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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley: MOX penalty money belongs to state, not Savannah River Site locals

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160409/PC16/160419965>

Derrek Asberry

Gov. Nikki Haley won't give in to rural groups lobbying for part of a \$100 million fine the state may collect over a missed deadline at the Savannah River Site. Some rural economic groups contend that if the state collects money from a missed MOX plutonium deadline at the Savannah River site, some of that money should go to areas around the site. The governor disagrees. "Federal law requires the Department of Energy to make economic and impact assistance payments to the State of South Carolina. The law is clear, these payments are due to the State alone, not other individuals or groups that may also wish to collect," Chaney Adams, Haley's spokesperson, told The Post and Courier in an email Friday. The site's plutonium project, known as MOX, is part of a U.S. agreement with Russia that would convert 34 metric tons of weapons-grade plutonium into commercial nuclear fuel. Russia is expected to dispose of the same amount and recently criticized the U.S. for its attempt to abandon MOX. The Energy Department is required to pay South Carolina \$1 million a day, dating back to Jan. 1, 2016, because it failed to either convert 1 metric ton, or remove a ton from the state. The requirement is outlined in a 2003 agreement and caps the fines at \$100 million. The 100th day of the year was Saturday.

General Assembly News:

Post and Courier : 2016 Legislature: Where do we stand on major issues?

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160410/PC1603/160419964>

Cynthia Roldan and Gavin Jackson

The General Assembly is more than halfway through the 2016 legislative session. With a lot of items still to get to, frustration and anxiety have become the name of the game as both chambers spent weeks stuck in endless debates over varying bills. Proposals that don't become law by June 2 will die. Here's an update...

The Herald: \$400M SC House roads plan hopes to pass down the stretch

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/politics-government/article70904897.html>

Bristow Marchant

When the S.C. House of Representatives reconvenes on Tuesday, the roads funding ball will be back in their court. Representatives anticipate voting on a planned \$415 million funding bill this week, an expense in line with a Senate proposal passed last month. But House leaders hope to hold that funding to one year, and revive plans for long-term money for road work in the 2017 session. The House and Senate have traded the issue since the House proposed a long-term plan last year that included increasing the state's gas tax to help pay for repairs to the state's roadways. The Senate's

latest plan would not increase the gas tax and funds road maintenance by using surplus funds in the state's budget. The House version also uses surplus funds, but would only use the funds once, in this year's budget.

SC Agency News:

The State: THE BUZZ: SC roads agency panel accused of caging its watchdog

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article70960877.html>

Cassie Cope

An arm of the commission that oversees the state Department of Transportation leashed its own watchdog. That was a key finding in a Legislative Audit Council report last week that chastised how the state's roads agency spent money and picked projects. The Transportation Department commission's audit panel revised its chief internal auditor's job description last year, restricting his authority to review potential wrong-doing, the legislative report said. That move compromises the independence of the one office that should be, well, independent, a report by the Legislative Audit Council said.

Independent Mail: Audit fuels calls for change at SC roads agency

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/audit-fuels-calls-for-change-at-sc-roads-agency-2ffb4c5e-3aba-5e22-e053-0100007f3c41-375141751.html>

Kirk Brown

Emboldened by findings in a recent audit, legislators from Anderson County want to drastically alter the governing structure of the South Carolina Department of Transportation. The department currently is run by a legislatively appointed commission and a governor-appointed secretary. A Legislative Audit Council report issued last week called the existing arrangement cumbersome and confusing. The report indicated that the department's ineffective governing structure, a lack of funding and other factors contributed to the deterioration of South Carolina's roads. More than half of the state's primary roads are now in poor condition, according to the report. The audit was released as the state House of Representatives prepares to vote on a key roads bill that the South Carolina Senate approved last month. The measure would give the governor authority to appoint the DOT commission and it also would boost funding for highway projects by \$400 million annually without raising the state's 16-cent per gallon gas tax.

Sun News: Former Coast RTA leader loses case against SCDOT

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article70920127.html>

Charles D. Perry

Former Coast RTA CEO Myers Rollins recently lost a legal battle with the S.C. Department of Transportation, but Rollins' case against the bus service that fired him two years ago is still being sorted out. Judge Benjamin Culbertson dismissed Rollins' lawsuit against SCDOT, SCDOT official Doug Frate and former SCDOT official Hart Baker after a two-day trial last month (March 1-2). In an order filed on March 28, Culbertson said Rollins had shown no evidence to support his claims of civil conspiracy, interference with contractual relations, and defamation. "The Plaintiff has failed to prove the requisite elements of his causes of action against the Defendants," Culbertson wrote. Rollins said via email that he has not decided whether he will appeal the verdict. He said he is waiting on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to complete its investigation of his situation and make a determination before arbitration.

'Bathroom Bill' News:

Associated Press: Halting LGBT rules, N Carolina lawmakers again rebuff cities

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:d00b636d0280428fa33be2a80c8d98ec>

Gary D. Robertson

The decision by the North Carolina legislature and Gov. Pat McCrory to overturn Charlotte's anti-discrimination ordinance for LGBT citizens isn't simply another skirmish in the decades-old culture war between conservatives and progressives. It's the latest muscle-flexing by leaders in Republican-controlled states to rebuff local governments — often large cities run by Democrats — implementing policies they disagree with or haven't sanctioned. "You see the most liberal city councils and mayors over-regulating," said North Carolina House Majority Leader Mike Hager, from small-town Rutherfordton. He added that the state can't become a patchwork of key commerce and employment rules, depending on the city. "By law we have that responsibility to make sure that the cities and counties do what they're supposed to be doing."

SC Political News:

Post and Courier: Robert Ford back in court seeking restitution relief

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160409/PC1603/160409458>

Schuyler Kropf, Emma Dumain, and Gavin Jackson

Former Democratic state Sen. Robert Ford, who is now a candidate for his old office, is due in court Monday to answer for his unpaid restitution. Ford will be at the Charleston County Judicial Center to face the S.C. Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services. The agency says Ford is in arrears more than \$8,900 for the restitution he owes the state from his misdemeanor ethics case. He has a more than \$80,000 unpaid balance. His attorney, Bill Runyon, said Ford has been unable to make the \$1,800 per month schedule and will ask Circuit Judge Thomas Hughston to reset the figure to between \$500 and \$600 a month. Ford is trying to make a comeback for his former Senate District 42 seat in the June Democratic primary by challenging incumbent Sen. Marlon Kimpson, D-Charleston.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: Scope: Look who's trying to kill ethics reform now

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article70792357.html>

Cindi Ross Scope

ONE REASON voters are disgusted by politics is that so many politicians mislead us about what they can do and then disappoint us when they don't do it. A less-acknowledged reason is that people who have a vested interest in making use disgusted lie to us about what's going on. For nearly four years, most Senate Republicans have worked hard to pass the ethics reform bill that Gov. Nikki Haley demands — one that requires legislators to tell us where they get their income and allows someone other than legislators to investigate their compliance with the law. Last time out, opponents stripped out independent investigations, and supporters killed their own bill rather than allow a sham bill to pass. That was more than a year ago. I understand why AFP is terrified of even the remotest possibility that it would have to tell South Carolinians how much money it is spending to distort our votes, and where its money comes from. I would be too if I ran an operation like this. What this latest salvo shows is that it is so afraid of having to come clean that it will go to any lengths — even lying about our ethics bills, and sacrificing the independent investigations of legislators and legislative income-reporting requirements — in order to remain in the shadows.

Herald-Journal: Move forward with ethics reform

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160410/opinion/160419991>

Editorial

The S.C. Senate stumbled on approving much-needed ethics reform last week, but it still has plenty of time in the legislative session to create a system that builds public confidence. Senators are debating a bill passed by the state House that would create an independent panel to investigate ethics complaints against lawmakers. The panel would be appointed by lawmakers and the governor. It would be a step forward, but the far simpler course would be to put lawmakers under the jurisdiction of the state Ethics Commission. That body investigates charges against every other elected official in the state. There's no reason it can't handle complaints against lawmakers as well. But the proposed panel would be far better than the current situation, in which lawmakers police themselves. If an allegation is made against a member of the state House, the House Ethics Committee, made up of his or her colleagues, investigates, decides whether he or she has broken the law and sets a punishment. It may or may not reveal the outcome to the general public.

Post and Courier: Lawmakers should back medical marijuana bill

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160410/PC1002/160419937>

Editorial

Nearly half of the states have approved the medical use of marijuana, as prescribed by a physician, recognizing its therapeutic value for patients with long term pain from cancer, seizures, PTSD, multiple sclerosis, AIDS and other ailments. Not South Carolina, though. Not yet. Members of the Senate Medical Affairs Committee on Thursday expressed their sympathy for those South Carolinians who could benefit from having marijuana medically prescribed for pain or nausea. Then they voted to kill the bill, after first rejecting an amendment that would have resolved many of the issues raised by those who had opposed the bill, including law enforcement officials. The amendment would have tightened licensing and oversight for cultivation, distribution and sales. Committee chairman Harvey Peeler's explanation? "This bill would put us one step closer to Colorado." No, it wouldn't.

Post and Courier: DOT must take steps to help itself, too

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160410/PC1002/160419938>

Editorial

More funding for the state Department of Transportation has been at the top of this year's legislative agenda, recognizing the worsening condition of South Carolina's roads and bridges. A comprehensive report on the DOT by the Legislative Audit Council underscores that point — highway infrastructure has gotten significantly worse in just the last six years. And the audit recognizes that the agency doesn't have adequate funds to make the necessary improvements. But the LAC report cites numerous shortcomings that the DOT itself could address on its own to ensure that its limited funds are spent in the most productive manner. For example, the audit finds that the DOT has failed to live up to the standards mandated under the 2006 reform legislation, requiring it to list projects on a priority ranking and fund them accordingly. And the agency hasn't kept that list updated to reflect current conditions, the LAC concluded.

Aiken Standard: Aiken leaders respond to lawsuit with transparency

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160409/AIK0201/160419999>

Editorial

Aiken has weathered quite a storm during the past several days. The City of Aiken has been

incredibly upfront about the traffic stop and subsequent lawsuit since this story first came to light. City officials have been very open about discussing ways to improve police-public relations. Their multipronged strategy is very proactive, calling for increasing diversity within the police department, conducting racial sensitivity training and establishing a citizen's advisory board. In addition, an independent, outside firm will be brought in to further review this case. City officials say they have also met with members of the African-American community to further ease tensions. We commend Mayor Rick Osbon, members of City Council and City leaders for publicly addressing this awkward situation. The easy thing to do would be to run and hide. They addressed the crisis with courage and transparency.

South Carolina News:

Herald-Journal: Database of lead testing in SC water systems

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160409/multimedia/160409967>

Whether local water systems are tainted with lead has been of heightened concern since the crisis in Flint, Michigan, erupted as a national story. In an analysis of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency data, The Associated Press has found that roughly 1,400 water systems across the country reported a sample above the EPA lead limit over the past three years. That includes hundreds of schools and day cares. The database below includes data on water systems throughout South Carolina, along with the number of customers each system serves, the start and end date of the most recent test, the amount of lead (in parts per billion, or ppb) found in the most recent test, the number of times each district has been over the federal safety threshold of 15 ppb since 2013, the number of times each district has exceeded that threshold since testing began in 1991, and the total samples taken in each district....

Local News:

Herald-Journal : Spartanburg, Cherokee, Union water systems in compliance with federal lead rules, data shows

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160409/articles/160409663>

Chris Lavender

It doesn't appear water providers serving Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union counties are on their way to a crisis the likes of which has been seen in Flint, Mich., though four local water systems have seen lead levels surpass the federal safety threshold at different points over the past 25 years. The federal Lead and Copper Rule requires water systems to keep lead levels below 15 parts per billion in 10 percent of sampled homes. To put that in perspective, lead levels in Flint, where contaminated water has made national news, were found to be between 150 and 10,000 ppb earlier this year. Lead in water has been found to be particularly dangerous to young children and pregnant women. An Associated Press analysis of data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency showed that nearly 1,400 water systems nationwide have violated the federal standard at least once in the past three years.

The State: LAKE KATHERINE: Stilts, starting over part of long flood recovery

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article70951612.html>

Sarah Ellis

The symmetrical white house on seven-foot cinder-block stilts somehow doesn't look quite as incongruous as some other Lake Katherine homes that have been raised from their foundations. To picture it down the road with brick columns, lattices and greenery, it could almost appear as if it were

meant to be that way. Beside it are two empty lots where neighbors' houses recently stood. The lakeside cul-de-sac, home to Nelson and Clara Weston's stilted home on the north side of Lake Katherine, is a picture of the extreme lengths of recovery dozens of families have gone through in the six months since the historic rain-driven floods of October. The lake-area community in east Columbia has transitioned from destruction to construction at varying paces.

The State: FOREST LAKE: Schiano's reopened quickly after flood, still winning back business

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article70959527.html>

Sarah Ellis

When Tina Dillard and Larry Mitchell sit down at Schiano's Old Tyme Pizza Restaurant almost every Tuesday evening, it's like nothing has changed. The photos on the wall are the same. The large booths still seat their friends who meet them for happy hours. The hand-tossed pizza is still top-notch. But Schiano's is leaps ahead of some of its small-business neighbors in the Forest Lake shopping area, off Forest Drive and Trenholm Road, in rebounding from the flood. And yet, Schiano's hasn't quite returned to business as usual in Forest Acres, the way things were six months ago, before historic floodwaters swept through the building and devastated the community around it.

The State: PINE GLEN: Renovated home after flood 'a blessing' for Pine Glen resident

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article70976387.html>

Tim Flach

Flowers and grass will wait as Jennifer Gneiser settles into her St. Andrews home, renovated after significant flood damage last fall. The repair of her home in the Pine Glen neighborhood, accomplished largely by volunteers, is something Gneiser says she'll repay by helping others in need. "This is the biggest gift ever," she said. "It is a blessing. I can't tell you how grateful I am." Gneiser is one of the first residents to return to the neighborhood a mile north of Interstate 20 that was hit hard when the lower Saluda River overflowed Oct. 4.

The State: Fate of \$420 million slated for Charleston interstate in limbo

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article70805317.html>

Cassie Cope

The fate of \$420 million slated for an extension of Interstate 526 is unclear after the Charleston County Council attempted to meet a state agency deadline. Charleston County needed to find a way to raise up to \$353 million for its portion of the extension. The Charleston County Council approved a resolution Thursday that identified potential ways to pay for the extension — including adding a toll road or using a special transportation sales tax. However, the resolution did not provide a specific plan or an amount of money it intended to contribute to the project. The resolution also said the county could explore reducing the size of project to match the amount of money the local government could raise.

Sun News: Green group questions SC beach renourishment costs, environmental effects

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article70838432.html>

Audrey Hudson

A local environmental group is questioning the need to spend millions of taxpayer dollars for beach renourishment work along the Grand Strand, suggesting the projects could be harmful to the environment. Nancy Cave, director of the Georgetown office of the Coastal Conservation League, says local officials should be encouraged to look for alternatives to the costly projects that move sand onshore from beneath the ocean offshore. Citing a recent study of replenishment efforts along

beaches in San Diego, Calif., that questioned whether resanding had depleted the food supply of some shorebirds, Cave said more attention should be paid to the potential harm created after tons of new sand land on Grand Strand beaches.

Associated Press: Homeless leave Charleston tent city as city helps with money

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=7JqX6c9C

SC State Wire

The last resident of a homeless camp under an interstate overpass is gone after a weeks-long effort to empty the Charleston tent city. The Post and Courier of Charleston (<http://bit.ly/1NgxgJS>) reports some former residents of the encampment found homes and another 29 are staying temporarily in a North Charleston warming shelter. The city gave 10 people who were not Charleston residents donated money to return home. More than 100 people had lived at the site a few months ago. A backhoe loader on Friday scooped up the abandoned tents and piles of debris left behind and dumped them into a truck that hauled them away. Deputy Police Chief Tony Elder said the move was completed calmly, peacefully and without arrests.

Post and Courier: Charleston's Tent City gone, but other homeless encampments remain out of the public eye

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160409/PC16/160409457>

Christina Elmore

The public recently watched with dismay as dozens of homeless people pitched tents in Charleston under an overpass on Meeting Street near the Ravenel Bridge, one of the main paths into the tourism-driven city. City officials spent weeks working to find alternative shelter for its occupants so the site known as Tent City could be dismantled. But the mission is far from over. Homeless encampments are sprinkled all around the Lowcountry. Many of these other settlements are found in wooded areas throughout North Charleston and other areas. Some sites are off Mall Drive, beneath a bridge on Cosgrove Avenue, behind the Wal-Mart and car dealerships and Trident Technical College on Rivers Avenue and near Costco and Interstate 526 in West Ashley. Small encampments also have cropped up in the woods along different railroad tracks.

Morning News: Florence taking steps to squash potential Zika virus outbreak

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_6d683d02-feaa-11e5-85ba-ab41211d6149.html

Joshua Lloyd

The National Center for Disease Control places South Carolina in a zone likely to see an influx of mosquitoes carrying the Zika virus, and within that projected area, Florence County is listed at a moderate risk level for susceptibility to the disease. The most common symptoms of Zika are fever, rash, joint pain and conjunctivitis, or red eyes. The illness is usually mild, with symptoms lasting for several days to a week after being bitten by an infected mosquito. Although no cases have been reported in the Palmetto State, the city and county of Florence are actively trying to squash any mosquito woes before they arise. Florence County Administrator K.G. "Rusty" Smith Jr. said they're "locked and loaded" when it comes to outbreak prevention. "We've put larvicide in about 11,000 different spots in the county and all of our mosquito sprayer trucks have been calibrated and certified by inspectors and are ready to go," he said.

Aiken Standard : Aiken County Public Schools receive Palmetto Gold and Silver awards

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160409/AIK0101/160409438>

Eighteen Aiken County Public Schools recently were recognized for excellence with Palmetto Gold and Silver awards for the 2014-15 school year. Thirteen schools received awards for general

performance and nine for efforts to increase academic gains among minority students, students from lower-income families and students with special needs. Midland Valley High School received Gold awards for both general performance and closing the achievement gap. New Ellenton Middle School and Jefferson Elementary School also were recognized for achievements in both areas. "We're delighted to see the dedication of our teachers and students being recognized at this level," Aiken County Public School District Superintendent Dr. Sean Alford said. "Those moving the needle for both traditionally high-achieving students and underperforming subgroups are to be particularly celebrated for their growth in academic excellence for all students."

Greenville News: Suspended chief sought public hearing

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/golden-strip/2016/04/09/suspended-chief-sought-public-hearing/82785862/>

Nathaniel Cary and Scott Keeler

Simpsonville Police Chief Keith Grounsell requested a hearing into his suspension April 1 be held in front of the public, according to a document obtained by The Greenville News, but the city denied his request and instead held a marathon meeting behind closed doors Monday before voting on a vague motion that left the public in the dark as to what action their city leaders had taken with a high-profile public employee. Grounsell was initially suspended for "engaging in misconduct with a citizen," according to an Employment Action Notice signed by City Administrator David Dyrhaug and Grounsell on April 1. On the notice, Grounsell marked a box that said he disagreed with the employer's description of the accusation. Grounsell wrote that he was "awaiting facts to be able to complete a rebuttal."

Associated Press: Fairfield Co. councilman calls 911, citizens asked questions

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=NCz54alt

SC State Wire

A Fairfield County councilman says he called for law enforcement help because he felt threatened by three people asking him questions before a meeting. WIS reports (<http://bit.ly/1SnwQme>) Councilman Kamau Marcharia called the Fairfield County Sheriff's deputies. Marcharia says on a 911 recording the three were posing questions and demanding information. Marcharia says he felt threatened and referred other questions to the county attorney. Bob Carrison, Jeff Schaffer and Beth Jenkins say they arrived before the planned start of a closed-door meeting to urge council members to pick a good county administrator after their private discussions. South Carolina Press Association attorney Jay Bender says it's illegal to remove citizens from a meeting before the council voted to go into executive session. Sheriff Will Montgomery says the three weren't charged.

Post and Courier: Amid protests, circus elephants performing here this week for last time before retirement

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160409/PC1201/160409444>

Abigail Darlington

When Barnum & Bailey and Ringling Bros. bring its circus this week to the North Charleston Coliseum for the 15th time, it will be the last chance for local audiences to see its herd of Asian elephants before they're permanently retired from the circus. Protesters, however, will likely remain a fixture of the event. The 11 elephants on tour with the two traveling circus shows will join the rest of the company's 29 elephants on May 1 at the company-owned Center for Elephant Conservation in central Florida, which has been used as a breeding and training facility for the elephants since it opened in 1995. The move marks a major shift in the circus' 145-year history, which has long billed its elephant performances as its centerpiece attraction.

National News:

Associated Press: US water systems repeatedly exceed federal standard for lead

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:5aff8cb852c94585a85c9dc5fa32e9d8>

Ryan J. Foley and Meghan Hoyer

This railroad town promotes its ties to Abraham Lincoln, Ronald Reagan and the poet Carl Sandburg. But Galesburg's long history also shows in a hidden way: Aging pipes have been leaking lead into the drinking water for decades. Blood tests show cause for concern. One in 20 children under the age of 6 in Knox County had lead levels exceeding the state standard for public health intervention, a rate six times higher than the Illinois average, in 2014. Galesburg offers just one example of how the problem of lead-tainted drinking water goes far beyond Flint, Michigan, the former auto manufacturing center where the issue exploded into a public health emergency when the city's entire water system was declared unsafe. An Associated Press analysis of Environmental Protection Agency data found that nearly 1,400 water systems serving 3.6 million Americans exceeded the federal lead standard at least once between Jan. 1, 2013, and Sept. 30, 2015. The affected systems are large and small, public and private, and include 278 systems that are owned and operated by schools and day care centers in 41 states.

Associated Press: Schumer proposes \$25K reward for social media extremist tips

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:4d8f141aad3f45b7ab798a4f9aa575fb>

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer is introducing legislation requiring a \$25,000 reward for information generated through social media that helps thwart a terror attack. The New York Democrat tells The Associated Press the legislation will be introduced later this month. Schumer will formally announce the bill at a news conference Sunday. He says the public should "say something if they see something, especially on their newsfeed." Schumer says current law does not specifically cover tips generated through social media. The proposed bill would require the Department of State to pay rewards of no less than \$25,000 for information that leads to an arrest or conviction in a terror case.

Associated Press: Analysis: Nuclear deal puts US between Iran and a hard place

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:a1c98e3bf9bf4f0db2dbd5f18c383569>

Matthew Lee

The Obama administration is in a bind. Between Iran and a hard place. As it seeks to implement, preserve and strengthen the landmark nuclear deal it negotiated with Iran, the administration is being buffeted by criticism from all sides: Iran, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, not to mention members of Congress, including some who supported the agreement. Eager that a successful deal and a new era in the U.S.-Iran relationship be part of President Barack Obama's legacy, his administration finds itself encouraging foreign trade with Iran even as it forbids most American commerce with the Islamic Republic. Those efforts are complicated by the fact that the United States continues to condemn and try to punish Iranian actions in non-nuclear arenas such as Tehran's support of terrorist groups and belligerence toward Israel. Under the nuclear deal that took effect in January, Iran curtailed its nuclear program in exchange for billions of dollars in sanctions relief. Iran has complied with its obligations to date.

Associated Press: 2016 candidates scoop up delegates in West, bid for NY love

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:cf85d7c9ede645e685b10c4087da4892>

Kathleen Ronayne and Nancy Benac

Bernie Sanders is pointing to his growing string of statewide wins and Hillary Clinton to her still-

commanding lead in the delegate hunt as the Democratic rivals jostle for momentum heading into New York's big primary later this month. The Republicans, too, are trying to scoop up delegates out West while bidding for some New York love. With his win Saturday in Wyoming, Sanders has now won seven of the last eight state contests. But his latest victory did nothing to help him in the delegate chase: He and Clinton each got seven delegates. On the Republicans side, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz completed his sweep of Colorado's 34 delegates by locking up the remaining 13 at the party's state convention in Colorado Springs. He already had collected 21 delegates and visited the state to try to pad his numbers there.

World News:

Associated Press: Officials: Group that hit Brussels planned 2nd France attack

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:d62c5cef1f17442784dbb7dd37c521cf>

Raphael Satter

The attackers who struck Brussels on March 22 initially planned to launch a second assault on France, Belgium's Federal Prosecution Office said Sunday. But the perpetrators were "surprised by the speed of the progress in the ongoing investigation" and decided to rush an attack on Brussels instead, the office said in a statement. It didn't provide any details on the initial plot or its targets and the office couldn't immediately be reached for further comment. Two suicide bombers killed 16 people at Brussels Airport on March 22. A subsequent explosion at Brussels' Maelbeek subway station killed another 16 people the same morning. Investigators have found intimate links between the cell behind those attacks and the group that killed 130 people in Paris on Nov. 13. Sunday's statement provides confirmation of what many have suspected: the series of raids and arrests in the week leading up to the Brussels attacks — including the capture of key Paris attacks fugitive Salah Abdeslam — pushed the killers to action.

Associated Press: Over 100 dead as fire sweeps through Hindu temple in India

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:afc318688f124be6851a25d3764beaec>

Anna Matthews

More than 100 people were killed and nearly 400 injured when a massive fire swept through a Hindu temple in southern India during an unauthorized fireworks display early Sunday, officials said. The fire started when a spark from the fireworks show ignited a separate batch of fireworks that were being stored at the Puttingal temple complex in the Kerala state village of Paravoor, said Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, the state's top elected official. Thousands of people had been packed into the complex when a big explosion erupted at around 3 a.m., officials said. The blaze then spread quickly through the temple, trapping devotees within. Chandy said that 102 people died and at least 380 were injured in the disaster.

Associated Press: Hong Kong emerges as hub for creating offshore companies

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:4827c1eef1a04814a8ef8d48d522b390>

Erika Kinetz and Kelvin Chan

Hong Kong brims with people expert at packaging and protecting wealth. The back pages of newspapers teem with advertisements for corporate formation companies, one-stop shops promising fast bank account opening, corporate compliance, tax and accountancy services. Offshore vehicles are used to minimize tax, mitigate political risk and circumvent onerous regulations in China. And they are completely legal. But Hong Kong's offshore financial machinery works so well, and so discreetly, that it can be abused by those seeking to hide illicit assets or evade taxes. As traditional havens like Switzerland cave to years of grinding pressure from European and American tax authorities,

unsavory money is drawn to Hong Kong, which despite reforms retains its reputation for secrecy, non-cooperation, and a light regulatory touch, watchdog groups and lawyers say.

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