

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
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Subject: Morning Clips – Monday, April 11, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Want to graduate college debt free? Teach in a rural area
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=gpls9Zu1

Seanna Adcox

The teacher shortage in poor, rural districts in South Carolina is so bad, the state is considering offering would-be instructors a way to graduate from college debt free. The catch? They have to spend eight years in the state's neediest districts, where turnover is the worst and the closest Wal-Mart can be up to 45 minutes away. There's another, perhaps even bigger, hurdle with Gov. Nikki Haley's proposal: The state doesn't have enough teachers interested in its current \$5 million loan-forgiveness program. Under the South Carolina governor's proposal, students could get \$30,000 worth of student loans erased by working in one of 20 districts where teacher turnover ranged from 11 percent to 34 percent last year. "There's nothing worse for a child to see teachers come and go, because it makes them feel it's not worth teaching in their school," said Haley, who grew up in Bamberg, a town of 3,500 people. The teachers will "become part of the community, so it may not have a movie theater and may not have a restaurant, but it has a community they fall in love with, and that's what we're going to focus on." Haley asked legislators to put \$13.5 million into the rural initiative. The South Carolina House instead put \$8.2 million in its budget toward the plan and an additional \$9 million to poor districts to be used as one-time teacher signing or performance bonuses. The Senate hasn't taken up the plan yet.

News & Observer (Editorial): Pressure builds on HB2

<http://www.newsobserver.com/opinion/editorials/article70964962.html>

The Editorial Board

Opportunity has knocked lately for the states of North and South Carolina. Republicans in North Carolina slammed the door in the faces of those delivering the opportunity with HB2. But in South Carolina, Republican Gov. Nikki Haley, who previously handled a Confederate flag controversy with distinction, has opened the door and without saying it, is welcoming new investment in her state with the implied reassurance that South Carolina isn't North Carolina, and that's good. Haley — joined by overwhelming power in the business community and the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce — says the state doesn't need a proposed law to limit the bathrooms that transgender people can use. North Carolina Republicans passed such a law, HB2, and opened the way for all sorts of discrimination against people based on their sexual orientation or gender identity by saying localities couldn't pass anti-discrimination laws. Since then, hundreds of business leaders have voiced opposition to the law, and PayPal canceled plans for an operations center in Charlotte.

General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: Rested from a two-week break, House members get back to work

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160411/PC1603/160419890>

Maya T. Prabhu

After a two-week break, House of Representatives members head back to Columbia this week to tackle a host of the state's important issues. First up will be the roads bill that was sent back from the Senate shortly before House members head out for mid-session break. Representatives will have to determine what to do with the changes made by the Senate. The plan scraps proposed permanent streams of cash to the Department of Transportation, such as increases to vehicle-related fees and the gas tax, in favor of pulling \$400 million from the state's coffers. The change has enraged House members who spent months crafting the original bill. Now the House has to either agree to the Senate changes or make their own.

Aiken Standard: Dashcam bill heads to House of Representatives

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160410/AIK0101/160419970>

Christina Cleveland

A bill that would require the release of police dashboard video when requested by a member of the public has passed the Senate. The Senate voted 40-0 on second reading last Tuesday and passed it on third reading Wednesday, said Senate Judiciary Chairman Larry Martin. It will now head to the House of Representatives. The bill, in its current form, would require the release of dashcam footage when it "involves an officer involved incident resulting in death, injury, property damage, or the use of deadly force," according to the legislative website. Rep. Bill Clyburn, D-Aiken, thinks the bill will pass in the House this session. Clyburn said the bill will benefit police officers and the people they serve, noting the state has dealt with a lot of events that elected officials want to see resolved. Clyburn said if the bill does not meet the deadline before May 1, it will be very difficult to pass, but he thinks it will pass before then. The House will return Tuesday.

Savannah River Site News:

Aiken Standard: Normal operations resume at Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160410/AIK0101/160419972>

Thomas Gardiner

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, or SRNS, will return to normal operations status today after having at least some areas under deliberate operations for several months. In September 2015, an incident involving plutonium storage and transportation initiated the change in operations. Employees stored approximately 400 grams of plutonium for transportation to the national lab, but the container used was not specified for transportation. The site paused all activity for a short time and began to initialize deliberate operations area by area. Deliberate operations means that processes are conducted with intentional and well-thought out actions in the identification of critical activities. HB-Line, which assists H Canyon in processing materials, is the final area to exit deliberate operations and is expected to do so today, according to an email from Barbara Smoak, spokeswoman for SRNS. Smoak also said that SRNS puts an emphasis on safety and "doing the right thing."

Mississippi 'Religious Freedom Bill':

Associated Press: Bryan Adams cancels Mississippi show, citing state's new law

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:c6bb01a16ca04e9ab7eb0b56a0837086>

Canadian rocker Bryan Adams is canceling a performance this week in Mississippi, citing the state's new law that allows religious groups and some private businesses to refuse service to gay couples. Adams said in a statement Sunday night that he was canceling a show Thursday at the Mississippi

Coast Coliseum in Biloxi. The singer says he can't "in good conscience" perform in a state where "certain people are being denied their civil rights due to their sexual orientation." The move comes after Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band canceled a Sunday show in Greensboro, North Carolina, because of the state's new law blocking anti-discrimination rules for the LGBT community. The Mississippi law will take effect July 1. Supporters say it offers protection for Christians who adhere to traditional views of marriage and gender roles.

SC Political News:

Associated Press: Convicted ex-state senator due in court for missing payments

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ecVAR0WZ

SC State Wire

former South Carolina state senator who resigned amid an ethics investigation and pleaded guilty to misconduct in office is due back in court for missing his monthly, court-ordered payments. Robert Ford of Charleston was sentenced last May to five years of probation and ordered to pay \$70,000 in restitution after pleading guilty to misdemeanor charges. As of a January citation from the state's probation agency, he owed nearly \$9,000 in missed payments. Ford's attorney, William Runyon, says he will ask the judge Monday to reduce Ford's payments. Last month, Ford filed to regain his seat. He resigned in 2013 midway into Senate Ethics hearings on charges he used donations for personal expenses and then tried to cover it up. His colleagues sent their findings to the attorney general's office.

Associated Press: State Rep. King of Rock Hill drops out of congressional race

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1pzygStr

SC State Wire

State Rep. John King of Rock Hill has ended his bid for Congress, just one week after entering the race to unseat 5th District U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney. King told The Herald of Rock Hill (<http://bit.ly/1S3LuIB>) he wants to focus on getting re-elected to a fifth term in the South Carolina House. King has no opposition for that seat. The 39-year-old funeral owner filed to run for the 5th District and paid the \$3,500 filing fee a few minutes before the March 30 deadline. He asked the South Carolina Election Commission last Thursday to remove his name from the ballot because he was no longer running. King's decision leaves Fran Person of Tega Cay as the only Democrat challenging Mulvaney. Mulvaney also faces a Republican primary opponent in June.

Times and Democrat: Rural areas due equal emphasis, Clyburn says

http://thetandd.com/news/rural-areas-due-equal-emphasis-clyburn-says/article_fa26d191-61f8-5a7e-9b56-321f8e21fca9.html

Princess Williams

The time has come to invest seriously in rural areas to provide equal opportunities, Congressman James "Jim" Clyburn said Saturday at a Community Leaders Institute at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College. Attention is too focused on urban areas, the 6th District representative and Democratic U.S. House leader said during the keynote address at the two-day event designed to inform leaders about issues related to community development. "From a young age, I developed a notion that we really don't have an urban problem in this country. If you really think about it, what we have in this country is a failure on the part of the nation to do right by its rural communities," Clyburn said. Most people who end up in urban areas go there from rural communities, the congressman said. "If we had the infrastructure, the roads, the bridges, if we had water that is safe to drink — if we had those things, they wouldn't be going someplace else looking," Clyburn said. Opportunity would

come to rural counties.

Opinion/Editorial:

Aiken Standard: Shane Massey represents Aiken well

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160411/AIK0201/160419994>

Editorial

A word of congratulations is in order for State Senator Shane Massey on his election this week to Senate Majority Leader. South Carolina Senate Republicans elected Massey, R-Edgefield, as Senate Majority Leader Wednesday, a conservative who at least one GOP leader has said will "shake things up" in the Senate. The vote for the post, which will lead the chamber's Republican caucus, followed Gaffney Republican Sen. Harvey Peeler's resignation announcement Tuesday. Massey, 40, a member of the Aiken County Legislative Delegation, was first elected to the Senate in a 2007 special election and is seeking re-election this fall. The senator told reporters during a news conference shared online by the S.C. Republican Caucus on Wednesday he thinks it's important that the face of the caucus is someone who is young, energetic and excited to lead on conservative issues. Massey is all of those things. Young and energetic, definitely on his way up.

Index-Journal: Duncan: Republicans need to support nominee

<http://www.indexjournal.com/news/Duncan--Republicans-need-to-support-nominee-16047181>

Editorial

U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan said Republicans must unify behind their eventual nominee or face having another Democrat as president. "After seven years and four months of 'hope and change,' you would expect things to be a little bit better across this great nation, but unfortunately, that's not the case," Duncan told a crowded room Saturday during this year's 3rd Congressional District's Republican Convention. "We're at record-high levels of unemployment in this country, we're at record-high levels of Americans on some level of government assistance, we're at record-low levels for labor-participation rate in this nation." Duncan, a Laurens Republican who recently filed for another term to his District 3 seat, said there are too many violent protests in the country as well as instances where law enforcement has been targeted. He also said it's harder for Americans to start businesses now because of tax regulations and the Affordable Care Act.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: American Stephens wins Volvo Car Open, beats Vesnina

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

Pete Iacobelli

Sloane Stephens invited a friend to come watch her play at the Volvo Car Open. "And I was like, 'Well, I've never won a match there, so the earlier in the week you could come, the better,'" Stephens said, laughing. Turns out, the rising 23-year-old American had a nice long stay, winning her third WTA title of the season with a 7-6 (4), 6-2 victory over Elena Vesnina in the finals Sunday. Stephens had actually won one match in her previous five main-draw appearances on Charleston's green clay. In this visit, the seventh-seeded Stephens from Plantation, Florida, dropped only one set on the way to her first clay-court crown. Stephens said she changed her fortunes here when she changed her attitude, going from anxious about past losses to carefree about her chances.

Post and Courier: South Carolina state parks getting heart defibrillators

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160410/PC05/160419948>

Allison Prang

Almost half of South Carolina's state parks are now equipped with heart defibrillators, through a combination of donations and funding from the state. As of last week, the life-saving portable devices were in 22 of the 47 properties, said Duane Parrish, director of the S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. The "automated external defibrillators," or AEDs, were put in the busiest locations first. The agency paid \$9,200 for six AEDs seven years ago, according to a spokeswoman. The rest have been donated. Roper St. Francis, for example, provided the AEDs for Charlestowne Landing in West Ashley and Hampton Plantation in McClellanville. Park rangers are trained on how to use the defibrillators and how to do CPR, Parrish said. They're also trained in visitor safety and first aid.

Post and Courier: As court opinions mount, policing in South Carolina becomes ripe for lawsuits

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160410/PC16/160419966>

Andrew Knapp

A North Charleston policeman should not have used a Taser three times on a motorist who was blasting music and must now face a civil trial for alleged constitutional violations, a federal appeals court has ruled. To some observers, federal judges' rebuke of this officer and others accused of civil rights violations around the South, along with sustained public scrutiny of police practices in the wake of officer-involved deaths nationwide, have made law enforcement a ripe environment for litigation. The S.C. Insurance Reserve Fund, the state-run program that backs governments statewide, is paying out more in recent years to settle civil rights claims against the North Charleston police, according to data obtained through the S.C. Freedom of Information Act. The annual total for all claims in 2012 and 2013 was around \$250,000. It rose to \$400,000 in 2014 and hit \$750,000 last year. None of that includes the \$6.5 million that went to the family of Walter Scott, who was fatally shot by a city officer a year ago.

Local News:

WACH: Human Trafficking panel hopes to raise awareness in the Midlands

<http://wach.com/news/local/human-trafficking-panel-hopes-to-raise-awareness-in-the-midlands>

Melanie Barden

The American Association of University Women and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia hosted a panel Sunday afternoon on human trafficking. The term covers a broad category of international crimes- including abduction for prostitution and forced labor. The goal for the panel was to start a community conversation on the issue so that people are aware that it is happening and know how to report it. Moderator and County Councilman Jim Manning says, "Most people do not understand that it is happening here and it's happening here now, with our students in Richland County schools that are being trafficked and arrested almost on an every other month basis over the last twelve months." In South Carolina alone, there have been 418 victims of trafficking since 2007.

WIS: Community leaders gather to discuss human trafficking in the midlands

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31687390/community-leaders-gather-to-discuss-human-trafficking-in-the-midlands>

Caroline Patrickis

A survivor of human trafficking shared her story at a forum on Sunday in hopes of helping others. Megan Madsen talked about physical and mental abuse she endured and how she was able to overcome it. She spoke Sunday afternoon at Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Columbia. Community leaders also gathered to draw attention to human trafficking. Richland County

Councilman Jim Manning called on the community to join the conversation. Officials say the only way to stop the abuse is to talk about what is going on in our neighborhoods. "Most people do not understand that it is happening here and it is happening now with our students in Richland County schools that are being trafficked and arrested almost on an every other month basis for the last 12 months," Councilman Manning said. Several people have been arrested in Richland County this year tied to human trafficking.

Aiken Standard: Black leaders to hold town hall meeting on law enforcement concerns

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160411/AIK0101/160419982>

Maayan Schechter

Black community members will meet today to discuss law enforcement concerns and issues in the Aiken community at roughly the same time that Aiken City Council members will gather to hold their regularly scheduled meeting. The 6 p.m. town hall will be open to the public at the Smith Hazel Recreation Center, 400 Kershaw St. A news release states the town hall meeting is sponsored by the Concerned Ministers Fellowship of Aiken, the NAACP of Aiken County, Black Lives Matter and the African American Leadership Council so as to "inform our community about what we have learned, what we have heard and to develop together a path forward."

Times and Democrat: Police seek to add lesser charge of 'thoughtless driving'

http://thetandd.com/news/article_ce3dcfa1-967e-5774-bc83-78e821184a05.html

Valerie Smith

Santee Town Council on April 6 approved first reading of an amended ordinance that would give police officers the option of charging motorists with "thoughtless operation of a motor vehicle" instead of the more serious charge of reckless driving in some instances. A thoughtless operation of a vehicle citation, which does not result in points on a driver's license, could be issued if a driver operates a vehicle without full regard for people or property or operates a vehicle that is unsafe to drive. The Santee Police Department requested the amendment in order to give officers the option of filing a lesser charge than reckless driving against motorists when circumstances warrant it.

The Herald: York County to show appreciation for 911 dispatchers

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article71042072.html>

Teddy Kulmala

They're the calm, caring voices on the other end of the line when people call for help – often heard but rarely seen, or thanked. This week, York County will show its appreciation for the men and women who answer dozens of calls each day: "911, do you need police, fire or medical?" Tracey Loss has been a dispatcher with York County Public Safety Communications for nearly eight years and says no two days in the dispatch center are the same. "You never know what you're gonna get when you answer the phone," she said. "You don't know if it's gonna be someone reporting littering or someone is unconscious and not breathing and you have to do CPR."

Aiken Standard: Aiken County water lead levels remain below federal standard

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160411/AIK0101/160419981>

Christina Cleveland

Aiken County drinking water has not exceeded the regulated lead action level in the past five years, according to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. The question of tap water quality in American cities has become more frequent following the water crisis in Flint, Michigan. Images of Flint residents holding brown water in plastic water bottles in front of city leaders and news reports of children poisoned by lead have gained nationwide attention this year. None of

the water systems in Aiken named on DHEC's lead data sheet have exceeded the action level for lead, which is greater than 15 parts per billion or .015.

The State: Fee on growth to pay for Lexington County roads suggested

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article71037332.html#storylink=apmobile>

Tim Flach

Lexington County are once talking about levying impact fees on new development to help pay for road improvements. The fees would be part of a package that also might include a proposal for a 10- to 12-mile toll road linking I-20 to the I-26/I-77 intersection near the Congaree River in Richland County – stretching across Red Bank to Dixiana – to route traffic away from Malfunction Junction. It promises to be slow going for both ideas. Renewed interest in fees comes after support for a second try this fall at voter approval of a penny sales tax increase for roads is fading. State money, too, seems unreachable.

Post and Courier: Port growth in Charleston spurs new warehouses, distribution centers

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160410/PC05/160419945>

David Wren

A pair of new facilities are taking advantage of growth in containerized cargo at the Port of Charleston. Lineage Logistics LLC said last week it has opened the region's largest cold-storage warehouse, a 180,000-square-foot building at Palmetto Commerce Park in North Charleston. The warehouse has access to the port via U.S. Interstate 26 and a Norfolk Southern rail line. "Charleston has it all — first-rate infrastructure, great access, a top-ranked port and a skilled workforce," Lineage CEO Greg Lehmkuhl said in a statement. "The feedback we've received to date is that our newest facility is opening in the right location at the right time."

Sun News: Myrtle Beach plans Ocean Blvd. closure to drive tourist foot traffic

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article71051197.html>

Audrey Hudson

Temporarily closing Ocean Boulevard to vehicles in order to increase foot traffic for boardwalk area businesses is a promotional idea that some merchants say they are willing to entertain, although they are skeptical it will bring a significant influx of tourists to the area. The idea was originally proposed by Myrtle Beach Mayor John Rhodes in 2014, but it didn't gain much traction with the city council and no action was ever taken to make the idea a reality. "When I talked about closing the boulevard ... you'd have thought that the Gay Dolphin would be torn down," Rhodes said about the reaction to his original proposal.

Post and Courier: Renourished beaches going to the worms?

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160411/PC16/160419970>

Bo Petersen

Folly Beach needs beach renourishment sand again. The Isle of Palms needs to renourish. Edisto Beach is planning another round. The work has become more frequent and enormously expensive. Now there's the worms. Beach renourishment causes a long-term decline in the abundance of tiny worms in the sand that shorebirds eat, according to a recently released University of California at San Diego [study](#). That could threaten the survival of protected species like red knots and plovers that migrate long distances and need the food to survive the trips. That spells permitting trouble. Those scurrying birds in the tidewash could drastically curtail large-scale renourishment crucial to swarms of summer beachgoers, the tourism economy and residents of beach communities. The impact on endangered or threatened species already is enough of an environmental concern that the projects

approved must avoid work during sea turtle nesting season. Shorebird concerns have delayed and jeopardized projects, such as the restoration of nearly eroded- to-ruin Folly Beach County Park in 2013.

Post and Courier: Company to use genetics to knock off Zika carrier in Charleston, U.S.

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160410/PC16/160419973>

Derrek Asberry

A United Kingdom-based group hopes American regulators will approve its genetically engineered mosquito that could help wipe out Zika-carrying mosquitoes in Charleston and other domestic areas. If the solution comes sooner than later, it would be much welcomed since experts believe a vaccine won't be developed for several months, if not longer. Charleston is a well-known home to the Aedes species, the one that carries the Zika virus. A study from the PLOS Currents publication lists the city and 49 others as being "meteorologically suitable" for the species. There are still no reported cases of the Zika virus in South Carolina, according to the state Department of Health and Environmental Control. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported 41 states with confirmed cases, in addition to Puerto Rico and other U.S. Territories.

Times and Democrat: Foresters, landowners can apply for flood relief

http://thetandd.com/news/local/article_588a527a-1354-5eb5-b2b4-f411771951ad.html

Gene Zaleski

T&D Region foresters and landowners can apply for assistance to restore forest lands damaged by October floods. Orangeburg, Calhoun and Bamberg counties have been approved to accept applications for the Emergency Forest Restoration Program, according to South Carolina U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency Acting State Executive Director W. Jack Nettles. "It is important that producers apply for EFRP assistance timely because program funds will be allocated based on the number of applications received as well as by on-site inspections that will determine the extent of the damage," Nettles said. "I encourage eligible landowners who haven't participated in FSA programs to contact the their local county FSA office as soon as possible because FSA records will have to be created for these individuals."

National News:

The State: Danny Willett wins 2016 Masters Tournament

<http://www.thestate.com/sports/golf/article71066922.html>

Josh Kendall

The first time came on the 12th hole, when Spieth carded a quadruple-bogey 7 to fall from 5- to 1-under and out of the Masters lead. The second time came when Spieth, the defending champion, slipped the jacket onto Willett's shoulders in the presentation ceremony following the tournament. Willett, a 28-year-old Englishman who hadn't won outside the PGA European Tour until Sunday, shot a bogey-free 67 to win the 80th Masters at 5-under for the week. He's the first Brit to win the tournament since Nick Faldo in 1996, which also is the last time someone suffered as shocking a stumble as Spieth.

Associated Press: AP-GfK Poll: Clinton has edge over Trump on range of issues

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:0cc0539936b24fb091869dad1d4eaa65>

Julie Pace and Emily Swanson

In a stark warning for Donald Trump as he eyes a possible general election showdown with Hillary Clinton, Americans trust the Democratic front-runner more than the Republican businessman to

handle a wide range of issues — from immigration to health care to nominating Supreme Court justices. Even when asked which of the two candidates would be best at "making American great" — the central promise of Trump's campaign — Americans are slightly more likely to side with Clinton, according to a new Associated Press-GfK poll. The survey does reveal some potential trouble spots for Clinton. Trump is nearly even with her on whom Americans trust to handle the economy, which voters consistently rank as one of the top issues facing the country. Clinton is trusted more on the economy by 38 percent of Americans, while 35 percent side with Trump. And despite Americans' overall preference for Clinton on a host of issues, just 20 percent say she represents their own views very well on matters they care about, while 23 percent say somewhat well.

Associated Press: Trump cries foul over process as he presses campaign forward

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:64f98b5170734875b164342f0572a666>

Jill Colvin and Laurie Kellman

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is blasting the way the country chooses presidential party nominees as "corrupt" and "crooked" as he grapples with the potential of a brokered convention that he risks losing. Speaking to thousands packed in a frigid airport hangar in western New York on Sunday, Trump ripped the byzantine fight over delegates at the heart of his party's nominating process. He argued anew that the person who wins the most votes in the primary process should automatically be the GOP nominee. "What they're trying to do is subvert the movement with crooked shenanigans," said Trump, comparing his woes to those of Bernie Sanders, who is winning states but still far behind Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton in the race for delegates that decide party nominations. "We should have won it a long time ago," Trump said. "But, you know, we keep losing where we're winning."

World News:

Associated Press: Police hunt suspects in India temple fire that killed 110

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:37b5078e9e24493798c7bc81bc6176f9>

Aijaz Rahi

Medical teams on Monday tended to hundreds of people injured in a massive fire that killed at least 110 people, while authorities searched for those responsible for illegally putting on the fireworks display that caused the weekend blaze at a Hindu temple in southern India. Amid the burned wreckage of the Puttingal Devi temple complex in the village of Paravoor, rescue officials sifted through huge piles of dust, wood and concrete for clues about how an unauthorized pyrotechnic display staged before dawn Sunday sparked a fire that swept through the temple as it was packed with thousands for a religious festival. Police detained five workers for questioning about fireworks stored at the site, hoping to learn more about who owned the fireworks and who had contracted the pyrotechnical display, police constable R. Unnikrishnan Nair said. The five were later released, but Nair did not say whether they were able to help authorities track down any of the 15 temple board members who fled after the accident. The Press Trust of India news agency reported that police were investigating six people — missing temple board members and associates of firework contractors — for possible charges of attempted murder and culpable homicide, both punishable by life imprisonment, and illegally storing a cache of explosives.

Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044

