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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Haley on Clinton's nomination

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160730/160739980/secessionist-group-to-launch-operation-retaliation>

South Carolina's first female governor, Nikki Haley, gave Democrat Hillary Clinton "respect" for becoming the first female presidential nominee for a major political party last week. Haley stayed consistent with previous statements on how candidates should be elected on merit not gender when she spoke with the media Wednesday following the Mercedes-Benz Vans facility groundbreaking at Palmetto Commerce Park. "I think it's great that we have a female candidate, but I would also remind you that women don't vote for a candidate just because they're women," Haley said. "Women are more thoughtful than that. They care about national security, they care about the economy, they care about the Supreme Court justices. At the end of the day, that is what's going to drive women and their vote. But I think in terms of having a female presidential candidate, that's one more thing we can strike off the books and say, 'We've done that.' "

Post and Courier: Mercedes-Benz groundbreaking highlights Lowcountry's fast-growing auto sector

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160731/160739908/mercedes-benz-groundbreaking-highlights-lowcountrys-fast-growing-auto-sector>

Thad Moore

As Mercedes-Benz prepared to break ground on its new factory in North Charleston last week, company executives and politicians pointed again and again to the back of the room, to the workers already assembling vans here. Since 2006, the German automaker has built cargo vans in Dusseldorf, disassembled a few systems and sent them here in parts to avoid costly tariffs. A group of about 200 workers puts them back together, spending a few hours to get each vehicle ready to drive. The company's new, full-fledged manufacturing campus, tasked with supplying America's growing demand for Sprinter vans, will have far more extensive work — and far more employees. Executives say it could eventually employ as many as 1,300 people, and it'll start taking applications toward the middle of 2017. That's a big boost for the region's manufacturing sector. About 11,000 people in the Lowcountry worked last year in the business of building cars and planes, a number that has roughly doubled over the past decade, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

NOTE: State and local groups have ramped up their efforts in recent years to steer young people toward manufacturing jobs — and to shake their reputation as dirty and underpaid. For their part, state officials including Gov. Nikki Haley say they're not worried about filling the openings, saying they haven't had issues doing so in the past.

NOTE: The pair of projects also means the region will need to grow a workforce trained to build cars and auto parts. The state will provide training programs specific to Mercedes-Benz and Volvo, Haley said Wednesday, with plans to send officials to their factories overseas to learn the companies' existing processes.

The State: SC's long-ignored child safety net slowly mends

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article92827677.html>

Jamie Self

Natalie Thompson says she whispered in her nephew's ear whenever she could. " 'Yeah, you going to be OK. ... You're going to be fine.' " Despite her furtive promises to her nephew – meant to evade the boy's parents, whom Thompson was reporting to the S.C. Department of Social Services for abusing the child – 4-year-old Robert Guinyard was beaten to death with a metal rod in his home in 2013. Today, the autistic boy's parents, convicted of homicide by child abuse, are serving life sentences. Recently, Robert's estate won a \$590,000 settlement from the state, according to Joyce Cheeks, the family's attorney. The suit alleged Social Services ignored reports from Thompson and others that Robert was being abused. Social Services had forewarning Robert's mother was dangerous, the suit added, having investigated her for child abuse before.

NOTE: S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley's Social Services director, Lillian Koller, resigned in mid-2014 amid mounting criticism and calls for new leadership.

NOTE: To help with that effort, state lawmakers – with Gov. Nikki Haley's encouragement – are spending more than they have in a long time on Social Services.

NOTE: South Carolina has more children in need of foster homes than it does families to shelter them, the governor noted. To address that shortfall, Social Services, with Haley's encouragement, has launched a program to recruit more foster families and make easier for them to start fostering children.

NOTE: Haley also said giving smartphones to all front-line caseworkers has helped make their jobs easier.

NOTE: Taking office in 2011, in the wake of the Great Recession, Haley made jobs her top priority. Koller, Haley's former child-welfare director, focused largely on getting South Carolinians off welfare.

NOTE: After Koller's exit, Haley said she had no idea that Social Services, which reports directly to the governor, had caseload problems.

SC Political News:

The State: SC GOP shifts focus to turning red state legislative seats

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article92809022.html>

Jamie Self

With their presidential nominee picked, S.C. Republican Party officials are turning their focus to state legislative races. Topping the list? Flipping a state Senate seat in Richland County that retiring Democrat Joel Lourie will vacate when his term expires at year's end. Democratic state Rep. Mia McLeod, a Columbia communications consultant, and Republican Susan Brill, a Richland 2 school board member and former Richland County Council member, are running for the seat. So far, blue is winning, at least in the cash race. Democrat McLeod has the fundraising advantage over Republican Brill, having raised \$39,000 from April through June and finishing the quarter with \$114,000 to spend. Brill raised \$23,000 in the same period, finishing June with \$69,000 to spend. If Brill prevails, the seat would be a big Senate win for the GOP. Lourie has been a vocal advocate of the Democratic agenda. In 2004, Lourie won the seat, which long had been held by the late Republican Warren Giese. Since then, however, Richland County has become more and more Democratic. Republicans also hope to flip the state Senate seat that Democrat Creighton Coleman of Fairfield County is leaving. Coleman lost to Mike Fanning, a nonprofit executive, in the Democratic primary. Republican Mark Palmer, an Iraq war veteran, also is seeking the seat.

Associated Press: Spartanburg exhibit provides way to connect with politics

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

SC State Wire

From now through this fall's presidential election, political junkies in the Spartanburg area are getting a chance to see their community's role in the political process. The Herald-Journal of Spartanburg reports (<http://bit.ly/2admnnv>) that "We The People: A Portrait of Politics in Spartanburg County" ... The exhibit at the Spartanburg Regional History Museum looks at members of the Spartanburg community who were instrumental in national and local politics. Colleen Twentyman, collections and education coordinator with the museum, says the exhibit includes political memorabilia like campaign buttons and stickers from past presidential elections and profiles of influential public servants, like South Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice Don Beatty. The exhibit is free and runs until November 15.

Huffington Post : Democrats Reflect On Their Sit-In Protesting Gun Violence

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/democrats-sit-in-gun-control_us_579bc006e4b0693164c14e05

Ashley Alman

One month before Democrats gathered in Philadelphia for their party's convention, which would feature a slate of speakers pushing for gun control reform, House Democrats staged a 26-hour sit-in at the U.S. Capitol to demand a vote on gun legislation. It was a sit-in Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.) didn't think would last for more than three hours. "I fully expected for everything to be over by 2:00 in the afternoon," Clyburn said Thursday at a panel hosted by the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. "Why did it go on for 26 hours? Social media." Democratic members of Congress streamed the June 22 sit-in on their Facebook and Twitter accounts, so when Republican leaders in the House cut off C-SPAN's audio and video feed by calling a recess, the network was able to broadcast the footage from those social media platforms. "People are watching this, people are engaged," Clyburn said. "We've got to do our part."

Post and Courier: Secessionist group to launch 'Operation Retaliation'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160730/160739980/secessionist-group-to-launch-operation-retaliation>

The S.C. Secessionist Party wants help securing large Confederate flags and land to display them across the state. Party founder and Chairman James Bessenger said the flags, which he hopes to place along major interstates and within cities and towns, are part of the group's "Operation Retaliation." Bessenger said Confederate heritage supporters have spent the past year being ridiculed and attacked for their beliefs. It's time to show that "Southerners will not sit idly by while our ancestors and heritage are relegated to a small corner of history labeled 'treason and slavery,'" he said. Bessenger got the idea from the Virginia Flaggers, which raised a 30-foot-by-50-foot flag in Danville, Virginia, last weekend. Bessenger served as a guest speaker at the flag raising. "They have agreed to mentor us through the process and are donating a flag to be our first," he said. The group, which recently became a nonprofit organization, is out this weekend scouting properties in the Upstate. Bessenger said his organization has received offers of private land for such flags in Summerville, Myrtle Beach, Columbia, Dillon, Florence and Greenville.

Post and Courier: Charleston police arrest man who tried to take Confederate flags from S.C. Secessionist Party members

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160730/160739909/charleston-police-arrest-man-who-tried-to-take-confederate-flags-from-sc-secessionist-party-members>

Gregory Lee

Charleston police arrested a man Saturday morning after he allegedly assaulted two members of the S.C. Secessionist Party who were flying Confederate flags on The Battery. Officers were called at 10:08 a.m. to the area of Murray Boulevard and East Battery Street where they found four people on The Battery wall sidewalk, said Charles Francis, a police spokesman, in an email. Officers encountered two men, James Bessenger and Matthew Locke, holding another man, Benjamin Chase, against a railing. A fourth man, Geoffrey Burke, witnessed the fight that broke out before officers arrived, Francis' email said. Chase's city of residence is listed as Moncks Corner. No city of residence was available for the other three men. Police separated the men and placed Chase, 30, inside a police vehicle, the email said.

SC after Police Shootings:

The State: Why I'm a cop

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article92871577.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

Halfway into 2016, police find themselves at greater risk on the job, and they face a bright white spotlight of public skepticism. Fatal shootings of officers in Dallas, Baton Rouge and just last week in San Diego prompt responses from Midlands officers about what motivates them keep to the mission – to protect and serve...

Associated Press : Police officers comfort children through teddy bears, toys

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=2xcWqn7x

Damian Dominguez

Tears were streaming down two children's faces as their mother ran up to Mickey Boland's patrol car. Now Boland, a lieutenant, is assistant administrator of the Greenwood County Detention Center, but when he worked in uniform patrol and the frantic mother and her two, crying children ran up to his car, he knew something was wrong. "She came pulling up to my patrol car at about two in the morning," he said. "She was running from her spouse." The domestic violence situation had left the children shaken, but when Boland turned around and pulled out a teddy bear and a plush lion to give to them, the tears stopped flowing. He said that small act of kindness can be enough to give a child comfort in dark moments. "It brings them back down to being a child," he said.

Associated Press: Greenville officer weighed shooting protester choking him

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=RS557Su9

SC State Wire

A police officer who described being put into a chokehold by a protester earlier this month says he nearly passed out and considered shooting the man as they struggled on the pavement. The Greenville News reports (<http://grnol.co/2aaxF3H>) Officer Joshua Pratt said in the report he was trying to arrest the Black Lives Matter protester during an attempted shutdown of Interstate 385 on July 9. Pratt said he was thrown to the ground and felt pressure around his throat. the Greenville Police Department's use-of-force policy considers chokeholds lethal force. The officer said he weighed shooting the man but realized two other officers were also involved in the scuffle and could have been hit too. Police have charged 23-year-old Dexter Scarborough with attempted murder and other charges.

Greenville News: While being choked, officer considered shooting I-385 protester

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/07/29/while-being-choked-officer-considered->

[shooting--385-protester/87666088/](http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/07/30/data-shows-racial-disparities-greenville-area-traffic-stops/87576794/)

Nathaniel Cary

The Greenville police officer who described being put into a chokehold by an Upstate Black Lives Matter protester he was trying to arrest during an attempted shutdown of Interstate 385 on July 9 said in a police report he nearly passed out and considered shooting the suspect as he was being choked on the pavement. Police have charged Dexter Scarborough, 23, with attempted murder, assault on a police officer while resisting arrest, pedestrian in roadway and disorderly conduct, according to warrants. Attempts to reach Scarborough at his listed address and by phone and text message were unsuccessful. Officer Joshua Pratt said in the report that he was assisting with a police roadblock to keep protesters from entering Interstate 385 near East North and Academy streets when one protester, identified as Scarborough began walking back and forth behind the police roadblock and yelling for other protesters to ignore police commands to stop walking in the roadway.

Greenville News: Data shows racial disparities in Greenville area traffic stops

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/07/30/data-shows-racial-disparities-greenville-area-traffic-stops/87576794/>

Tim Smith

The percentage of black drivers stopped by Greenville police and Greenville County sheriff's deputies without any citation is far higher than the percentage of blacks living in the city or county, according to a review of state data by The Greenville News. In fact, Greenville police in the past year have stopped more African-American drivers age 16-35 without issuing a ticket than white drivers in the same age group, even though blacks in the city make up about 30 percent of the population, according to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau estimates. Collecting the traffic stop data was mandated by lawmakers in 2005 so legislators could see whether racial profiling was going on. The data only covers stops in which no ticket is issued nor arrest made, in many cases, a situation in which a warning is issued. Some black leaders have said they know of incidents over the years in which black drivers are stopped and questioned but never charged. They believe such situations are examples of racial bias.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: How not to pay for a Finlay Park fix-up

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article92641897.html>

Cindi Ross Scope

A TAX-INCREMENT financing district isn't a magic wand to pay for projects that officials can't figure out any other way to pay for. Or at least it's not supposed to be.

It's an economic-development tool — one that probably can be used responsibly in some cases but too often is proposed as a way to make it look like the government is paying for new amenities without any cost. That is, it's usually a deception, because of course you can't pay for new amenities without either collecting more tax money or providing fewer services than you otherwise would. And now Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin wants to create one — a small one, he's quick to note — to pay for maintenance and upgrades to Finlay Park. Oh, and maybe another one, or several more, to pay for parking garages. Let's set aside the fact that the sort of maintenance Finlay Park needs — restoring eroding topography, replacing water lines, repairing a leaky (now emptied) fish pond — is something that ought to be built into the city's annual budget, just like car owners ought to build oil changes and other routine maintenance into their budgets. Let's set aside also that the city already collects a special sales tax on restaurant meals that state law says may be used only to fund frivolities — and that the city has manufactured so many frivolities it can't afford to use that money on

basic frivolities.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Fort Jackson soldier died of heat stroke after fitness run

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=HhAAM3aO

SC State Wire

A Fort Jackson soldier who collapsed after finishing a two-mile run died of an overheated body temperature. The Richland County Coroner's office says 35-year-old Sgt. 1st Class Clayton Hughes died Friday after collapsing the day before at the end of a physical fitness test. Post spokesmen didn't provide his hometown. A statement by Fort Jackson didn't describe when the training run took place on Thursday. The high temperature Thursday in nearby Columbia was about 100 degrees, with local humidity making it feel even hotter. Fort Jackson officials say Hughes was attending a leadership course for senior non-commissioned officers. Post officials say he became woozy, began to lose his balance at the end of the two-mile run and was given emergency treatment after finishing.

Associated Press: Army Corps reviewing proposed interstate to Myrtle Beach

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

Seanna Adcox

A decades-long proposal to build an interstate to Myrtle Beach is back before the Army Corps of Engineers, which is weighing whether to permit construction of the four-lane, nonstop path to the heart of the state's tourism industry. Advocates contend Interstate 73 is needed to keep people coming and grow the Grand Strand's economy, while opponents argue the \$2.4 billion project is too costly, unnecessary and environmentally destructive. Both sides are invited to send their comments to the Corps and state Department of Health and Environmental Control through Aug. 8. As of Tuesday, the Corps had already received more than 400 statements, said project manager Steve Brumagin. There is no timeline on either agency's decision. Even if both say yes, construction depends on funding.

Local News:

Associated Press: Authorities identify man killed in Ware Shoals Dragway crash

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=smD0H7qO

SC State Wire

Authorities have identified a driver killed after an accident at the Ware Shoals Dragway. The Laurens County coroner tells local media outlets that 38-year-old Anthony Craig Owens of Easley died at the scene of the crash Saturday night. Video shot by witnesses shows a two-door vehicle leaving the track, flipping several times and landing on a group of vehicles along the side of the track. Officials said a man on the sidelines with his family was also injured. The man managed to shove his 3-year-old boy out of the way, but the child was also injured and airlifted to the hospital. Racers said they would continue to run Saturday night. The winner of the event was expected to donate money to the families.

Associated Press: Homeowner, suspect hospitalized after Pelion home invasion

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

SC State Wire

Authorities are investigating a shooting at a home in Pelion. The State newspaper reports (<http://bit.ly/2a92mKW>) that Lexington County deputies responded to a call at around 1 a.m. Saturday that

someone had been shot. Investigators say they think the homeowner and suspect were both shot in an exchange of gunfire during a home invasion. Both the homeowner and suspect have been hospitalized and are expected to recover. Their names have not been released.

Associated Press: Police call Greenville man's thrown punch attempted murder

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

SC State Wire

Greenville police say a punch that knocked a man unconscious may be an example of attempted murder. Multiple media organizations reported the 29-year-old victim of the attack remained hospitalized in stable condition Friday, two days after the surprise punch. Greenville Police Officer Gilberto Franco said his injuries likely would have been fatal without medical attention. Police released a photo Friday evening showing a group of people they want to interview about the attack. Officers responded late Wednesday to the plaza outside a downtown performing arts center. Several witnesses said the attacker walked up to the victim and punched him in the side of the head and walked away, leaving the man unconscious on the ground.

Independent Mail: Anderson County's violent crime rate up by a third in 2016

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/anderson-countys-violent-crime-rate-up-by-a-third-in-2016-379a1949-94ad-193f-e053-0100007fd838-388750521.html>

Mike Ellis

The Anderson County Sheriff's Office reports that violent crimes in the first half of this year have increased by a third over the same time last year. Violent crimes are defined by the FBI as homicides/manslaughters, rape, aggravated assault and robbery. The county's increases are in rape, aggravated assault and robbery. The county had fewer homicides/manslaughters than last year. There were 538 violent crimes in the first half of this year compared with 399 violent crimes in the first six months of 2015. The crime with the largest increase in Anderson County is aggravated assault, which is 40 percent higher than last year. This year's crime increase looks especially high, at least in part, because last year the county had its lowest violent crime figures in the first six months of the previous five years.

Herald-Journal: New program to introduce Spartanburg teens to justice system

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160730/articles/160739991>

Daniel J. Gross

A new program is being planned that will introduce at-risk youth to the criminal justice system in order to break down barriers and promote potential career paths. The Spartanburg County Criminal Justice Youth Institute, led by Clerk of Court Hope Blackley, will accept ninth- through 12th-grade students for the four-month program. Students will learn about how the courthouse, the solicitor's office and area law enforcement agencies work. Blackley said she hopes to launch the program in September, beginning with a barbecue event in Spartanburg that will include police officers, sheriff's deputies and others in law enforcement and criminal justice. The program will select 10 students from each Spartanburg County school district who meet certain criteria. "We want to target at-risk students ... to help them understand how it all works and maybe they'll take away the idea that this might be a career path for them," Blackley said. "There's a low percentage of minorities that go into these fields."

Post and Courier : Local terrorism analyst monitors Islamic State social media

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160730/160739958/local-terrorism-analyst-monitors-islamic-state-social-media>

Alison Graham

Michael S. Smith II opened Twitter and thumbed past familiar Islamic State posts until one made him stop: his picture, next to the words "Wanted dead." Smith's photo stared back at him, pasted over the face of an Islamic State prisoner about to have his throat cut by a masked, knife-wielding assassin. His phone pinged with notifications as he repeatedly received a haunting video — a man's head being sawed off with a serrated knife. Every time he opened his phone, he was face to face with a bloody and violent execution. But Smith insisted he wasn't scared. As a counterterrorism analyst, he sees graphic images every day. For years the Charleston resident has been monitoring Islamic State social media as the jihadist group spreads its message and recruits new members. Over time, he has pieced together a clear enough picture of their activities to publish reports on terrorism and advise members of Congress working on counterterrorism policy. His work has made him a go-to commentator on cable news and an oft-quoted source in major publications, including The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal. It's also drawn the attention of ISIS, whose members and supporters have taunted and badgered him with online threats.

Associated Press: 1 dead after SUV crashes into golf cart near SC golf course

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=tHGcK9Na

SC State Wire

A man crossing a road near the Pickens County Golf Course in a golf cart is dead after he was hit by an SUV. Pickens County Coroner Kandy Kelley said 70-year-old Carl Edward Williams of Liberty was killed in the Saturday morning crash. The coroner says Williams was pronounced dead at Greenville Memorial Hospital from blunt force trauma. The South Carolina Highway Patrol tells multiple media organizations that a woman and three teenagers inside the SUV were taken to the hospital for treatment. All were wearing seat belts.

The Herald: York County traffic deaths have already surpassed number from 2015

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article92828427.html>

Teddy Kulmala

With five months remaining in 2016, York County has already surpassed the total number of traffic fatalities it saw during all of last year. And the number keeps ticking upward. From January 1 through July 15, 2015, York County had nine traffic fatalities, according to preliminary numbers provided by the S.C. Department of Public Safety. Through July 15 of this year, York County recorded 21 fatalities – three more than the 18 total deaths in 2015. The deaths so far this year include motor vehicle drivers and passengers, motorcyclists, pedestrians and a moped driver. Three more people died July 23 in separate crashes in York and Fort Mill.

The State: BullStreet operations officer Robert Hughes says redevelopment project ahead of schedule

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article92625082.html>

Jeff Wilkinson

Robert Hughes serves as chief operating officer at Hughes Development Corp., which is redeveloping the 181-acre former State Hospital campus on Bull Street in Columbia. A Greenville native, Robert attended Duke University and spent five years in New York City before returning to Greenville in 2012 to work in his family's business. In New York, Robert worked in sales and trading for Lehman Brothers and Barclays Capital before receiving his master of business administration from Columbia University. At Hughes Development, he has overseen numerous projects in Greenville, including the acquisition and renovation of the 16-story, 196,000-square-foot Bank of America Tower on Main Street, as well as the final construction and leasing of the 400,000-square-foot Greenville ONE mixed-use development completed in 2013. Greenville ONE consists of two

towers of nine stories and 11 stories with offices over retail. Hughes' main focus today is the BullStreet development, where he is managing day-to-day operations on site while his father, Bob Hughes, oversees the overall development plan and vision.

Post and Courier: Boeing Co.'s maneuver holds a personal finance lesson for individuals and families

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160731/160739995/boeing-cos-maneuver-holds-a-personal-finance-lesson-for-individuals-and-families>

David Slade

Wouldn't it be nice if you could just decide to delay paying your bills for four months, like Boeing Co.? As The Post and Courier reported last week, Boeing has decided to delay paying vendors' bills for up to 120 days in order to improve its cash flow. Of course, individuals generally don't have the ability to do that — we'd get socked with fees, interest charges and maybe litigation. But managing cash flow does play a role in personal finance, and there are some steps individuals can take. Cash flow is pretty much what it sounds like: the pace at which money is coming in and going out. Slowing the pace at which money goes out, as Boeing is doing, means having more money on hand for a longer period. And having more money on hand can mean lots of good things, such as the ability to pay bills without borrowing and the potential to earn extra interest on the money. The most obvious example, for individuals, is paying bills with credit cards, and then paying off the card balances in full when they come due, incurring no interest charges or fees. For example, my utility bills are paid with a credit card each month, essentially pushing the due date for those bills forward by a month or more, when the credit card bill will be due.

Post and Courier: Charleston, Folly Beach consider curbing plastic bag use; could bring national fight to SC

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160730/160739959/charleston-folly-beach-consider-curbing-plastic-bag-use-could-bring-national-fight-to-sc>

Abigail Darlington

Isle of Palms became the first town in South Carolina to ban plastic bags last year, and now Charleston and Folly Beach are looking to curb consumption of the single-use bags, possibly by banning them or imposing a fee at checkout counters. In doing so they could bring the nationwide fight over plastic bags to South Carolina, which happens to be the headquarters of one of the largest packaging manufacturers in North America, a company leading the fight against such restrictions. Folly Beach City Council is voting at its Aug. 9 meeting on whether to prevent the island's merchants from distributing or selling plastic bags, and also Styrofoam coolers. Members of Charleston County and city of Charleston government, environmental groups and nonprofit organizations have joined forces on an online survey to gauge how the public feels about measures to curb plastic bag use.

Sun News : Multiple factors responsible for busy season of ocean rescues along the Grand Strand

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article92823782.html>

Chloe Johnson and Elizabeth Townsend

As another summer season nears its close, some ocean swimmers remain missing. They disappeared on different days, in different areas along the beaches, but they share the same status: not declared dead by the coroner's office, but likely not alive. First responders along the Strand said this summer has been a busy time for water rescues, and multiple factors are contributing to the reason behind them. Officials say having more and more visitors each year has been steadily creating more water rescues during a summer that's been plagued by rip currents and stronger longshore currents. "I've seen other summers where we've had some issues, but we're seeing more

and more people on the Strand and more people are staying in the water longer," said Duke Brown, beach safety director with Horry County Beach Patrol.

Aiken Standard : Southern Living names Aiken State Park one of top swimming holes in the South
<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160730/160739961/southern-living-names-aiken-state-park-one-of-top-swimming-holes-in-the-south>

Dede Biles

Looking for somewhere to cool off during the dog days of summer? You might want to head to Aiken State Park near Windsor. Based on a story in the August edition of Southern Living magazine, the park is among "The South's Best Swimming Holes and Waterfalls." Park Manager Robert Mahoney described the mention in Southern Living as "a tremendous honor" in a telephone interview Friday. The South Fork of the Edisto River runs through the 1,067-acre park. Also on the property are a 14-acre lake, a four-acre pond, and two one-acre ponds, Mahoney said. The swimming area is in the one-acre pond adjacent to the park's main picnic area, and in the summer, it is popular. "Aiken State Park is considered a family-oriented type of place, and a lot of the people who come here utilize the swimming area," Mahoney said. "In the last couple of weeks, we've had a lot of buses full of kids come out to swim and picnic and enjoy the park for the day." Other South Carolina locations listed in the Southern Living article were Lake Marion, which is the state's largest lake, and Chau Ram Falls, which is about 25 miles west of Clemson.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: Hispanics see shift in Trump's immigration rhetoric

<http://bigstory.ap.org/4a0894bbab4c455d82fd852cf4cb14de>

Jill Colvin and Luis Alonso Lugo

As he turns his attention to the general election, Donald Trump is signaling that he is ready to tone down his fiery rhetoric on illegal immigration — at least behind closed doors. At the same time, Republican officials appear eager to push him in a more moderate direction, telling Hispanics that he has abandoned his divisive primary pledge to deport the estimated 11 million people living in the country illegally — even if Trump hasn't said so publicly himself. "Trump has already said that he will not do massive deportations," Helen Aguirre Ferre, the Republican National Committee's director of Hispanic communications, told reporters at a Spanish-language briefing at the party's convention two weeks ago. Instead, she said, "he will focus on removing the violent undocumented who have criminal records and live in the country."

Associated Press: Bipartisan backlash for Trump after questioning Khan family

<http://bigstory.ap.org/0b7d83ce12b74f2a98495d7a24da75a2>

Lisa Lerer and Jonathan Lemire

Donald Trump sparked bipartisan backlash after the Republican attacked the bereaved parents of a Muslim U.S. Army captain who spoke at the Democratic convention last week. Critics from both parties on Saturday questioned whether Trump had the empathy and understanding to be president, particularly after he questioned why mourning mother Ghazala Khan stayed silent during her husband's Thursday night address. "He was kind of trying to turn that into some kind of ridicule," Democratic vice presidential nominee Tim Kaine said after a campaign event in Pittsburgh. "It just demonstrates again kind of a temperamental unfitness. If you don't have any more sense of empathy than that, then I'm not sure you can learn it." Former President Bill Clinton, who joined his wife and Kaine at the event, agreed: "I cannot conceive how you can say that about a Gold Star mother."

Post and Courier: A tale of two political conventions

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160730/160739960/a-tale-of-two-political-conventions>

Emma Dumain

In the most obvious ways, the Democratic and Republican national conventions could not have been more different — in tenor, tone, content and substance. In plenty of more subtle ways, both followed similar templates for how to stage compelling political theater and communicate a partisan message that will drive votes out for each's respective candidate in November. South Carolina Republicans and Democrats didn't go to the other's nominating convention, of course, but The Post and Courier embedded with each delegation for much of the festivities in both Cleveland and Philadelphia. Here are some of the takeaways...

NOTE: The RNC offered speaking slots to Gov. Nikki Haley and U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, both of whom spoke in Tampa four years ago in support of then-candidate Mitt Romney. Both declined this year, with Haley barely able to say Donald Trump's name and Scott prepared to speak on his behalf in small groups but apparently not on a national stage. Only Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster ended up playing a role in the festivities, selected to give a nominating speech as the first elected official to endorse Trump in the primary.

The State: Columbia attorney remembers Hillary Clinton's work for SC children

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/article92848387.html>

Jeff Wilkinson

As a young lawyer just four years out of University of South Carolina Law School, Herbert Buhl III wanted to help people. So he started working part time, often for free, for the American Civil Liberties Union. In the early 1970s, he accepted a job as local counsel in a case in which the ACLU, the Children's Defense Fund and others challenged a widespread practice in South Carolina of housing juvenile offenders with adults in rural county jails. The practice often led to abuse. One of his co-workers on the case was an up-and-coming attorney fresh from Yale University. Her name was Hillary Rodham. "It was her first job out of law school," said Buhl, 71, who still practices law from his Five Points office. "She was very dedicated, very committed to children and families." During his speech Tuesday, former President Bill Clinton noted his wife's service to children early in her career. The South Carolina jail case was one of the examples he mentioned. It also was mentioned in a campaign ad narrated by actor Morgan Freeman. "She went to South Carolina to see why so many African-American boys, I mean young teenagers, were being jailed for years with adults in men's prisons," Bill Clinton said. Hillary Clinton would go on to other pursuits – first lady of Arkansas, first lady of the United States, U. S. senator from New York and U.S. secretary of state.

National News:

Associated Press : At least 16 dead in hot air balloon crash in Central Texas

<http://bigstory.ap.org/039465cbe3dc4976bde4c9d269aea566>

Jim Vertuno

At least 16 people died in the hot air balloon crash in Central Texas, the National Transportation Safety Board said Sunday, adding that investigators are still trying to determine the exact number of passengers and what caused the accident. It's apparently the worst such disaster in U.S. history, and one of the worst ever in the world. In February 2013, a balloon flying over Luxor, Egypt, caught fire and plunged 1,000 feet to the ground, crashing into a sugar cane field and killing at least 19 foreign tourists. NTSB investigators are beginning the process of determining what caused the balloon to crash Saturday morning in a pasture near Lockhart, Texas, which is about 30 miles south of Austin, NTSB member Robert Sumwalt said during a news conference Sunday in Washington. He noted

they'll be looking at "three things — human, machine and environment."

Associated Press: Officials: 1 dead, 3 hospitalized in Austin shooting

<http://bigstory.ap.org/ff8a7c3b24054efd853b2f9aaad5a03c>

A shooting in a crowded entertainment district of downtown Austin early Sunday set off a chaotic scene, leaving one woman dead and three others wounded and police searching for a suspect. Austin Police Chief of Staff Brian Manley says police received reports of gunshots in the crowded entertainment area shortly after 2 a.m. Police arrived to find a chaotic scene and five people shot. Manley says a suspect began firing into the crowd after an initial disturbance. He said a woman was pronounced dead at the scene, and three other women were taken to University Medical Center Brackenridge with gunshot wounds. Officials described those transported to the hospital as serious, but said their wounds were not considered life-threatening.

World News:

Associated Press : China's nuclear power ambitions sailing into troubled waters

<http://bigstory.ap.org/4536fc06722b43a989d79518b8cb24ba>

Joe McDonald

China's ambitions to become a pioneer in nuclear energy are sailing into troubled waters. Two state-owned companies plan to develop floating nuclear reactors, a technology engineers have been considering since the 1970s for use by oil rigs or island communities. Beijing is racing Russia, which started developing its own in 2007, to get a unit into commercial operation. In China's case, the achievement would be tempered by concern its reactors might be sent into harm's way to support oil exploration in the South China Sea, where Beijing faces conflicting territorial claims by neighbors including Vietnam and the Philippines. Chinese news reports say plans call for deploying 20 reactors there, though neither developer has mentioned the area.

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