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To:
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Subject: Morning Clips – Friday, September 9, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Times and Democrat: Bourbon barrel maker investing \$3.6M in Bamberg
http://thetandd.com/special-section/industry/bourbon-barrel-maker-investing-m-in-bamberg/article_f5d2ce66-5f23-5152-b46e-387260af703a.html

Gene Zaleski

A start-up company announced in January that it will make barrels for the bourbon industry in Bamberg County. Black Water Barrels LLC plans to invest \$3.6 million, resulting in the creation of 57 new jobs over the next five years. "We are very excited for the opportunity to build our barrel-manufacturing company in Bamberg County," Black Water Barrels LLC President Greg Pierce said in a prepared statement. "During the process of visiting several states and counties, the people of Bamberg welcomed us with open arms. We look forward to being part of such a great community and working with the county and state to become South Carolina's only cooperage," he said. To house its operations, the company purchased the 9,000-square-foot former Zeigler Chevrolet dealership at 3941 Main Highway. The company plans to add an additional 12,000 square feet. The property has about seven acres.

NOTE: "The people of Bamberg appreciate the jobs that Black Water Barrels will create, and we appreciate the support we have received from Governor Haley, the S.C. Department of Commerce, Southern Carolina Alliance and our county council in helping this new company locate here," Bamberg County Economic Development Commission Chairwoman Clara Thomas said. "We look forward to working with the Black Water Barrels manufacturing team."

NOTE: "It's exciting to see new companies choose our state as their home for the future because it proves that Team South Carolina's approach to providing a business-friendly environment is working," Bamberg County native Gov. Nikki Haley said. "Black Water Barrels' investment, and the 57 new jobs it will create, will make a real difference in Bamberg County, and is a reason to celebrate across South Carolina."

TWC News: Presidential Candidates Racking Up Travel Costs as they Travel Along the Campaign Trail

<http://www.twcnews.com/nc/charlotte/politics/2016/09/8/presidential-candidates-racking-up-travel-costs-as-they-travel-along-the-campaign-trail.html>

Andrew Sorensen

As presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump criss-cross the state, they're racking up some serious travel tabs. They've spent as high as \$38,000 on one event space and \$45,000 on event staging. Political scientist Michael Bitzer says they've likely spent millions of dollars on in-person events, and will likely spend millions more before November. "If you're talking about not just Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, but Mike Pence and Tim Kaine, along with surrogates who are going to be coming into this state, Nikki Haley, probably Chris Christie will be paying visits. Those will be racking up the amount of money coming into this state," said Bitzer. Bitzer says he expects about one big rally per week from each campaign through November.

SC Political News:

Post and Courier : S.C. lawmakers pressure Congressional leaders to fund Charleston Harbor dredging

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160908/160909524/sc-lawmakers-pressure-congressional-leaders-to-fund-charleston-harbor-dredging>

Emma Dumain

U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford, R-S.C., is spearheading an effort to pressure House Republican leaders to prioritize passage of a pending water infrastructure bill by the end of this month. A failure to send the so-called Water Resources and Development Act, or WRDA, to the president's desk before the end of the fiscal year could jeopardize progress on deepening the Charleston Harbor. Funding for the \$509 million dredging project is included in the bill. Sanford, with U.S. Rep. Lois Frankel, D-Fla., is currently circulating among House colleagues a draft letter to leadership. As of Thursday afternoon, 113 lawmakers from both sides of the aisle had committed their signatures, including South Carolina Republicans Jeff Duncan and Tom Rice. U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-S.C., plans to sign it, too. "Allocating floor time for the Water Resources Development Act would ... reflect a bipartisan commitment to invest in our water infrastructure and promote environmental restoration," reads draft language, obtained by The Post and Courier.

McClatchy DC : Graham says Trump's praise of Putin 'unnerves me to my core'

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/national/article100654677.html#storylink=cpy>

Vera Bergengruen

An openly exasperated Sen. Lindsey Graham slammed Donald Trump on Thursday for saying that Russian President Vladimir Putin is a better leader than President Barack Obama. "Vladimir Putin is a thug, a dictator, an autocratic ruler who has his opposition killed in the streets in Russia," the South Carolina Republican told reporters on Capitol Hill. "If you are running to be leader of the free world and you find admiration for Putin, well, then, you're losing me." The Republican presidential nominee made his latest comments about Putin at a forum on military and national security issues hosted by NBC on Wednesday evening, but his stance isn't new. Trump has often expressed admiration for Putin's leadership, describing him as strong and resolute in contrast to Obama, whom he has painted as a weak and ineffective leader. Graham said that while he agreed that Obama had failed to stand up to Putin, Trump's comment crossed the line and "unnerves me to my core."

Associated Press : Some SC lawmakers say Hermine showed dam rules not needed

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

Jeffrey Collins

Nearly a year after 2 feet of rain caused 50 dams to fail across South Carolina, regulators want lawmakers to pass new rules for the dams they are responsible for. But some lawmakers - after giving the Department of Health and Environmental Control more money - think just doubling the number of people inspecting dams may have been enough. DHEC is asking for three things when the Legislature returns in January. The agency wants to require the owners of the 2,500 dams it regulates to register contact information and an emergency plan yearly and to require smaller dams not normally under DHEC's responsibility to be inspected if their failure would damage roads or utilities. Regulators also want the 160 dams that are the biggest threat to people inspected by an independent engineer every five years and 460 dams with a significant threat every 10 years. The new rules would only affect dams in South Carolina big enough to fall under DHEC's rules. The agency has no idea how many small, mostly earthen dams there are in South Carolina, roughly

estimating the number at over 10,000.

The State: SC lawmakers remain skeptical about toughening dam-safety law

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article100719717.html>

Avery G. Wilks

S.C. lawmakers again expressed skepticism Thursday about the need to tighten the state's dam-safety law, 11 months after a historic storm burst 45 dams in the Columbia area. After proposed tougher dam regulations died in the Legislature last spring, state regulators Thursday proposed lawmakers require S.C. dam owners to register with the state, check their dams each year for problems and, in some cases, hire a professional engineer to conduct periodic inspections. The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control also asked legislators to allow it to regulate small dams that, if breached, could lead to damaged roads, utilities or property. But an S.C. House panel peppered DHEC's David Wilson with questions for most of the 90-minute meeting. Legislators appeared nowhere near reaching a consensus on what should be done.

Post and Courier: After 7-hour Ethics Commission hearing, no decision in Treasurer Loftis case

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160908/160909543/after-7-hour-ethics-commission-hearing-no-decision-in-treasurer-loftis-case>

Gavin Jackson

State Treasurer Curtis Loftis met behind closed doors with the state Ethics Commission for seven hours Thursday in connection to a 2014 complaint that alleged he helped a friend get hired to represent his office in a lawsuit. Afterward, Loftis did not say whether he testified, nor did he comment after leaving the hearing, which coincided with his 58th birthday. No disciplinary action was announced either. In late June, the commission denied Loftis' request to dismiss the complaint that accused him of asking S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson to hire Michael Montgomery, a longtime friend who served as Loftis' personal attorney, to represent the Treasurer's Office against the Bank of New York Mellon. Montgomery was paid \$2 million in 2013 after the case was settled against BNY Mellon. The custody bank was suspected of violating a securities lending agreement with the treasurer involving state pension funds. The following year the state renewed its contract with BNY Mellon, which holds more than \$40 billion in state assets.

The State: Loftis faces ethics complaint behind closed doors

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article100731312.html>

Tim Flach

State Treasurer Curtis Loftis spent part of his 58th birthday Thursday battling charges that he improperly helped a longtime friend obtain a lucrative state-paid assignment. Loftis and his lawyer, Greg Harris, declined comment after a closed-door session with the state Ethics Commission that lasted nearly seven hours. The matter was "explored thoroughly" during the marathon session, said Sam Griswold, a retired state employee who made the complaint against Loftis. "There were significant arguments made on both sides." Griswold questioned the hiring, which he says cost retirees \$2 million in legal fees that were paid as part of a settlement of a dispute with a bank. Loftis, who lives in West Columbia, faces a fine of up to \$2,000 and a public reprimand if the commission agrees he influenced the hiring of lawyer Michael Montgomery.

Morning News: Florence voters hear political professors, party leaders at forum

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_ccc11ae8-7638-11e6-8074-9ba2e8d19b70.html

Joshua Lloyd

State Democrat and Republican party leaders, along with local college professors, took part in a voter education symposium Thursday evening aimed at getting past election tensions to help voters better understand the political process. The event began with Dr. David White, the department chairman of political science at Francis Marion University, and Dr. Jacob Butler Jr., chairman of the division of social sciences at Morris College touching on how government should work.

SC Agency News:

Post and Courier : Charleston ports agency awards grants to 49 charitable groups

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160908/160909507/charleston-ports-agency-awards-grants-to-49-charitable-groups>

David Wren

Dozens of South Carolina charitable organizations will receive grants totaling \$85,000 from a program operated by the State Ports Authority, the maritime agency announced Thursday. The grants are given to organizations that have a positive impact on at least one of four categories: maritime commerce; economic development; environmental awareness; and community outreach. Grants of \$5,000, \$2,500 and \$1,000 will be given to 49 groups. This year's total is the most funding ever awarded under the SPA's Community Giving Program. "The port's mission extends well beyond our gates," Jim Newsome, the SPA's president and CEO, said in a statement. "As we grow in our role as an economic development engine for the state, so does our commitment to be a strong community partner and neighbor. The organizations selected to receive grant funds will support critical programs and initiatives across the state."

Michael Slager Case:

Post and Courier: Without evidence, Hanahan police close probe into arson fire at Michael Slager's former home

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160908/160909537/without-evidence-hanahan-police-close-probe-into-arson-fire-at-michael-slayers-former-home>

Andrew Knapp

Without evidence pointing to an arsonist, investigators this week closed their probe into a small fire set at the Hanahan home once rented by former North Charleston officer Michael Slager. Someone threw Molotov cocktails at the house in January, three days after Slager was bailed out of jail in Walter Scott's shooting death. Slager had not been living there since his arrest on a murder charge. A neighbor reported seeing a shadowy suspect in the night. But authorities could not identify anyone from the description, and a state lab report revealed no forensic evidence on the four crude grenades that officers found, a police spokesman said Thursday. "The (State Law Enforcement Division) report came back inconclusive," said Capt. Michael Fowler of the Hanahan Police Department. "We didn't get any fingerprints. We didn't get any DNA. We were looking for ... anything on there we could try to match."

SC Law Enforcement News:

The State : If you travel Forest Drive now you'll see this to honor fallen officer

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article100593507.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

Almost a year after Forest Acres police officer Greg Alia was gunned down, his family, friends and

fellow officers gathered to witness the unveiling of a new road sign in his honor. Alia was killed responding to a call at the Richland Mall early Sept. 30. Now, a sign at the intersection of Forest Drive and Beltline Boulevard – right next to the police department – will bear his name. The police department was packed Thursday morning for the unveiling of the new sign, with attendees including family members, lawmakers and numerous first responders and law enforcement officers from local and state agencies. Kassy Alia, Greg's wife, spoke tearfully to those gathered. "There have been so many beautiful demonstrations of love that really help mend your heart," she said.

Associated Press: City doesn't want to keep paying leave to cop who shot teen

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=gKG5m3nq

SC State Wire

A South Carolina city is firing one of its police officers because after 13 months it no longer wants to pay him to be on administrative leave as he is investigated for shooting an unarmed teen, according to the officer's personnel file. The short note added to Seneca police Lt. Mark Tiller's file points out that even though a state prosecutor didn't file criminal charges in Tiller's shooting of Zachary Hammond as he tried to drive away during a drug sting, an investigation by federal officials continues. "Being a small municipality, the department must fill this integral position and release the employee," reads the note, released Thursday by Seneca after a Freedom of Information Act request. Seneca Police Department's website lists 16 patrol officers, with Tiller as a supervisor of one of the two shifts. Tiller's last day with the force will be Friday. He can be hired by another agency if they wish.

Independent Mail : File details firing of Seneca officer

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/09/08/file-details-firing-seneca-officer/90068444/>

Mike Ellis

Seneca Police Lt. Mark Tiller, the officer who shot and killed Zachary Hammond last year, was fired nearly a month ago because the town could not afford to have him on paid leave for more than a year, according to his personnel file. In response to Freedom of Information Act requests, Seneca Police Chief John Covington released two pages of Tiller's personnel file on Thursday. The rest of his file has previously been released. Covington confirmed Saturday that Tiller had been fired. The paperwork signed by Covington is dated Aug. 10. Tiller's last day of effective employment is Friday. The entire explanation for his dismissal is: "Employee remains under an unresolved investigation and on paid administrative leave for over one year following a police shooting. Being a small municipality, the department must fill this integral position and release the employee."

The State : Latta Police Chief fired, she announces

<http://www.thestate.com/news/state/south-carolina/article100792542.html>

Rachael Myers Lowe

Crystal Moore announced to her Facebook following late Thursday night that she had been fired as police chief of Latta, SC. Moore was suspended from her post last week for reasons that were not disclosed. Last Thursday she acknowledged the suspension but refused to elaborate. She did disclose, in a Facebook post, that she recently had been diagnosed with a type of cancer called sarcoma which is cancer of the soft tissue. She said her doctors were positive about her prognosis but that she would have to take "several rounds of chemotherapy" to prevent the cancer from coming back. Moore, who is gay, received national attention in 2014 when Mayor Earl Bullard fired her. She was reinstated after a state investigation. She did not indicate in her latest public statement whether she is continuing her candidacy for sheriff of Dillon County. Last week however, she was determined to continue the campaign. "Nothing-not pettiness, not bigotry, and definitely not cancer-will hold me back," she wrote.

Savannah River Site/MOX News:

The State: MOX plant at Savannah River Site will cost \$12 billion more than initially thought

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article100635952.html>

Sammy Fretwell

The long delayed mixed oxide fuel plant at the Savannah River Site will cost about \$12 billion more to build than originally anticipated — and that's another reason the government should consider scrapping the project, federal officials said Thursday. During a briefing for reporters, U.S. Department of Energy officials said the MOX project was supposed to cost under \$5 billion. But since work started in 2007, the estimated cost has risen to \$17 billion. The latest estimate is based on a soon-to-be released study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. John MacWilliams, an associate deputy energy secretary, said it would cost about \$1 billion a year and could take until 2048 to complete the project. The project was supposed to be done in 2016 but has been beset by cost overruns related to design questions and problems with contractors. "It is simply not conceivable to us that there is \$1 billion a year starting now and going out for decades to be able to accomplish this," he said.

Aiken Standard: Savannah River Site tour focuses on MOX, plutonium downblending methods

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160908/160909558/savannah-river-site-tour-focuses-on-mox-plutonium-downblending-methods->

Thomas Gardiner

A welder lets loose a cascade of sparks from a lift at the end of a long concrete tunnel. Hundreds of workers affix piping, duct work and wires inside the monolithic construction project like carpenter ants in a colony. The rebar, concrete and cranes are piecing together the mixed oxide fuel fabrication facility, or MOX, designed to convert weapons-grade plutonium into usable fuel for commercial nuclear reactors for electricity production. Plutonium disposition methods and facilities were on display Thursday during a media tour of Savannah River Site's MOX and K-Area, guided by the National Nuclear Security Administration. The tour came amid ongoing tensions over the nation's preferred method for disposing of weapons-grade plutonium. Elements of the U.S. government are split between MOX and a dilute and dispose method, called downblending, for process and disposal of the nation's plutonium.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Marines: Recruit killed himself amid culture of abuse

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

Susanne M. Schafer

A Marine recruit committed suicide in March amid a widespread culture of hazing and abuse in his battalion at Parris Island that could lead to punishments for as many as 20 officers and enlisted leaders, the Marine Corps said Thursday. Some of those 20 commanders and senior enlisted leaders have already been fired, including the three most senior Marines in charge of the recruit's unit. The Marines also ordered that the rest be temporarily relieved, according to a statement sent to The Associated Press. Their punishments could range from administrative punishments, such as counseling, to the most severe action of military charges and a court-martial. However, that process could take months, and the leaders would not be identified unless they are formally charged.

Island Packet : USMC: Recruit's death a suicide; 20 training personnel face possible action in 3 investigations

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/bg-military/article100646907.html>

Wade Livingston

The Marine Corps says the death of recruit Raheel Siddiqui was a suicide, and three command investigations at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island have revealed troubling behaviors and lapses there. "Currently, twenty Recruit Training Regiment personnel have been identified for possible military justice or administrative action," according to a statement from Marine Corps Headquarters released Thursday afternoon. There are no official charges yet, according to a Marine Corps official speaking on background. The findings of the investigations have been endorsed by Maj. Gen. James W. Lukeman, commanding general, Training and Education Command, but must be reviewed by the Corps' legal affairs division before any charges are recommended. That process "could take months," according to the official, who said the charges would then be submitted to Lukeman for his review and endorsement. One of the investigations was a "red dot" investigation, according to the official. That type is initiated by a letter of inquiry from the White House.

Associated Press: Marines uncover wide abuse, hazing after recruit's suicide

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=iCrgyWf7

SC State Wire

The Marine Corps is considering possible punishments and potential courts-martial for up to 20 officers and enlisted leaders in the wake of investigations into the suicide of a 20-year-old recruit at its Parris Island training facility in South Carolina. The results of three investigations released Thursday found trainees - and even some drill instructors - were subjected to repeated incidents of verbal and physical abuse at the storied training site. It also faulted commanders for not paying enough attention to what was going on. The investigations were sparked by the death of Raheel Siddiqui of Taylor, Michigan, a young Muslim who had told his relatives he wanted to become a Marine to serve his country. He died after falling nearly 40 feet in a stairwell. An attorney for Siddiqui's family, Nabih Ayad, has said the family has "always suspected hazing of some sort" in connection with his death. He did not return a phone call Thursday and calls to the family weren't returned.

Associated Press: The Latest: Congresswoman to visit Marine training site

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=eCd0RH1A

SC State Wire

The Michigan congresswoman who pressed the Marine Corps to look into the March death of a recruit says she is going to visit the South Carolina training site this weekend to review changes the service has made in light of his death. Rep. Debbie Dingell, a Democrat from Michigan, says in a statement from Washington that she believes the Marines have only taken the first step in helping 20-year-old Raheel Siddiqui's family get the answers they deserve. The Marine Corps said Thursday that Siddiqui committed suicide in March and that a culture of hazing and abuse existed in his unit. The service is looking into potential punishment for up to 20 officers and enlisted leaders. Dingell said that, "as a young Muslim man, he truly understood the value of freedom of religion and all he wanted was to defend the ideals our nation holds dear."

Island Packet : Parris Island's new commander on love, knuckleballs and the depot's future

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/bg-military/article100688552.html#storylink=cpy>

Wade Livingston

Brig. Gen. Austin E. Renforth had planned to throw heat. He'd even been practicing, throwing fastballs to his aide at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island ahead of his trip to Pennsylvania. But when the depot's new commander got to the Pittsburgh Pirates' PNC Park on Aug. 24 and strolled to the

mound in his dress blues — the kind with a short-sleeve khaki shirt minus the tie — he saw the parrot. The Pirate Parrot, the team's mascot, took up station behind home plate sporting a "cartoonish" — Renforth's word — glove that might catch a cantaloupe but, the general worried, might have trouble with his fastball. So, he changed the pitch ... to a knuckleball, a brave if unorthodox selection. Renforth, an affable, self-deprecating man, might say he's an unorthodox selection to lead the recruiting, recruit training and facilities management efforts at Parris Island.

Associated Press : Army's Fort Jackson begins talks on its 100-year celebration

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

SC State Wire

The Army's largest training installation is hosting a series of lectures leading up to the celebration of Fort Jackson's 100-year anniversary in 2017. Columbia mayor Bob Coble is scheduled to give the opening remarks on Friday at 3 p.m. at the NCO Club on the role South Carolina's state capital has played in the founding of the Army post. South Carolina historian Fritz Hamer is also speaking about the early years of the installation and its relations with the community. The lectures are the first in a quarterly series of talks on the history of the sprawling Army installation outside Columbia. Other events include museum exhibits, sporting events and the annual Army Birthday Ball dedicated to celebrating 100 years of service.

Associated Press: Army drill, platoon sergeants test physical, mentor skills

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

SC State Wire

The Army's top drill and platoon sergeants are wrapping up a friendly competition of their physical and mentoring skills. The four-day event at Fort Jackson ends on Friday with honors handed out at an afternoon ceremony. The senior enlisted men and women must show how they are able to teach soldier-trainees in multiple tasks and drills. Those include distance runs, marches, obstacle courses, physical training and knowledge of Army values, among others. The sergeants must show how they are able to endure physical and mental challenges, even as they maintain poise and emotional focus while they teach more than 50 basic skills to new soldiers. Fort Jackson is the Army's largest training installation, putting more than 45,000 men and women through basic combat training each year.

Post and Courier: Charleston metro area sets record for value of exported goods

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160908/160909506/charleston-metro-area-sets-record-for-value-of-exported-goods>

David Wren

Exports of goods produced in the Charleston metro area topped a record \$6.5 billion during 2015, a new International Trade Administration report shows. "Global consumers are looking for the quality and innovation of South Carolina products," Dorette Coetsee, director of the U.S. Commercial Service in South Carolina, said in a statement. "Charleston companies are increasingly finding new customers overseas, and we hope to keep working with area companies as they focus on going global." Locally produced exports increased by \$591 million, or 10.1 percent, from 2014 to 2015, according to the 2015 Metropolitan Area Export Overview. The Charleston-North Charleston metro area ranked 45th nationally for the value of exported goods and was one of 63 metro areas nationwide to set export records last year.

Associated Press: Tossing nets: Recreation shrimping season opening on coast

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6Psg40eE

SC State Wire

The fall recreational shrimping season is getting underway on the South Carolina coast. Media outlets report the two-month shrimp-baiting season opens at noon Friday. Officials with the state Department of Natural Resources say a good harvest is expected following a good spring shrimping season. The shrimp caught in the fall are the offspring of the spring shrimp. Recreational shrimpers need a license. It's only \$25 for South Carolina residents but a pricey \$500 for those from out of state. Recreational shrimping has long been a tradition in South Carolina, but it's not nearly as popular as it once was. In 1998 more than 17,000 recreational shrimping licenses were sold. That dropped to about 6,200 last year even though the number of registered boats has increased.

Local News:

Associated Press : Search suspended for overboard cruise ship passenger

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Upn74NvE

SC State Wire

The U.S. Coast Guard has suspended its search in the Bahamas for a New York woman who went overboard from a cruise ship. According to the Miami Herald (<http://hrlid.us/2cKbPun>), Capt. Todd Coggeshall with the Coast Guard's 7th District said in a statement Thursday night that the "difficult decision" had been made to halt the search pending any further developments. Rina Patel, 32, of Interlaken, New York, was reported missing Wednesday. The Coast Guard said she had been on the 11th deck of the Carnival Ecstasy as the ship passed near the island of Grand Bahama. Carnival Cruise Line reported she apparently jumped overboard. Coast Guard aircraft and two ships assisted in the search. The cruise ship had left Nassau, Bahamas, and was en route to Charleston, South Carolina.

Post and Courier: Tri-county clowns fight back against negative perceptions

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160908/160909512/tri-county-clowns-fight-back-against-negative-perceptions>

Gregory Yee

They first appeared in Greenville: Clowns promising candy, holding money, attempting to lure children into the woods. Some were said to be armed with chains, knives and flashing green lasers. Parents were terrified after the initial Aug. 20 sightings. Within days, the story hit dozens of national media outlets. Authorities weren't able to find concrete evidence of any suspicious clowns or clown-related paraphernalia in the area, but the stories kept coming with several more sightings in North and South Carolina in recent weeks. Tri-county clowns aren't happy about the developments, which have the potential to hurt business and trample on carefully cultivated reputations as friendly children's entertainers.

Associated Press: Actor dies after falling from stage, hitting his head

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=fBM3YfFL

SC State Wire

Anderson County officials say a local actor has died after falling from a stage and hitting his head prior to rehearsals. Anderson County Deputy Coroner Don McCown said in a statement Thursday that Carl Gingola died from his injuries after taking a fall on Monday at the Clemson Little Theatre in Pendleton. McCown says Gingola was moving a copier and was stepping backward when he fell from the stage onto the floor just before rehearsal for the upcoming performance of "You Can't Take It With You." He was taken to a hospital, where he later died. The theatre's website says Gingola was new to the Pendleton theater but had performed in other theatres throughout the Upstate and over 20 roles in Connecticut. He lived in Pendleton with his wife.

Associated Press: Man gets life in prison for 2015 fatal gas station shooting

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=rWCY2FAg

SC State Wire

A 19-year-old Summerville man will spend life behind bars for a fatal shooting last year at a gas station. News agencies report Thomas Robert Shewtzuk was sentenced to life in prison Thursday after a jury convicted him of murder in the death of 23-year-old Travis Aaron Gordon of Goose Creek. Prosecutors say Shewtzuk shot Gordon to death after kidnapping Gordon and forcing him to go to the Summerville gas station in June 2015. Shewtzuk's defense attorney says Shewtzuk never intended to kill Gordon and that he just wanted to rob him. Investigators have said the motive may have been a dispute over a woman whom the suspect and victim had both dated. Another suspect, 23-year-old Joshua Bryan Jordan, also faces charges in Gordon's death. His trial date has not yet been set.

Associated Press: Deputies: Driver who fled traffic stop found with drugs, gun

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=34gTHSNv

SC State Wire

Authorities say a driver fled a traffic stop, crashed his vehicle and ran before he was later found with drugs and a gun. Greenville County Sheriff's Office tells media outlets that 29-year-old Dominick Lorenzo Johnson was taken into custody Thursday night on failure to stop for blue lights, drug and other charges. Sheriff's office spokesman Ryan Flood says deputies tried to pull Johnson's vehicle over, but he didn't stop. Authorities say deputies didn't follow the driver, but ended up locating the vehicle minutes later crashed behind a Greenville Salvation Army. Flood says Johnson, who had fled on foot, was found a short time later. Investigators say Johnson was also found with drugs and at least one gun. It's unclear if he has an attorney.

Post and Courier: Charleston DEA and parents team up to fight growing epidemic of heroin, prescription opioid deaths

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160908/160909522/charleston-dea-and-parents-team-up-to-fight-growing-epidemic-of-heroin-prescription-opioid-deaths>

Gregory Yee

Nanci Shipman stood at the front of the small, crowded room Thursday morning, the first of three mothers united in tragedy. The Mount Pleasant resident shared the story of Creighton, her 19-year-old son who died from a heroin overdose July 17. He was a good student and a talented lacrosse player, Shipman said. He was set to begin his sophomore year at Mars Hill University in North Carolina, far from the common perception of a heroin addict in popular culture. Shipman was among roughly 40 people who gathered at the Marina Variety Store Restaurant to launch Wake Up, a Drug Enforcement Administration campaign that's part of a new approach aimed at leveraging community engagement to end heroin and opioid deaths and abuse. Creighton Shipman's fatal journey began after he was injured at a December 2011 lacrosse tournament, his mother said. An abscess developed in the Mount Pleasant native's leg where he had been "cleated." He was prescribed opioid painkillers after emergency surgery.

Sun News: North Myrtle Beach firefighters now using Narcan to reverse overdoses

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article100720262.html>

The North Myrtle Beach Department of Public Safety's Fire Rescue Division will become the fourth fire department in the state to carry and administer Narcan, a drug used to reverse the effects of opiate overdose. Emergency medical technicians with North Myrtle Beach and Myrtle Beach fire departments are now able to use the drug to revive people suspected of overdoses on drugs such as

heroin and Fentanyl and prescription medications Vicodin, Dilaudid, Demerol and Percocet. Previously, only certified paramedics were allowed to administer the life-saving drug in South Carolina, according to a release from North Myrtle Beach city spokesman Pat Dowling. But now the S.C. Department of Health & Environmental Control has approved Narcan to be used by EMTs under the direction of the department's medical director.

Associated Press : South Carolina Vet Administration holds mental health summit

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=cbNkb3hK

SC State Wire

The South Carolina Veterans Health Administration is hosting its fifth community mental health summit and inviting those who assist veterans to attend. VA clinical psychologist Michelle Andra says the event scheduled for Friday focuses on suicide prevention efforts and ways to increase veterans' access to mental health services. Andra, from the Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia, says the event is designed to bring together members of the VA and Department of Defense communities to help them collaborate with military veterans. The event is being held from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Medallion Center in Columbia, 7309 Garners Ferry Rd.

The State: City needs more from USC to curb unruly behavior, councilman says

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article100750517.html>

Cynthia Roldan

A Columbia councilman said the city needs more cooperation from the University of South Carolina to tackle the issue of unruly students in neighborhoods that surround the university. Councilman Howard Duvall, an at-large City Council member, said the city has taken the steps to enact tools, such as the new rental housing ordinance that went into effect July 1, to curb the deterioration of the city's neighborhoods. But the city has been inundated with an increase in student population at the university. And its officials "don't seem to want to accept the responsibility" that would require off-campus students be supervised as closely as those living on campus. Since school started, there have been reports of vandalism and of students falling asleep on the property of university-area homeowners. Residents of Columbia's neighborhoods worry fed up homeowners will just sell their homes, leaving mainly rowdy students behind.

Post and Courier: College of Charleston student charged with sexually exploiting 17-year-old student, fraternity shut down

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160908/160909539/college-of-charleston-student-charged-with-sexually-exploiting-17-year-old-student-fraternity-shut-down->

Deanna Pan

Three days before the College of Charleston announced a crackdown on excessive drinking and risky behavior among fraternity and sorority members, a 17-year-old college student told police she was raped at an off-campus party. A week later, a 21-year-old College of Charleston fraternity brother was charged with first- and third-degree sexual exploitation of a minor. The campus chapter of his fraternity was closed on the same day the college instituted an alcohol ban at fraternity and sorority events. Timothy Eli Seppi, from Rockville, Maryland, was arrested Saturday after Charleston police found a photograph of the teen on his iPhone, "engaged in an act or simulation of sexual activity," according to his arrest affidavit. The photograph showed the young woman undressed and sitting on a bed with a naked male standing in front of her. Charleston police Detective Doug Galluccio said the photo wasn't posted online or on social media.

The State: HBC returns to Columbia to sell new biography

<http://www.thestate.com/sports/college/university-of-south-carolina/usc-football/article100760557.html>

Josh Kendall

The winningest coach in South Carolina football was back in town Thursday. This time he was here to sell books. Steve Spurrier signed copies of his new biography "Head Ball Coach: My Life in Football" at the Books-A-Million at Village of Sandhills. It was his fifth book signing and first in the state of South Carolina, where he coached the Gamecocks to an 86-49 record from 2005-2015. "It's OK. It's part of it," Spurrier signed as he sat in a backroom at Books-A-Million signing dozens of copies of his book to leave at the store. "Kind of like going to the booster clubs." Spurrier's book, which was released last week, is No. 1 in Amazon's football biography category and is No. 17 among all books selling at Books-A-Million locally. The book is co-authored by Buddy Martin, and Spurrier mentioned that Rita Boykin, his secretary in Columbia who is now athletics director Ray Tanner's secretary, deserved some credit for typing up Spurrier's rewrites.

Independent Mail : Flu arriving early in Upstate

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/09/08/flu-arriving-early-upstate/90015742/>

Kirk Brown

The flu season may be starting sooner than normal in the Upstate and elsewhere. Physicians with AnMed Health in Anderson have seen several flu patients in the past month, spokesman Ross Norton said Thursday. Some customers with flu symptoms have picked up prescriptions at Bryant Pharmacy and Supply in Anderson during the past couple of weeks, said state Sen. Kevin Bryant, who is president of the business. "It's a little unusual," Bryant said. Influenza also has made an early appearance in Greenville County. "We've seen two positive flu cases within the past three weeks," Greenville Health System spokesman Dudley Brown said..

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press : Trump supporters court Jewish settlers in the West Bank

<http://bigstory.ap.org/27c38a355ba84b1ca0c4f553c58f9857>

Josef Federman

Republican activists are trying to "make America great again" — from inside a Jewish settlement deep in the West Bank. This week, supporters of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump have set up a campaign office in the Karnei Shomron settlement in the northern West Bank, hoping to tap into the large numbers of American immigrants in the area for support. The office is in addition to several Republican outposts set up across Israel to get American expatriates to register to vote. A new location in Gush Etzion, a bloc of settlements near Jerusalem, is expected to open next week. It's believed to be the first time either Republican or the Democrat activists have placed a campaign office in the West Bank. Marc Zell, co-chair of Republicans Overseas Israel, said the get-out-the-vote effort is not just for show.

Associated Press: The Latest: Trump manager offers no specifics on North Korea

<http://bigstory.ap.org/052109a4de02459798529c5172f1374a>

Donald Trump's campaign manager says if he's president and North Korea fired ballistic rockets, Trump "wouldn't do what's done now." Kellyanne Conway told CBS's Charlie Rose Friday that Trump's position is to put America first, but she offered no details for how the Republican nominee would handle North Korea's growing nuclear threat. North Korea conducted its fifth nuclear test on Friday, just eight months after it claimed it successfully detonated a small hydrogen bomb. It was the first time the Asian nation conducted two nuclear tests in one year. Conway said that if Trump is president, North Korea will know that the Americans "aren't messin' around."

Associated Press : Facebook co-founder pledging \$20 million to defeat Trump

<http://bigstory.ap.org/20d740f10c4c424eb0c6cd1b8571c8ba>

Julie Bykowicz

A billionaire Facebook co-founder says he is giving \$20 million to help defeat Donald Trump, calling the Republican presidential candidate divisive and dangerous and his appeals to Americans who feel left behind "quite possibly a deliberate con." By contrast, Dustin Moskovitz says Democrats and their nominee, Hillary Clinton, are "running on a vision of optimism, pragmatism, inclusiveness and mutual benefit." Moskovitz wrote about the contributions in a Thursday night posting on the website Medium. "As a nation, we need to figure out how to bring everyone with us, and we believe the Democratic platform currently is more aligned with ensuring that happens," he wrote.

Associated Press: House conservatives serve notice to Ryan _ and Clinton

<http://bigstory.ap.org/2a9b6cf971a24f03a4c958648e170fe3>

Erica Werner

House conservatives have wasted no time since returning from their summer recess showing just how tough they can make life for Speaker Paul Ryan — and for Democrat Hillary Clinton if she becomes president. Conservatives look determined to force a vote in coming days to impeach the head of the IRS despite deep misgivings among other Republicans about such a pre-election move. They're pressuring Ryan to oppose a deal taking shape in the Senate on must-pass legislation to keep the government open. And they're promising to keep investigating Clinton's email issues even if she ends up in the White House. Some conservatives are even saying openly that impeachment hearings should be an option against Clinton.

National News:

Associated Press : For the first time, Bill Cosby's lawyers claim racism

<http://bigstory.ap.org/8c2079b6c20f45e2814f3e7a2c9a4f96>

MaryClaire Dale

Bill Cosby has long preached the gospel of personal responsibility to fellow blacks, irritating those who fault racism for holding the community back. But now lawyers for the 79-year-old comedian have suggested for the first time that racial bias is to blame as Cosby faces the prospect of 13 women testifying in court that he drugged and molested them. Twelve of them are white. Cosby's legal team raised the issue on the courthouse steps Tuesday after a hearing in his criminal sex assault case in suburban Philadelphia. Whether they intend to bring up race in the courtroom remains to be seen. At a minimum, some legal experts said the defense is trying to influence potential jurors. "I think that you've always got to have in mind who's your jury pool," said Los Angeles lawyer Mark Geragos, whose clients have included Michael Jackson. "That's probably the end game."

World News:

Associated Press : Seoul: North Korea's 5th nuke test 'fanatic recklessness'

<http://bigstory.ap.org/0036bf28680b453e98a1f2a90f1fb375>

Foster Kulg and Hyung-Jin Kim

North Korea said it conducted a "higher level" nuclear test explosion on Friday that will allow it to finally build "at will" an array of stronger, smaller and lighter nuclear weapons. It was the North's fifth atomic test and the second in eight months. South Korea's president called the detonation, which Seoul estimated was the North's biggest-ever in explosive yield, an act of "fanatic recklessness."

Japan called North Korea an "outlaw nation." North Korea's boast of a technologically game-changing nuclear test defied both tough international sanctions and long-standing diplomatic pressure to curb its nuclear ambitions. It will raise serious worries in many world capitals that North Korea has moved another step closer to its goal of a nuclear-armed missile that could one day strike the U.S. mainland. Seoul vowed to boost psychological warfare efforts by increasing the number of propaganda loudspeakers along the rivals' border, the world's most heavily armed, and the number of hours of anti-North Korean broadcasts.

Associated Press: AP Analysis: N. Korea seeks leverage by playing nuke card

<http://bigstory.ap.org/db56253b88d8470faea458fa18ab8025>

Eric Tulmadge

Mark up another first for North Korea — two nuclear tests in one year. And that's not all. With leader Kim Jong Un smiling broadly all the while, bigger and better ballistic missiles have been flying off the North's shores, and now even from under its waters, at breakneck pace. Alarming? Certainly. Surprising? Hardly. With few other options, or allies to rally behind it, this is how Pyongyang likes to play its cards in the power game that is northeast Asian politics. The question is whether it can play them well enough to get what its ruling regime really wants: international recognition, security guarantees and, at the most fundamental level, its own continued survival. This is shaping up to be the busiest year ever for North Korea's nuclear and missile programs. It rang in 2016 with what it said was its first H-bomb test and has been shooting off various kinds of long-range missiles — including one from a submarine — more frequently than normal. It conducted its second nuclear test of the year Friday, this time to indicate it can arm those ballistic missiles it's been testing with nuclear-tipped warheads.

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