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To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, September 21, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Times and Democrat: VIDEO: Gov. Nikki Haley at Black Water Barrels, LLC in Bamberg

http://thetandd.com/news/gov-nikki-haley-at-black-water-barrels-llc-in-bamberg/youtube_4824bc4f-67b2-5be1-974b-41c43464dba5.html

The State: How do you make a good bourbon? Start with the best wood, says new Bamberg barrel company

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article103052237.html>

Roddie Burris

South Carolina will crack the seal Wednesday on the only barrel maker in the state when Black Water Barrels cuts the ribbon for a plant at a 20,000-square-foot former Chevrolet dealership in Bamberg County. The business will manufacture barrels from top-grade American white oak primarily for use in the bourbon industry, though owner Greg Pierce said he also will target wineries and breweries. Black Water Barrels is a \$4 million venture that will employ 21 workers to start, with plans to churn out 30,000 oak barrels a year with 60-gallon, 53-gallon and 30-gallon capacities. The plant, located on Main Highway in the town of Bamberg, will also feature a retail center where Black Water Barrel gear will be sold. Tours will also be offered for visitors to watch the oak barrels being made, Pierce said.

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley, a Bamberg native, and S.C. Commerce Secretary Bobby Hitt are expected to attend the opening.

WCSC: Nikki Haley expected in Bamberg

<http://www.live5news.com/story/33149266/nikki-haley-expected-in-bamberg>

Governor Nikki Haley is heading back home and into the classroom. The governor will talk to students and take part in activities organized for a new after school program being brought to Richard Carroll Elementary school in Bamberg. Students will receive snacks, homework help and extra assistance in math and reading. They will also get to take a field trip. The program was organized by the Original Six Foundation and a company called Innersole.

WRDW: Gov. Haley to visit Bamberg County for the Original Six Foundation

<http://www.wrdw.com/content/news/Gov-Haley-to-visit-Bamberg-County-for-the-Original-Six-Foundation-394281331.html>

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley plans to visit Richard Carroll Elementary School for the Original Six Foundation. Gov. Haley is set to visit the school Wednesday at 3 p.m. After taking office in 2011, Gov. Haley created the Foundation to serve as a non-partisan facilitator, catalyst and funding mechanism to unite these efforts to improve these communities. The Mission of The Original Six Foundation is to serve as a catalyst for change by uniting public, private and civic leaders and resources to identify and address the challenging issues facing South Carolina's communities in the areas of education, quality of life, and workforce readiness.

Independent Mail: S.C. technical colleges want more funding

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/education/2016/09/21/sc-technical-colleges-want-more-funding/90793314/>

Mike Eads

State leaders tout South Carolina's technical colleges as essential to attracting manufacturing jobs to the state, while Tri-County Technical College and other schools look for ways to cope with rising enrollments and aging

facilities. Officials with the state's technical college system are thinking about asking for more than \$300 million in new, one-time funding next year to address space and equipment needs at the 16 schools. According to a draft budget presentation being considered by S.C. Technical College System officials for next year, the two-year schools could use \$311.4 million to update their facilities — \$70.6 million for equipment purchases and \$240.8 million for building needs. "We must keep facilities and equipment up-to-date and cutting-edge. ... This request does not demonstrate our entire capital need, but does reflect the top priorities in meeting the demands of business and industry in high-demand STEM, manufacturing and health care fields," said Susan Winsor, interim president until Central Carolina Technical College President Tim Hardee takes over the technical college system later this year.

NOTE: A proposal for a \$200 million, state-issued bond bill to help the state's two- and four-year public colleges failed in this year's legislative session, due in part to opposition from Gov. Nikki Haley.

NOTE: Haley's staff is quick to point out, however, that more than \$65 million from the state's capital reserve fund was approved this year to cover technical college requests — including \$3.5 million for a new science and technology building at Williamsburg and another \$5 million for projects on Tri-County campuses.

NOTE: "Workforce development is one of the governor's top priorities, and that's why we proposed funding for tech school programs such as ReadySC and Pathways, and signed into law nearly \$65 million in capital projects for tech schools across the state last year," said Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams.

Charlotte Protest Shooting:

Associated Press: Police try to quell anger after shooting triggers unrest

<http://bigstory.ap.org/edeeba696ddf4d40bdc862684c3e9067>

Jeffrey Collins

Authorities tried to quell public anger and correct what they characterized as false information Wednesday after a night of looting and arson added Charlotte to the list of U.S. cities that have erupted in violence over the death of a black man at the hands of police. With officials refusing to release any video of the shooting of 43-year-old Keith Lamont Scott, two starkly different versions emerged: Police say Scott disregarded repeated demands to drop his gun, while neighborhood residents say he was holding a book, not a weapon, as he waited for his son to get off the school bus. The killing inflamed racial tensions in a city that seemed to have steered clear of the troubles that engulfed other places. As Charlotte's white mayor and black police chief stood at City Hall and appealed for calm, African-American leaders who said they were speaking for Scott's family held their own news conference near where he was killed on Tuesday, reminding the crowd of other shootings and abuses of black men.

Associated Press: The Latest: Obama calls mayors after protests, shootings

<http://bigstory.ap.org/7bfe17ff37f84995bd5c16c0fcc96675>

The White House says President Barack Obama has called the mayors of Charlotte and Tulsa to get an update on protests after fatal shootings involving police officers and a black victim. Obama made calls to mayors Jennifer Roberts of Charlotte and Dewey Bartlett of Tulsa. The White House says Obama expressed his condolences to both mayors and affirmed the administration's commitment to provide assistance as needed. Obama and the mayors reiterated that protests should be conducted in a peaceful manner and that local law enforcement should find ways to calmly engage those protesting. The White House says Obama will continue to get updates on the situations from Attorney General Loretta Lynch and White House adviser Valerie Jarrett.

Charlotte Observer: U.S. Justice Department 'assessing' police shooting death of Keith Lamont Scott

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/politics-government/article103150327.html>

Steve Harrison

U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch said Wednesday the Department of Justice is "assessing the incident that led to the death of Keith Lamont Scott in Charlotte" and that her office is in "regular contact with local authorities" about its investigation. She also said the Justice Department has opened an investigation into the death of Terrence Crutcher in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Crutcher was a black motorist whose car had broken down on the side of a highway. He was shot and killed by police. "These tragic incidents have once again left Americans with feelings of sorrow, anger and uncertainty," Lynch said in prepared remarks she was to make at the

International Bar Association's annual conference in Washington, D.C. "They have once again highlighted – in the most vivid and painful terms – the real divisions that still persist in this nation between law enforcement and communities of color."

Charlotte Observer: Charlotte leaders seek calm amid protests over fatal police shooting of black man

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/local/crime/article103175292.html>

Adam Bell, Mark Price and Katherine Peralta

Charlotte city leaders appealed for calm Wednesday and promised a thorough investigation of Tuesday's fatal police shooting of a black man that triggered hours of violent protest and shut down Interstate 85. Pockets of the city were on edge late Wednesday afternoon, with some uptown businesses apparently sending workers home early over uncertainty about further protests. The Charlotte Chamber also urged businesses in uptown and University City to "remove or chain down all tables, chairs, signs or planters." At about 4:30 Wednesday, a group of two dozen protesters stood in front of the Bank of America Tower at Trade and Tryon streets. They silently stood and held signs reading "Black Lives Matter" and "Stop Killing Us." Andrew Monroe said the protest was organized informally by a group of black professionals. "What we want to do is show we're not dangerous," he said. "We want to show the world it's not thugs out here." Monroe said black people deserve to be safe in the streets and don't feel the way in the spate of recent police shootings. Across town at UNCC, students gathered at the Union and laid down in protest.

Post and Courier: Peaceful vigil in Marion Square addresses police brutality in wake of Charlotte man's death

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160921/160929908/peaceful-vigil-in-marion-square-addresses-police-brutality-in-wake-of-charlotte-mans-death>

Gregory Yee

As authorities continue to investigate the fatal police shooting of a Charleston native in Charlotte — an incident that sparked a night of violent protests — family members say he didn't deserve to die. Keith Lamont Scott, 43, was raised in Charleston and attended James Island High School, said his mother, James Island resident Vernita Walker. Walker said her son would call her every day and that they spoke the day he was shot. She declined to comment on the shooting but said she plans to release a statement when enough time has passed. Daria Richardson, who identified herself as Scott's niece, said that her uncle was a family man who had been married for about 25 years and had seven children. "He was a very outgoing, spontaneous person," Richardson said. "He was very smart. He loved to dance. He loved to sing. It didn't matter what the situation was." Public address records show Scott lived in the Lowcountry through the early 2000s and was arrested more than a dozen times in the Charleston area.

Michael Slager Case:

Post and Courier: In 'serious' Michael Slager case, deputies will deliver jury summonses, 'gain compliance'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160921/160929862/in-serious-michael-slager-case-deputies-will-deliver-jury-summonses-gain-compliance>

Andrew Knapp

In an unusual move, sheriff's deputies have been tasked with hand-delivering summonses to 500 prospective jurors before the murder trial of former North Charleston police officer Michael Slager. On Friday, the summonses and a questionnaire will start going out to Charleston County residents whose names were chosen at random, a court order stated. If deputies cannot serve the paperwork in person, it can be distributed by mail — the most common method of delivery. The potential jurors must fill out their questionnaires within five days and return them to the clerk of court. If they don't, the deputies will follow up "to gain compliance," Circuit Judge Clifton Newman said in the order. Charleston County Sheriff Al Cannon said Wednesday that serving jury summonses is just one function of his agency. "Certainly in a serious case like this," he said, "you want to make sure people get the jury summons."

General Assembly News:

The State: State House corruption probe ongoing

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article103297277.html>

Cassie Cope

Evidence that a probe into S.C. State House corruption is continuing emerged Wednesday with GOP leaders saying they support the House Republican Caucus cooperating with investigators. S.C. House GOP caucus leaders are cooperating with inquiries from the State Law Enforcement Division, said Assistant Majority Leader Gary Simrill, R-York. Simrill said he cannot comment on what SLED officers are investigating, citing an ongoing State Grand Jury investigation. But, he added, he supports the caucus fully cooperating with any and all SLED inquiries. "I certainly support transparency from the caucus point of view and the full cooperation with inquiries from SLED," said Simrill. House Majority Leader Bruce Bannister, R-Greenville, could not be reached for comment late Wednesday. In July, the S.C. Supreme Court ruled 4-1 that Attorney General Alan Wilson can not stop special prosecutor David Pascoe from investigating possible corruption in the General Assembly.

Associated Press: Justices to continue overseeing education funding case

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=y7MS9hEB

Seanna Adcox

The Legislature must report back to the state Supreme Court next summer on its progress complying with the justices' 2014 order to fix South Carolina's education system. While applauding legislators' "studied and dedicated approach," justices rejected GOP leaders' request last month that the high court end its oversight on the 23-year-old case over adequate funding. "We commend the defendants on their efforts and await, with anticipation, reports on further implementation of the findings and recommendations," the justices wrote in Tuesday's order. "On that note, we opt to continue to monitor the progress towards a constitutionally compliant education system." The high court's latest order also requires rural school districts that initially sued in 1993 to detail their efforts. Both reports are due by June 30, 2017 - more than a month after the scheduled end of the legislative session that starts in January.

The State: SC Supreme Court will keep oversight of suit by poor, rural schools

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article103224682.html>

Jamie Self

The S.C. Supreme Court will continue its oversight of a landmark 1993 school-equity lawsuit brought against the state by poor, rural school districts that say they need more money. In its order, dated Tuesday, the state's highest court also called on S.C. lawmakers and the districts that sued the state to update it by June 30 on steps both have taken to fix constitutional violations in the state's K-12 public schools. The order is a response to the school districts' request for the court to stay involved in the case. That request came after state leaders asked the court to dismiss the lawsuit, citing the steps the Legislature already has taken to address inequities in public education identified in the court's 2014 ruling. The school districts have criticized the state for passing laws calling for more studies - not immediate reforms - and for not focusing enough on helping poor schools. NOTE: It praised lawmakers and Gov. Nikki Haley for their efforts, saying it expected the state to study what would be necessary to ensure students in poor schools have access to "a minimally adequate education." NOTE: "Our clients stand ready to work with the Legislature and Gov. Haley's office in a collaborative fashion, as they have always have been, to do everything they can to help the students we represent," Epps said.

Post and Courier: Court commends state's progress toward educating poor students, but maintains oversight

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160921/160929864/court-commends-states-progress-toward-educating-poor-students-but-maintains-oversight>

Maya T. Prabhu

The work done by the General Assembly this year has placed the state on its way toward equally educating South Carolina students in poor and rural areas, but the S.C. Supreme Court will continue to monitor progress. The high court's ruling found that bills passed by the General Assembly this year show lawmakers are committed to providing quality education to all students. "We find the combined reports indicate a studied and dedicated approach has been and will continue to be taken by the defendants (the state) to resolve the issues identified by this court," the justices wrote in their order. Lawmakers filed a report earlier this summer in response to a 2014 court ruling that found the state had failed to provide students a constitutionally mandated adequate education. The case, filed by Abbeville School District and other rural districts, has

lingered in the court system for two decades.

Post and Courier: Mixed feelings at race relations forum hosted by Reps. Gilliard, Limehouse

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160921/160929857/mixed-feelings-at-race-relations-forum-hosted-by-reps-gilliard-limehouse>

Derrek Asberry

Encouraged to be honest and open about his take on race relations in America, James Johnson said black folks are feeling frustrated about the ongoing shootings involving black men and white police officers. "The perception is that the police officers are not being held accountable, and that builds up hostility," said Johnson, state coordinator of the National Action Network. Johnson joined about a dozen others on a forum panel Wednesday at the College of Charleston. Two Charleston lawmakers, state Reps. Chip Limehouse, a Republican, and Wendell Gilliard, a Democrat, organized the forum, advertising it as a way to for people to air out their personal feelings on race issues. One panelist, Rafe O'Connor, is a student at the College of Charleston. A California native, O'Connor said she was never introduced to racism until she came to the South.

SC Agency News:

The State: Upstate prisoner on the lam caught

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article103251042.html>

Cynthia Roldan

Authorities have caught an Upstate prisoner who went on the lam Tuesday. Blake Rochester, 25, was captured Wednesday at 2:30 p.m., in Cherokee County by S.C. Department of Corrections officials. Law enforcement officers from the State Law Enforcement Division and from the sheriff's offices of Cherokee and Spartanburg counties aided in the manhunt, according to SCDC spokesman Dexter Lee. Rochester escaped Tuesday at 8:26 a.m., from Livesay Correctional Institution, a minimum security facility in Spartanburg County. He was serving a sentence of four years, 10 months and six days for breaking into a motor vehicle, according to SCDC.

The Herald: Escaped inmate recaptured in Cherokee County

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20160921/escaped-inmate-recaptured-in-cherokee-county?rssfeed=true>

Daniel J. Gross

A man who escaped a minimum-level security prison in Spartanburg Tuesday was captured in Cherokee County Wednesday afternoon. S.C. Department of Corrections officers took Blake Rochester, 25, into custody after finding him at a home in the Cherokee Creek community around 2:30 p.m. No one was injured, said Cherokee County Sheriff Steve Mueller. Rochester was brought to the Cherokee County jail Wednesday. Rochester was serving a nearly five-year prison sentence at Livesay Correctional Institution on Broadcast Drive in Spartanburg for breaking into a motor vehicle. Rochester escaped Livesay around 8:30 a.m., according to SCDC.

The State: Former S.C. Department of Corrections officers arrested for misconduct

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article103189242.html>

Cynthia Roldan

Two former state prison correctional officers are facing misconduct charges for allowing inmates to bring in contraband into a facility. Taylor Johnson, of Columbia, and Jamar Brown, of Orangeburg, were served with their arresting warrants on Monday and Tuesday, respectively. Johnson had already resigned in June, while Brown did in August, according to Dexter Lee, spokesman for the Department of Corrections. According to their warrants, both Brown and Johnson allowed Broad River Correctional Institution "inmates to go outside and retrieve packages containing cell phones, tools and tobacco" on June 20. Those items are considered contraband by the agency. Johnson was hired by the agency in June 2012. Brown was hired in April 2014. Both admitted the allegations to investigators, according to their warrants.

The State: Baby girl abandoned at Palmetto Health Richland hospital

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article103041412.html>

A nearly 2-month-old baby girl was left at Palmetto Health Richland Hospital on Monday, the state

Department of Social Services said in a news release. The abandonment of the African-American infant born July 21, 2016, is covered under "Daniel's Law." Under that law, if a baby is "abandoned" in a safe place within 60 days of birth and has not been harmed, the person leaving the child does not have to identify her or himself and cannot be prosecuted. A court hearing is planned for Oct. 17 to free the baby for adoption, DSS said. If the baby's parents want to assert parental rights, they can do so then. Under Daniel's Law, a safe haven is defined as a hospital or hospital outpatient facility, law enforcement agencies, fire stations, EMS stations or a house of worship during the time the church, mosque or synagogue is staffed.

Post and Courier: DEA focuses on addiction fight during national Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160921/160929932/dea-focuses-on-addiction-fight-during-national-prescription-opioid-and-heroin-epidemic-awareness-week>

Gregory Yee

Authorities are continuing their efforts to curb opioid addiction and deaths in South Carolina. Heroin and opioid deaths are on the rise in the Lowcountry, said Jason Sandoval, resident agent in charge for the Drug Enforcement Administration's Charleston office. Nationally, 129 people per day die from drug overdoses and 61 percent of those deaths can be attributed to heroin or other opioids, Sandoval said. The DEA launched its "Wake Up" campaign Sept. 8 to educate the community about opioid addiction and to inform people on how to help. President Barack Obama added to the effort, declaring this Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week nationwide. In 2015, Charleston County's heroin-related death rate was 15 percent higher than the national average, Sandoval said. Dorchester County saw an opioid-related death rate 182 percent higher than the national average in 2015 while Berkeley County saw a rate 139 percent higher than the average.

Greenville News: SC attorney general: Court would not uphold DDSN tape-recording rule

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/09/21/sc-attorney-general-court-would-not-uphold-ddsn-tape-recording-rule/90684580/>

Tim Smith

State Attorney General Alan Wilson's office believes a court would be reluctant to uphold a recent rule by the state Department of Disabilities and Special Needs Commission forbidding commissioners from tape recording public meetings, according to an opinion by the office issued last week. Assistant Attorney General Anita Fair said in the opinion that the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act allows anyone at a public meeting to use a tape recorder. "Since the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act authorizes recording of meetings 'by any person,' this office believes a court will be reluctant to uphold such a rule preventing anyone from recording a meeting," she wrote in the opinion. She wrote that the opinion is just that and only a court can interpret statutes and make determinations about the law.

SC Political News:

The State: Person, Second Lady Biden to fundraise in Charleston

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article103217357.html>

Bristow Marchant

A S.C. congressional candidate is traveling outside his district for a fundraiser with the vice president's wife at the home of a former TV judge. Fran Person, the Democratic candidate in the 5th District, will appear with Jill Biden at two Charleston area fundraisers on Wednesday, Sept. 28. One will be at the home of Charleston attorney Akim Anastopoulos, who presided over the syndicated TV courtroom show "Eye for an Eye" as Judge "Extreme Akim" from 2003 to 2009. Person and Biden will join Anastopoulos for a dinner fundraiser at 5 p.m., following a luncheon at a home on Sullivan's Island. Person, who is running to oust Republican incumbent Mick Mulvaney in the Upstate congressional district, is a former aide to Vice President Joe Biden. Earlier this month, Biden campaigned with Person in Rock Hill and Fort Mill.

SC Delegation News:

Post and Courier: Scott expands his 'Opportunity Agenda' with 'Opportunity Coalition'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160921/160929878/scott-expands-his-opportunity-agenda-with-opportunity-coalition>

Emma Dumain

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott speaks often about the need for Republicans to address the nation's poverty epidemic in terms Americans can understand. It seems some of his fellow GOP lawmakers are catching on. On Wednesday morning, the South Carolina Republican formally unveiled his new "Senate Opportunity Coalition," a group of five Republicans he's brought together who share the same interest in promoting a kinder, gentler party often criticized for speaking past the problem with dispassionate graphs, charts and numbers. They are all committed to sharing both the success stories and the more troubling episodes they've witnessed back home, putting a spotlight on how poverty manifests itself in different ways, from rural areas to urban, from white communities to black to Latino and, for U.S. Sen. Dan Sullivan, the indigenous people who inhabit his state of Alaska.

Post and Courier: S.C. lawmakers on different sides of Saudi Arabia arms sale debate

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160921/160929860/sc-lawmakers-on-different-sides-of-saudi-arabia-arms-sale-debate>

Emma Dumain

This week, Congress is debating the merits of blocking a \$1.15 billion sale of U.S. weaponry to Saudi Arabia, with two South Carolina Republicans taking leading roles on opposite sides of the issue. The action on Wednesday surrounded a vote by the U.S. Senate to rebuff a bipartisan effort to force consideration of a resolution to prevent the arms sale from going through. Proponents of the resolution cited a litany of concerns. Some said Congress never authorized the United States to assist Saudi Arabia in the war in Yemen; others argued the Saudi government should be held accountable for the mass civilian casualties there. They were not successful in advancing their proposal, but they are looking to allies in the U.S. House to help continue the fight — including South Carolina Republican Rep. Mick Mulvaney, the lead GOP co-sponsor of an identical resolution to the one thwarted in the Senate.

Post and Courier: Calling for fix to bill allowing 9/11 victims to sue Saudi Arabia, Graham raises eyebrows at S. C. law firm

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160921/160929905/calling-for-fix-to-bill-allowing-911-victims-to-sue-saudi-arabia-graham-raises-eyebrows-at-sc-law-firm>

Emma Dumain

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham wants changes to a bill that would give 9/11 survivors and victims' families recourse to sue Saudi Arabia. The South Carolina Republican's push to revise the existing language, however, has him at odds with one of the state's largest law firms that is representing almost 6,000 people who either survived or are related to a victim of those terror attacks. "Our hope would be that Sen. Graham and other would-be detractors would take a careful look at the text of the bill and realize that, as it's been presented and passed unanimously by the entire Congress, they would realize that it represents good public policy for the United States," said Robert Haeferle, an attorney working on this case at Motley Rice, a plaintiffs firm based in Mount Pleasant with offices around the country. The debate over the so-called "Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act" is also taking place after the measure passed both chambers of Congress and has been sent to President Barack Obama, who plans to veto it on grounds it would potentially harm the United States' relationship with an important ally, plus prevent a situation where the U.S. could be sued in retaliation.

Savannah River Site/MOX News:

Aiken Standard: Labor union appeals to Hillary Clinton in ongoing MOX fight

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160921/160929881/labor-union-appeals-to-hillary-clinton-in-ongoing-mox-fight>

Thomas Gardiner

A labor union tossed its hat in the ring earlier this month in the national battle over the future of the multi-billion dollar Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility, or MOX, at the Savannah River Site near Aiken. The United

Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America penned a letter to Hillary Clinton, addressed to her as "Secretary Clinton," dated Sept. 8. In the letter, the union voices concern over the Obama Administration's efforts to wash its hands of the MOX project. The letter said, "We are writing you to encourage you to urge the Obama Administration to not take any action to terminate MOX in fiscal year 2017." The letter asks that Congress have the chance to make a decision on the authorizations and financial appropriations for the facility's future.

South Carolina News:

The State: 6,000 more SC students could get lottery scholarships

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article103288897.html>

Cassie Cope

About 6,000 more S.C. high school students could be eligible for S.C. lottery scholarships because the state recently moved to a 10-point grading scale. Eventually, that could cost S.C. taxpayers up to \$50 million a year. However, some lawmakers are balking at the cost, saying any extra money spent on education should go to the state's poor, rural schools — not college students. The new grading scale — an "A" now is a grade from 90 to 100 and a "B" from 80 to 89, when an "A" formerly was a grade from 93 to 100 and a "B" was 85 to 92 — means 6,000 more students will be eligible for the LIFE and Hope scholarships, according to the S.C. Commission on Higher Education estimates. Another 300 students now will qualify for larger Palmetto Fellows scholarships, worth from \$6,700 to \$10,000 a year. Previously, they would have qualified only for the Life Scholarship, worth \$5,000 to \$7,500 a year. Unless lawmakers make the scholarships more difficult to qualify for, the changes initially will cost the state about \$15 million but could rise to \$50 million a year. S.C. taxpayers already subsidize lottery scholarships.

Post and Courier: Smithsonian's newest museum to put S.C. African-American history in a brighter light

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160921/160929994/smithsonians-newest-museum-to-put-sc-african-american-history-in-a-brighter-light>

Robert Behre

When it opens Saturday, the new Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture would stand partly empty if not for contributions from South Carolina's Lowcountry. From a historic slave cabin taken from Edisto Island to a piece of civil rights leader Esau Jenkins' bus to the only known surviving slave auction flag from Charleston to two new sweetgrass baskets and much more, the national museum will display a host of objects from here. This is not necessarily surprising: While the museum tells a national story of its African-American population over time, so many key parts of that story began in Charleston, the largest and most prosperous Southern city during the peak of the international slave trade. The museum's many Lowcountry links have fed a growing excitement in Charleston as opening day nears. The Jenkins' family already is working with the city and public schools on a big send-off Thursday that may draw hundreds to at the site of Gadsden's Wharf, where this city's International African American Museum is planned.

Associated Press: Officials: Refinancing South Carolina reactors saves money

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

Meg Kinnard

Officials overseeing the construction of some of the country's first new nuclear reactors in decades said Wednesday that a recent financing deal means fewer costs from the multibillion-dollar project will be passed on to power customers in South Carolina. The comments from officials including SCANA Corp. CEO Kevin Marsh, whose employer owns a 55 percent stake in the project at V.C. Summer Nuclear Station in Jenkinsville, come just weeks before state regulators are due to consider the ninth rate increase related to the construction project. The 3.1 percent increase requested by SCANA's electric utility component, South Carolina Electric & Gas Co., would be the largest single rate increase since the company began charging its 700,000 customers for construction.

Associated Press: Company aims to restart gasoline pipeline Wednesday evening

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

SC State Wire

Company officials working to repair a broken pipeline in Alabama that led to gas shortages across the South say they've successfully tested a temporary bypass and plan to restart the line soon. The company said in a statement that it expects to restart the line Wednesday evening, though it will take several days for fuel supplies to return to normal in markets served by the pipeline. Authorities said a leak in the pipeline was discovered Sept. 9 near Helena, Alabama, when state workers noticed a strong gasoline odor and sheen on a man-made retention pond. The company has estimated that 252,000 gallons to 336,000 gallons of gasoline leaked from the line. The shut-down of the pipeline led to dry pumps at gas stations in Georgia, Tennessee and the Carolinas.

Local News:

Associated Press: Man arrested, charged in 2014 homicide in Myrtle Beach

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=tm2fOkMV

SC State Wire

Police in Myrtle Beach say a man wanted for murder has been arrested after almost two years on the run. Lt. Joey Crosby of the Myrtle Beach Police tells local news outlets that 50-year-old Pierre Alexander Haile of Baltimore, Maryland, was back in custody in South Carolina on Tuesday charged with murder and obstructing justice. Haile is charged in the October, 2014, shooting death of 34-year-old Stephen Robert Skinner. Skinner was found dead of a gunshot wound outside a Myrtle Beach apartment. Haile was located recently in Baltimore. It was not immediately known if he had an attorney.

The State: Mistrial declared – no reason given – for accused serial home invader, rapist

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article103227982.html>

John Monk

An accused serial home invader-rapist had his wish granted Wednesday when Circuit Judge Knox McMahon declared a mistrial in a Columbia courtroom and sent the jury home. But the judge didn't give a reason he was calling off the trial, which was in its second day. The defendant, Nathan Martinez, 37, had asked for the mistrial late Wednesday morning after complaining about his court-appointed lawyer, Aimee Zmroczek. On Tuesday, the judge had granted a request from Martinez to fire Zmroczek and let him be his own lawyer in the case. She was still at the defense table as an adviser. His trial was in its second day. Prosecutors were in the process of introducing a succession of witnesses to put before the jury what prosecutors said in opening statements would be volumes of indisputable evidence against Martinez. Evidence included eyewitness testimony, DNA, fingerprints and possibly a statement Martinez gave to police after his arrest.

The State: Deputy who showed up at son's arrest was suspended without pay

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article103224117.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

The Richland County deputy accused of interfering with her son's Sept. 6 traffic stop in Kershaw County was suspended for three days without pay, Sheriff Leon Lott said. This disciplinary action came after an investigation by the sheriff's department's internal affairs unit, which was assisted by the Kershaw County Sheriff's Office, Lott said. The punishment was for "conduct detrimental to the operation of the sheriff's department by driving her Richland County Sheriff's Department vehicle to her son's traffic stop and displaying behavior not representative of the Richland County Sheriff's Department." Lott said that the deputy, Lisa Grazioli, has already served her suspension. "No further action will be taken on this matter until resolution of the charge brought against her," he said.

Associated Press: Records ordered turned over in officer harassment suit

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kiOmg6vL

SC State Wire

A judge has ordered the Horry County Police Department to turn over records in a lawsuit stemming from allegations of sexual misconduct by a former department officer. The state grand jury last week indicted for four former department officers, including former Detective Allen Large. The indictments allege the former

officers coerced women into sex or ignored nearly 100 cases they were supposed to be investigating. Several women have sued the department alleging sexual harassment by Large. News outlets report that on Tuesday, Circuit Judge Roger Henderson ordered the department to produce copies and internal files on all citizen complaints about sexual advances or sexual assaults by police officials for the past decade. Personnel files for two former officers also must be produced.

Sun News: Horry County police chief says no more indictments coming from SLED

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article103047177.html>

Audrey Hudson

Horry County Police Chief Joe Hill confirmed Tuesday night that there will be no further indictments coming from the S.C. Law Enforcement Division of officials within the police department. The chief said he spoke with SLED officials his first day on the job Monday and they confirmed the investigation into issues of officer malfeasance within the department is closed. "I was supposed to start on (September) 26th, but I got notified about the indictments and felt like I needed to be here for the troops," Hill said. "I can tell you that I met with the chief of SLED on Monday, that investigation has concluded. The four indictments that came down are the only indictments that are coming down -- that investigation is wrapping up, it's done," Hill said.

Island Packet: 'I apologize for any actions ... on my part,' Moss tells Beaufort County school board

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article103077137.html>

Rebecca Lurye

At Tuesday's school board meeting, Superintendent Jeff Moss withdrew his request to be reimbursed by the Beaufort County School District for legal fees associated with his recently ended ethics investigation. It's not clear how much the district stood to pay in legal fees before Moss waived his contractual right to have the district cover his costs. While Moss' attorney, Greg Harris of Columbia, said in August that he'd sent his client a bill, the school district said Moss had not charged them. Moss made the announcement at Tuesday's regularly scheduled board meeting, after apologizing for his conduct related to last year's investigation by the South Carolina Ethics Commission, which found him guilty in August of two ethics violations for his involvement in the hiring of his wife to two district positions.

Associated Press: Charges to be dropped against former Clemson QB Tajh Boyd

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=duoE7N0z

SC State Wire

Former Clemson quarterback Tajh Boyd has agreed to do community service and pay restitution following a shoving incident at a bar in Greenville earlier this summer. Media outlets reported a judge said Boyd's assault and battery charge would be dismissed when he completes 40 hours of community service, makes restitution and has six months of good behavior. The victim is seeking \$5,000 in medical bills but the amount is being negotiated. The 25-year-old Boyd was arrested earlier this month for an incident outside a Greenville bar in July. The doorman said Boyd shoved him when Boyd was told he could not enter the club until some other patrons left because of crowded conditions inside. Boyd said Wednesday he was accountable for his actions and should have just walked away.

Associated Press: South Carolina won't bid for North Carolina NCAA games

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=9A000j8t

SC State Wire

South Carolina athletic director Ray Tanner said the school won't bid for NCAA Tournament men's basketball games removed from North Carolina because of its law limiting protections for LGBT people. Tanner said Wednesday the area did not have enough full service hotels available for the dates the games would be played next March. The regional was supposed to be played in Greensboro, North Carolina, but the NCAA removed that and several other championship events from the state last week. The NCAA had set a deadline of Sept. 27 for submitting bids to host the displaced contests. Tanner said the university and the Columbia Regional Sports Council have bid for NCAA Tournament games from 2019 through 2022.

The State: USC med school to stop using live pigs after complaint

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/education/article103149112.html>

Avery G. Wilks

The University of South Carolina's School of Medicine will stop using live pigs in its emergency medicine training after an animal-rights group complained about the practice last month. The school's dean emailed his decision Tuesday to the Washington-based Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine. In late August, that group called for a federal investigation into an emergency medicine residency program run by USC's Columbia-based medical school and Palmetto Health. It said the program violates the Animal Welfare Act by operating on pigs when alternatives are available. "We are not planning to seek renewal of the live animal training program at this time," USC and Palmetto Health said in a joint statement. "Continued advances in simulation technology make it possible for us to make this change at this time. In doing so, we affirm our belief that preparing health-care providers for the preservation of human life is our greatest responsibility and we are confident that this change will not adversely affect the quality of our training programs.

Associated Press: Nice problem to have: Greenville has \$10.5 million surplus

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

SC State Wire

Greenville has a problem that most other cities would like to have - a more than \$10 million surplus. The Greenville News reports (<http://grnol.co/2d1pgTB>) that the city has a \$5.5 million surplus in its general fund supported by property taxes. The fund generated by the accommodations taxes has another \$5 million surplus. The extra money is the result of conservative budgeting and growth in the area. Now the city has the welcome problem of deciding how to spend the extra money. The newspaper says one consensus that seems to be developing is to spend about \$2 million of the general fund surplus on developing affordable housing, especially near downtown where real estate prices have been increasing. The accommodations surplus must by law go to programs promoting tourism.

Greenville News: City has \$5.5 million surplus, considers \$2 million for affordable housing

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/greenville/downtown/2016/09/20/city-has-55-million-surplus-considers-2-million-affordable-housing/90749526/>

Eric Connor

Going into the year, the city of Greenville knew its financial outlook would be bright, but as the budget forecasts now become more hard and fast, the city finds itself with millions of dollars of extra tax money to spend. Now, it's a matter of where it should go. The city has a \$5.5 million surplus in its main fund that is supported by property taxes, and it has millions more in special, tourism-related tax funds that are all swelling along with the city's growth. A few priorities appear to be emerging, chief among them a proposal to set aside \$2 million of the surplus to pay for efforts to provide more affordable housing, particularly near downtown where real estate prices have skyrocketed. "If we can invest money in other things, if we can assist in the development of large projects like a baseball stadium, like parking garages to help other entities come in, then there needs to be a return on the investment for those who have not had an opportunity to be a part of the economic rise," City Councilwoman Lillian Brock Flemming said.

The State: Folksy SC lawyer stares down Duke Energy, other utility giants

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article103159872.html>

Sammy Fretwell

Frank Holleman never thought he'd become a nationally recognized authority on coal ash, a toxin-riddled waste that has power companies under scrutiny across the country. But five years after taking a job with a regional conservation group, Holleman is perhaps the one person utilities hate to see coming. He's sued Duke Energy, Santee Cooper and SCE&G, successfully brokering agreements to clean out coal ash waste ponds along South Carolina rivers. He's sought legislative help in allowing citizens the right to sue companies that pollute rivers with coal ash waste. And in his job as an attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center, he continues to battle Duke Energy in North Carolina over its ash disposal basins. A Greenville resident with a folksy Upstate twang, Holleman has appeared on the CBS news magazine 60 Minutes, been quoted in The New York Times and testified before Congress — all as part of an effort to change the way utilities dispose of coal ash.

Sun News: Myrtle Beach boardwalk to be extended and oceanfront park built

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article103257472.html>

Chloe Johnson

Myrtle Beach's boardwalk is going to be extended to just past 16th Avenue North as a new hotel goes in the area. Director of planning Carol Coleman said the new hotel going in at 16th Avenue and Ocean Boulevard will spur the extension because the property was approved as a Planned Unit Development, meaning developers were given some zoning exceptions by the city in exchange for a public benefit. That benefit, she said, is the extended boardwalk. "That's been a big, popular public improvement," she said. The oceanfront hotel itself will be a timeshare with 330 units, according to city documents. Coleman said the property will be under the Hilton brand. The total boardwalk extension will be close to 220 feet, ending just north of 16th Avenue, and developers will give the city money to complete the work. Developers also will include a new oceanfront park at the street end of 16th Avenue, Coleman said, that will be roughly 80-foot-wide and stretch from the oceanfront to Ocean Boulevard.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: Clinton, Trump decry latest police shootings of black men

<http://bigstory.ap.org/28317cbeb65c457783a79329df8f010e>

Jill Colvin and Ken Thomas

Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton decried a fresh round of police-involved shootings on Wednesday, with the Republican nominee saying he was "very troubled" by the killing of a black man by a white police officer in Oklahoma. Courting black voters who have long spurned Republicans, Trump's event in Cleveland Heights' New Spirit Revival Center took a bizarre turn when he was introduced by boxing promoter Don King, who used a racial slur as he made the case for black voters to support Trump. Trump's latest foray into the black community not only sought to connect with voters in Cleveland, home to a large community of African-American voters key to Clinton's prospects in Ohio, but also with moderate suburban voters, who frequently hear Clinton describe Trump as extreme. King, introducing Trump, raised eyebrows when he said a black man is always framed by his skin color, recalling that he once told pop icon Michael Jackson "if you're poor, you're a 'poor Negro.' If you're rich, you're a 'rich Negro.'" An educated black man is "an intellectual negro."

National News:

Associated Press: 2 potential bombing witnesses seen with suitcase are sought

<http://bigstory.ap.org/5284543924e34fa08d6ffec07e557962>

Jake Pearson and Megan Trimble

Investigators of last weekend's bombings have released an image of two men who took a suitcase they found on a city street, possibly without realizing a wired pressure cooker they removed from it and left behind could have blown them to bits. Police investigating the bombings in New York and New Jersey have been saying for several days they were looking for the men, who they stressed were being sought as potential witnesses in the case, not as suspects. "They're not in any jeopardy of being arrested," Jim Watters, chief of the New York Police Department's counterterrorism unit, said on Wednesday. "We have no reason to believe they're connected." Federal prosecutors have charged Ahmad Khan Rahami with detonating a pipe bomb in a New Jersey shore town on Saturday morning and a pressure cooker bomb in New York City's Chelsea neighborhood later that night. Thirty-one people were injured in the New York blast. A second pressure cooker bomb left in Manhattan didn't explode and is the subject of the latest public plea.

Associated Press: Family, neighbors: Tulsa man was changing his life, generous

<http://bigstory.ap.org/751557ad3ff74031a66c21c42f63e569>

Justin Juozapavicius and Sean Murphy

An unarmed black man shot dead in the middle of a street by a white Oklahoma police officer had run-ins with the law dating back to his teenage years and had recently served four years in prison. But those closest to Terence Crutcher described him as a church-going father who was beginning to turn his life around. After

marking his 40th birthday with his twin sister last month, Crutcher sent her a text that read, "I'm gonna show you, I'm gonna make you all proud."Crutcher was due to start a music appreciation class at a local community college on Friday, the day he was fatally shot by Tulsa police officer Betty Shelby after she responded to a report of a vehicle abandoned in the road.The shooting was captured in graphic detail by a police helicopter and a cruiser dashcam, though it's not clear from that footage what led Shelby to draw her gun or what orders officers gave Crutcher. An attorney for Crutcher's family said Crutcher committed no crime and gave officers no reason to shoot.

Associated Press: While illuminating, Tulsa videos leave out key details

<http://bigstory.ap.org/009f1c317649492e976f09a74c2ad53a>

Jill Bleed

Police in Tulsa, Oklahoma, broadly released dashcam and aerial footage, 911 calls and police radio traffic with unusual swiftness following last Friday's shooting death of an unarmed black man by a white officer. But what actually transpired on the Tulsa street between Terence Crutcher and officer Betty Shelby remains murky....

World News:

Associated Press: World leaders rage against neighbors on 2nd day of UN debate

<http://bigstory.ap.org/62f1f3ece86d49e1b9615b9eb406b25b>

Alexandra Olson

World leaders from Pakistan to Ukraine unleashed their regional grievances Wednesday, taking the stage of the U.N. General Assembly to rage against their neighbors and presenting a picture of a chaotic world consumed by intractable conflicts. A few paces from the General Assembly hall, the United States and Russia bitterly attacked each other during a Security Council meeting meant to salvage Syria's faltering cease-fire. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon implored Syria's warring parties to lay down their arms. In the midst of the anger, a few bright spots emerged on the second day of the annual U.N. gathering of heads of states. Colombia basked in world praise when it presented its newly reached peace agreement with leftist rebels to the Security Council. Former political prisoner Aung San Suu Kyi made her first General Assembly speech since she formed a democratically elected government in Myanmar. But on the International Day of Peace, tensions from all parts of the planet filled the halls of the United Nations.

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