South Carolina. The South Carolina Transportation Infrastructure Bank leverages money for \$100 million-plus highway projects. But the bank has come under increasing criticism over the past several years from environmental groups, conservatives, government reform activists and rural interests. The bank is criticized for not having firm guidelines for how its seven-member board makes decisions and chooses projects. Some critics say the bank chooses less needed new road projects instead of spending money on improving current highways. Environmentalists said those new projects often hurt wetlands and other protected areas. Other critics said the bank spends most of its money in only a handful of urban counties because it requires contributions from local governments.

SC Political News:

USA Today: Super PAC that backed Lindsey Graham for president now focused on Senate

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/onpolitics/2016/04/28/super-pac-backed-lindsey-graham-president-now-focused-senate/83651622/>

Mary Troyan

The super PAC created to help Sen. Lindsey Graham run for president has switched gears and is now focused on keeping Republicans in charge of the Senate. Security is Strength Thursday announced a statewide television ad in New Hampshire supporting Sen. Kelly Ayotte, a Graham-ally who is running for a second term. Ayotte's race against New Hampshire Gov. Maggie Hassan is considered a close contest that could affect which party has the majority in the U.S. Senate starting in 2017. The ad, which focuses on Ayotte's opposition to closing the terrorist detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, will run statewide for eight days.

Associated Press: Beatty clears 1st step to becoming next SC chief justice

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

SC State Wire

The South Carolina Supreme Court's senior associate justice has cleared the first hurdle to taking over the court's top job. The Judicial Merit Selection Commission said Thursday that Don Beatty of Spartanburg had been deemed qualified for the chief justice position. He is the only person running for the job. Beatty would become South Carolina's second black chief justice since Reconstruction. President Barack Obama has tapped him for a federal judge position, a nomination that's still pending before a U.S. Senate committee.

Opinion/Editorial:

Sun News: Job skills help keep ex-offenders from returning to prison

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article74387022.html>

Bryan Stirling and Cheryl Stanton

This week, April 24-30, is National Re-entry Week, where we bring focus to the issues of returning ex-offenders into our communities and to the steps we've taken to reduce the rate of people returning to prison. An important part of the release process is preparing individuals to re-enter society and reducing the likelihood that they will return. In South Carolina, nearly 90 percent of offenders are released from prison in

five years or less. The state has a choice to make: prepare offenders for successful re-entry or continue the generational cycle of incarceration. We have chosen to provide inmates with opportunities for education, skills training and work experience as part of a pre-release program, a leading factor in reducing the recidivism rate, which is nearly 25 percent in South Carolina.

Greenville News: Editorial: Prospect of Fluor Field renovation exciting

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2016/04/27/editorial-prospect-fluor-field-renovation-exciting/83513206/>

Greenville News Editorial Board

The positive impact Fluor Field has had on Greenville's West End and the entire community is measurable and evident. Some of those measurable effects include the development that has taken place near the stadium in the last decade, the deep expansion into the West End that Greenville's Central Business District has made, or the volume of foot traffic moving downtown Greenville on baseball game nights. In so many different ways, there is tangible evidence that the Greenville Drive and their stadium have made the city better, and those effects are among the reasons it is exciting to hear even preliminary discussion about a major renovation of the ballpark.

South Carolina News:

WSCS: SC among top most dangerous states for drunk driving

<http://www.live5news.com/story/31840855/sc-among-top-most-dangerous-for-drunk-driving>

Debi Chard

South Carolina is being called the country's fifth most dangerous state for drunk driving. A report released by CarInsuranceComparison.com ranks states using data provided by several agencies and organizations including Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the FBI.

"The people of South Carolina seem to be chugging more than just sweet tea," the report states. It says South Carolina ranks number three in the country for alcohol-related driving fatalities and finds that while DUI penalties are hefty, there are few laws combating drivers under the influence. No neighboring states made the top ten list, which ranks North Dakota as the most dangerous state, placing first in both fatality rate and DUI arrests.

Post and Courier: China Eastern Airlines to buy 15 787 Dreamliners from Boeing

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160428/PC05/160429382>

David Wren

China Eastern Airlines on Thursday finalized an order for 15 787-9 Dreamliners to strengthen the Asian carrier's expanding long-haul fleet, the Boeing Co. announced. The order is valued at nearly \$4 billion at list prices, although airlines typically negotiate better deals. "The addition of these next-generation, fuel-efficient airplanes will play a key role in supporting China Eastern's strategy for international expansion, and enable us to realize profits in point-to-point routes across the Pacific Ocean, and between China and Europe," Liu Shaoyong, China Eastern Airlines' chairman, said in a statement.

The State: Biggest VA fraud: SC man who faked illness gets prison

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article74306972.html>

John Monk

A federal judge on Wednesday sentenced a Blythewood man to three years and five months in prison for claiming \$1.6 million in Veterans Administration and Social Security disability benefits while pretending he suffered extreme impairments from advanced multiple sclerosis. Dennis Paulsen, 45, who was indicted last year and convicted after a trial in January, was not taken into custody immediately. He will report to prison at a later date.

Local News:

Associated Press: Jailhouse rocked: 2 inmates hurt, 8 charged in jail fight

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=7A7PpOOB

SC State Wire

Pickens County Sheriff Rick Clark says that overcrowding played a role in a jailhouse fight that left two inmates injured and eight facing charges. Media outlets report that two inmates were beaten up last Friday at the Pickens County Jail and were taken to an emergency room for treatment. Eight inmates, ages 24 to 33, now face charges of assault and battery by a mob.

Greenville News: 8 inmates charged in Pickens County jail fight

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/04/28/gre-jail-mob-assault/83640406/>

Romando Dixon

Investigators charged eight inmates in connection with the assault of two other inmates in general population, the Pickens County Sheriff's Office said Thursday. Two inmates suffered blunt trauma injuries April 22, and EMS transported them to the emergency room for treatment, the Sheriff's Office said. The eight inmates were charged with two counts of third-degree assault and battery by a mob, according to arrest warrants. Sheriff Rick Clark said overcrowding may have been a factor in the incident.

Sun News: SLED probe of Horry police a concern for council chairman

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article74432452.html>

Audrey Hudson

Horry County Council Chairman Mark Lazarus says he's concerned about the ongoing investigation by state law enforcement officials into the county police department, but did not say whether it prompted the sudden resignation this week of Chief Sandra Rhodes. "From her standpoint, I don't know the reasoning," Lazarus said Thursday. "After 23 years, she turned in her resignation and retirement — she's ready to take retirement and seek other opportunities and we wish her well."

Associated Press: New trial date sought for former officer in motorist's death

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

SC State Wire

A prosecutor is seeking a change in the trial date for a white former North Charleston police officer charged with murder in the shooting death of a black motorist. Solicitor Scarlett Wilson filed a motion on Wednesday asking the trial for Michael Slager be set for either this August or for May of next year. He had been scheduled for trial on Oct. 31 in the death of Walter Scott. But Wilson said she will not be able to try the case then because she needs time to prepare to prosecute the case of Dylann Roof, which is now set for trial next January.

Associated Press: Suspended teacher: Students call themselves idiot, retarded

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kUku4pEq

SC State Wire

A South Carolina school district has suspended a special education teacher after she used the terms "idiot," "stupid" and "retarded" in a letter requesting her students be exempted from taking standardized tests. Media outlets report that Tracie Happel teaches in the Oconee County School District and said the terms in the letter are those that her students use to describe themselves, not those she would ever use to describe them. Happel said she used the word "retarded" in quotations because one student describes himself as that almost daily and she says it breaks her heart.

Beaufort Gazette: Beaufort parent says teacher told son 'go back' to Africa

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article74444707.html>

Rebecca Lurye

A Battery Creek High School science teacher allegedly made what one mother considers an offensive, racial comment this week after her 14-year-old son refused to stand during the Pledge of Allegiance. Nicole Whitmore says her son, a freshman, was sitting when the morning pledge began Tuesday and was among about half the students in the room who remained sitting when their teacher told them to stand up. When her son told a friend it didn't matter because "Donald Trump is going to send us back to Africa," the teacher

allegedly interjected, saying he should go back.

Post and Courier: NSA lauds The Citadel for cybersecurity training

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160428/PC16/160429361>

Paul Bowers

Now the public military college's fledgling cybersecurity program is getting a big boost of credibility. The Citadel recently earned designation from the National Security Agency as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense, becoming the second college in the state to earn the mark after the University of South Carolina.

Associated Press: Eyes in the sky: Myrtle Beach's 800 cameras nearly installed

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=zu8lgxay

SC State Wire

A project to add 800 surveillance cameras in Myrtle Beach is almost complete. The Sun News of Myrtle Beach reports (<http://bit.ly/1N2ptF2>) that only two cameras remains to be installed before the \$2 million project is finished. They should be operating in the next couple of weeks. The cameras have been installed at intersections, along streets and on paths to the beach. They allow police to quickly respond to traffic accidents or crimes.

Greenville News: AG: GHS not subject to audit

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/04/28/ag-ghs-not-subject-audit/83655906/>

Liv Osby

Greenville Health System is not a state agency and therefore its Office of Philanthropy is not subject to an audit by the South Carolina Legislative Audit Council, the state Attorney General's office has concluded. Ten members of the Greenville County legislative delegation in February asked the LAC to conduct an audit of GHS's Office of Philanthropy and related departments after some concerns were raised about fundraising efforts involving a neurological center.

The State: Don't need your pills anymore? Police asking for prescription meds on Drug Take-Back Day

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article74491622.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

Midlands agencies are looking to get a hold of as many prescription drugs as possible this Saturday. That's because Saturday is National Drug Take-Back day, where law enforcement and the medical community accept unused prescription medications from the community. The goal is to reduce the risk that someone will get their hands on unused drugs and abuse or sell them. The Drug Enforcement Administration is partnering with several local agencies for the event. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Herald: Winthrop's new FitDesks let students exercise and study

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/education/winthrop-news/article74431632.html>

Jennifer Becknell

Dacus Library joined colleges and universities around the country that have purchased the \$300 devices, which are stationary bicycles that allow students to read or use a computer as they pedal. The FitDesks, stationed in two separate areas on the library's first floor, are fitted with a large desk area and a cup holder so students can work on a laptop or read, unlike traditional stationary bikes.

Associated Press: New York State manufacturer adds 100 jobs in South Carolina

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=wE2WKdiM

SC State Wire

A New York company that makes automatic fire sprinklers is expanding in South Carolina, investing \$23 million and creating 100 jobs. Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Co. announced Thursday that it will be adding to its existing plant in Liberty in Pickens County. Reliable Automatic Sprinkler is headquartered in Elmsford, New York. It began operations in Pickens County a decade ago.

Greenville News: Reliable Sprinkler announces expansion to create 100 jobs in Pickens County
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2016/04/28/reliable-sprinkler-announces-expansion-create-100-jobs-pickens-county/83647712/>

Ron Barnett

Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Co., announced today a \$23.1 million expansion that will create 100 jobs in Pickens County. It was the largest economic development announcement, by square footage, in Pickens County since the company announced it would move its operations from Mount Vernon, New York to the county's commerce park near Liberty 15 years ago. The 150,000-square-foot expansion was made possible by a 32-acre land grant approved by Pickens County Council immediately prior to the announcement. The land grant nearly doubles the size of Reliable's footprint.

Post and Courier: North Charleston manufacturing joint venture is extended

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160428/PC05/160429377>

John McDermott

An automotive parts manufacturer has inked a new contract with diesel-engine giant Cummins Inc. that extends their North Charleston-based business partnership. Under the long-term deal, Wabco Holdings Inc. becomes the exclusive supplier to Cummins in North America for air compressors installed in trucks, buses and industrial equipment. "This major contract expands the scope of Wabco's existing U.S.-based joint venture with Cummins, a leading global manufacturer and distributor of diesel engines and related technologies for commercial vehicles," according to a written statement released Thursday.

Independent Mail: Expansion of AnMed Health Medical Center nearing completion

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/local/expansion-of-anmed-health-operating-room-nearing-completion-317f8fd0-069e-0e95-e053-0100007fa534-377407421.html>

An \$8.2 million expansion of the AnMed Health Medical Center on Fant Street is on track to conclude next month, a hospital spokesman said. The 11,475-square-foot expansion is located at the corner of the hospital close to the main entrance, where the visitor lobby is located. It will include a new, larger canopy where patients are admitted and a new operating room on the third floor. The new operating room will give AnMed Health's surgeons the ability to perform minimally invasive and robotic surgeries using the latest technology.

The State: Richland Council meets Friday to discuss ongoing penny tax dispute

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article74437887.html>

Sarah Ellis

Richland County Council will have a special work session Friday afternoon to discuss Wednesday's revelation from the Department of Revenue that the county's transportation penny sales tax revenue would be cut off until the county brings the penny program into "compliance with state tax laws."

National News:

Associated Press: 1st funeral held for victims of Ohio slayings that killed 8

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:caebe6c1ab564824a4baa20f26b82e3a>

A funeral amid extra security was held Thursday in Kentucky for one of eight people shot dead in Ohio in what authorities describe as a cold-blooded massacre targeting a single family. With law enforcement monitoring the area, loved ones gathered in South Shore, Kentucky, to honor 38-year-old Gary Rhoden at the first of three planned funerals for the victims. He was buried dressed in full camouflage because he loved hunting. The Crockett L. Reed Funeral Home said the Greenup, Kentucky, man would be buried in South Shore, across the Ohio River from Portsmouth.

Associated Press: Former Speaker Boehner calls Cruz 'Lucifer in the flesh'

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:8b8bdc04d90c432c8ddcd8586a042eb1>

Scott Bauer

Former House Speaker John Boehner unloaded on Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz during a talk to college students, calling the Texas senator "Lucifer in the flesh." Speaking at a town hall-style event at

Stanford University Wednesday, Boehner called front-runner Donald Trump his "texting buddy," but offered a more graphic response when asked about Cruz. "Lucifer in the flesh," the former speaker said. "I have Democrat friends and Republican friends. I get along with almost everyone, but I have never worked with a more miserable son of a bitch in my life."

Associated Press: Biden cites 'serious' progress toward defeating IS in Iraq

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:08b7627a36dc4d7a87921d6f30a4ced8>

Josh Lederman

Vice President Joe Biden, visiting Iraq on Thursday, described progress toward defeating the Islamic State group as "serious" and "committed" despite a crippling political crisis that threatens those gains. Biden met separately with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and Parliament Speaker Salim al-Jabouri. He told reporters that he and the speaker would discuss progress against Daesh, an Arabic acronym for IS. "It's real. It's serious. And it's committed," Biden said before his private talks with al-Jabouri.

World News:

Associated Press: Airstrikes, shelling kill at least 60 in Syria's Aleppo city

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:84eb99d60f664bef993de095adfdb4d0>

Sarah El Deeb

A wave of airstrikes and shelling killed more than 60 people in less than 24 hours in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo, monitors and activists said Thursday. The contested city is now one of the main battlegrounds of Syria's devastating civil war, with a cease-fire that has collapsed and peace talks in Geneva stalled. At least 27 people died as a hospital supported by Doctors Without Borders and the International Committee for the Red Cross and nearby buildings were hit overnight in the rebel-held part of Aleppo. The U.N. envoy for Syria appealed early Thursday to the United States and Russia to help revive the peace talks and a cease-fire, which he said "hangs by a thread."

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