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Subject: Morning Clips – Friday, August 5, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: Many SC Republicans reluctantly stand by Trump

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article93791562.html>

Cassie Cope and Avery G. Wilks

Despite GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump's unsteady performance, most S.C. Republicans continue to stand by their man. But that support comes reluctantly from some. Trump, they say, is the lesser of two evils, adding they can not dream of voting for Democrat Hillary Clinton on Nov. 8.

"Sometimes, he has a tendency to speak before he thinks," said Steve Coleman, 61, a conservative from West Columbia. That tendency has brought a landslide of criticism to the bombastic billionaire real estate mogul this week. Some Republicans cringed at Trump's feud with an American Muslim couple whose son died fighting for the United States in Iraq. Khizr Khan lambasted Trump last week at the Democratic National Convention for calling for a ban on Muslims entering the country.

NOTE: South Carolina's top Republicans do not want to discuss Trump. Earlier this week, Gov. Nikki Haley expressed support for the Khan family. Since then, she has declined to discuss Trump. However, Haley has said she will support her party's nominee. Asked at the GOP convention if she would vote for Trump, Haley replied, "Of course."

Post and Courier: Some day, we'll look back on this and it will all seem scary

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160805/160809735/some-day-we'll-look-back-on-this-and-it-will-all-seem-scary->

Brian Hicks

South Carolina's Republican leaders have come out this week, one by one, to defend the family of a war hero from their party's nominee for president. Watching these high-wire acts — defending a military family while trying not to enrage an already angry voting bloc — should be ample proof that politics is a circus. How difficult is it to condemn unpatriotic, un-American sentiments? Army Capt. Humayun S.M. Khan was killed fighting for this country in Iraq a dozen years ago. His family deserves respect, not bullying. Time was, attacking a veteran's family was unheard of in politics. But then, once upon a time, former prisoners of war were off-limits, too. The bravest of the Palmetto State's politicians — Sen. Lindsey Graham and Gov. Nikki Haley — have the luxury of not running for re-election this year. The others have had to measure their words to the point of absurdity. They may regret that reticence later. One day, people will look back on this year and be horrified.

Clinton Chronicle: The New County Auditor Is Sworn In

<http://www.clintonchronicle.com/breaking-news/new-county-auditor-sworn>

Larry Franklin

Jim Coleman, center, takes the oath of office July 26 as the new Auditor for Laurens County, with his wife Nancy standing by. The oath was administered by County Attorney Sandy Cruickshanks. A former chairman of Laurens County Council, Coleman won the Republican primary June 14 for the

Auditor position vacated by the retirement of Sally Lancaster. Coleman has no opposition in the November General Election, and was appointed by Gov. Nikki Haley to immediately fill the vacant position. - Photo by Vic MacDonald

SC Agency News:

WIS: Senator plans meeting to get answers about "horrendous" I-26 widening

<http://www.wistv.com/story/32690126/senator-plans-meeting-to-get-answers-about-horrendous-i-26-widening>

Chad Mills

State Senator Nikki Setzler has been urging SCDOT to encourage its contractors to get this work done. "It's my understanding the original completion date was July of 2015. They gave them an extension until November of 2015. This is August of 2016," said Sen. Setzler. SCDOT said major progress has been made, and the work is scheduled to be completed by next month. Until then, it's withholding \$10,000 from the contractors each day. So far, SCDOT has withheld about \$2.9 million from the behind-schedule contractors. But, after sending SCDOT a stack of letters, Setzler still said many of his questions remain unanswered. "I've asked for the Department of Transportation to hold a public meeting in Sandy Run and explain to the community what happened on this project. Where are we? Why did it take so long? What's the future hold? Give the public the information they need," he said.

Sun News: Sewer line break in North Myrtle Beach prompts no swimming in parts of ocean

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article93855567.html>

A sewer line broke Thursday night around 21st Ave. South in North Myrtle Beach. Due to the break, a couple of hundred gallons of sewage entered a storm water drain. An Ocean Outfall system is located at 21st Ave. South, causing the water to be dispersed through an underground storm water pipe about a quarter-mile offshore. Use of the system kept the sewage away from ocean water. The South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC) has alerted swimmers they are not to swim within 500 feet on either side of 21st Ave. South until tests were conducted for the ocean water in question.

Associated Press: Family friend seeks prayers for brain-eating amoeba patient

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=n2GNRErS

SC State Wire

A family friend is asking for thoughts and prayers for an 11-year-old South Carolina girl hospitalized after contracting a usually deadly brain-eating amoeba. Kate Olin said in a statement Thursday on behalf of Hannah Collins' family to The Beaufort Gazette (<http://bit.ly/2aVtWfg>) that the family appreciates the tremendous outpouring of love and support they've received. South Carolina health officials confirmed Tuesday that someone had been exposed to *Naegleria fowleri* (nuh-GLEER'-ee-uh FOW'-lur-ee), a one-celled organism that can cause primary amebic meningoencephalitis. Health officials didn't identify the patient, saying it appears the individual was exposed to the amoeba while swimming July 24 in the Edisto River in Charleston County, South Carolina. The organism, which is naturally present in warm fresh water, can be fatal if forced up the nose.

Island Packet : Outlook bleak for Beaufort girl who contracted brain-eating amoeba

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article93660782.html>

Stephen Fastenau

An 11-year-old Beaufort girl fighting for her life after contracting a deadly amoeba is a beauty pageant

queen and attended Riverview Charter School. Hannah Collins was infected with a brain-eating amoeba last month in Charleston County, according to an online fundraising page set up for her family. That information was confirmed Thursday morning by a family friend. Her outlook is bleak, according to an update from family Thursday night. A post on the Facebook page providing updates on her condition said Hannah has irreparable brain damage and that doctors have done everything they can. "We are now waiting for her to join the Angels in heaven," the post said at about 6:30 p.m. Thursday. "As you wait with us, please continue to pray."

SC Political News:

Aiken Standard: Sen. Tim Scott talks MOX, growing business with North Augusta Chamber
<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160804/160809759/sen-tim-scott-talks-mox-growing-business-with-north-augusta-chamber>

Nick Terry

As part of stops in six South Carolina counties on Thursday, Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., dropped by City Council Chambers in the North Augusta Municipal Building to speak with North Augusta Chamber of Commerce members about issues pertinent to the CSRA, as well as the country as a whole. Scott touched on issues ranging from the future of the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility, or MOX, to growing business in North Augusta and what Washington, D.C., is doing to be good stewards of citizens' money. One of the big topics of the hour-long meet-and-greet session was the future of MOX, which is currently under construction at the Savannah River Site and is planned to turn weapons grade plutonium into fuel for commercial nuclear reactors. "One of the economic engines of the area, certainly without any question, is the Savannah River Site. We've been working diligently with Dr. (Ernest) Moniz on ways to re-evaluate what's here, how to continue to expand it, salvaging and making sure we keep the MOX facility off cold standby is a very important part of the equation," Scott said. "The budget for (fiscal year 2017) contains \$270 million for the MOX facility to go forward. We're trying to secure the other \$70 million for it to continue to go forward ... I think we're going to be successful."

Savannah River Site/MOX News:

Aiken Standard: SRNS gets contract extension at Savannah River Site
<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160804/160809788/srns-gets-contract-extension-at-savannah-river-site>

Thomas Gardiner

The U.S. Department of Energy announced Thursday an official extension of the management and operations contract at the Savannah River Site under National Nuclear Security Administration and Environmental Management missions. Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is the contract holder and has been on-site since it was awarded the original contract in January 2008. SRNS President and CEO Carol Johnson announced the decision in an email to the employees. It said, "I'm pleased to report the Department of Energy has extended our contract to operate SRS through July 31, 2018. The contract extension includes all of our EM and NNSA work allowing us to continue to perform DOE's critical missions. In recent months the department had said its intention was to exercise the extension option. The announcement Thursday made things official."

Dylann Roof Case:

Post and Courier : Sheriff's Office cites officer complacency as factor in jail assault on Dylann Roof

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160804/160809747/sheriffs-office-cites-officer-complacency-as-factor-in-jail-assault-on-dylann-roof>

Angie Jackson and Melissa Boughton

Dylann Roof, the white man who claimed he wanted to start a race war when he killed nine black parishioners at Emanuel AME Church, was ambushed Thursday by a black inmate while preparing for a shower at the Charleston County jail. He took a defensive stance but didn't fight back as Dwayne Marion Stafford got in some blows, according to Sheriff Al Cannon. The attack was broken up within seconds, and 22-year-old Roof suffered minor injuries — some bruising his face and back. Two detention officers were supposed to be with Roof during his shower around 7:45 a.m., but one had taken a break and the other was called to take toilet paper to a nearby cell, Cannon said. Inmates in cells surrounding the open showers were supposed to be locked in, but Stafford, 25, of Goose Creek, somehow got out and charged down the stairs at Roof while he was unsupervised.

Post and Courier: Charleston police investigating postcard threatening mosque unless Dylann Roof released

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160804/160809721/charleston-police-investigating-postcard-threatening-mosque-unless-dylann-roof-released>

Gregory Yee

Charleston police are investigating an anonymous postcard threatening violence against a mosque unless Dylann Roof is released from jail. The postcard was sent to a woman who lives near Rutledge Avenue and Spring Street on July 11, according to the incident report. The woman turned the card over to police Monday. The envelope did not have a return address or a name on it, the report said. The card inside had a mosque-like drawing with the number 1488, a combination of two white supremacist numeric symbols. Underneath the drawing, the sender wrote: "CHARLESTON-THE SEQUEL-COMING SOON TO A MOSQUE NEAR YOU ONLESS ROFF IS RELEASED."

Associated Press: Sheriff: Jail inmate slugs man charged in church massacre

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=CNt1qbnU

Bruce Smith

Dylann Roof, the white man charged in the massacre of nine black parishioners at a Charleston church, was slugged Thursday by a black inmate at the South Carolina jail where he is being held, Charleston County Sheriff Al Cannon said. Dwayne Stafford ran down the stairs from his cell after Roof went to the shower around 7:45 a.m. and hit him, bruising Roof's face and back, according to a police report. The 22-year-old Roof was examined by jail medical personnel and returned to his cell at the Charleston County Detention Center, Sheriff's Maj. Eric Watson told The Associated Press. Although authorities initially said Stafford would be charged with assault, Cannon told reporters that Roof and his attorneys don't want to press charges. The 26-year-old Stafford is awaiting trial on first-degree assault and strong-armed robbery charges.

Walter Scott Case

Post and Courier: Michael Slager to have first federal hearing since arraignment

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160804/160809728/michael-slager-to-have-first-federal-hearing-since-arraignment>

Andrew Knapp

A hearing next week in the civil rights case against Michael Slager will mark his first federal court appearance since his arraignment three months ago. The former North Charleston police officer shot Walter Scott to death after a struggle in April 2015. Slager was arrested on a state murder

charge three days later, when a video of the killing surfaced publicly. He was indicted May 10 on federal charges of violating Scott's rights while acting under the color of law, lying to investigators and using a firearm in a violent crime. He was arraigned the next day, when he pleaded not guilty. Judge David Norton will hear from opposing attorneys in the case during a pretrial conference at 2 p.m.

Wednesday in U.S. District Court in downtown Charleston. Charleston attorney Andy Savage leads Slager's defense teams in both courts, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric Klumb is the federal prosecutor. The case has not been scheduled for trial and likely would not go to court until after the state proceeding slated for Oct. 31. Few developments have happened in the federal case, aside from motions by Slager's attorneys asking the government to turn over certain evidence.

SC after Police Shootings:

Post and Courier: Charleston Police Chief Gregory Mullen speaks on the state of policing, building community trust

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160804/160809722/charleston-police-chief-gregory-mullen-speaks-on-the-state-of-policing-building-community-trust>

Gregory Yee

From ongoing criticism accompanied by calls for reforms and transparency to growing concern over officers' safety in the wake of fatal attacks in Dallas and Baton Rouge, police today are caught between extremes. This was part of Charleston Police Chief Gregory Mullen's message Thursday afternoon at Halls Chophouse. The Small Business Lunch series is held every month at the King Street restaurant and features speakers from businesses, politicians and other areas of local civic life. For Mullen, an essential part of moving past current challenges is building community relationships and teaching the public that they need to be actively engaged in partnership with police. "[Reports are] all talking about what the police can do. ... They're not talking about what the community can do," he said. "I guarantee you, that until we can get the community actively engaged as a partner in the things that we're doing, we're not going to be as successful as we possibly can be."

The Herald: Trial in Chester firefighters/sheriff roadside scuffle lawsuit won't be heard until 2017

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article93740392.html>

Andrew Dys

The lawsuit filed by two Chester County firefighters alleging false arrest and assault against the sheriff and his chief deputy will not come to trial until at least March – long after the November sheriff's election. The roadside scuffle on Valentine's Day 2014 between West Chester Fire Chief Andy Martin and his brother Tommy Martin – a former Chester County Councilman and school board member – and Sheriff Alex Underwood and his chief deputy over closing a snow-covered road following a truck crash was captured on dashcam video by state troopers. Deputies said the Martins threatened police and started the confrontation. The upcoming November election was at the center of the incident. Andy Martin wanted the road closed, but deputies declined, saying state troopers held that authority. Martin then made comments over the emergency radio about the 2016 election, in which Underwood is up for re-election. Underwood and his chief deputy and another command staffer then responded to the scene before the scuffle.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: Sexual harassment? Intimidation? Bribes? It's all predictable when no one's accountable

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article93761607.html>

Cindi Ross Scope

LET'S START WITH the good things that have happened since we first learned about the mess at the Richland County Recreation Commission, because goodness knows there's more than enough bad:

The Richland County Sheriff's Department, SLED and the FBI agreed to investigate allegations that Executive Director James Brown III has been harassing and intimidating employees and paying bribes to commissioners.

The Richland County Council voted to withhold most of the commission's budget until the agency is audited by an auditor chosen by the county.

The Richland County legislative delegation voted to ask the Recreation Commission to suspend Mr. Brown pending the outcome of the criminal probes.

Mr. Brown put himself on indefinite (paid) leave — one hopes because he was warned he was about to be suspended.

...Sadly, the bad is worse.

South Carolina News:

Herald-Journal: Olympians' outfits have ties to Carolinas

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160804/articles/160809844>

Zach Fox

The outfits American athletes will be wearing during the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2016 Olympic Games have close-knit ties with Spartanburg County. Workers at the Inman Mills plant in Enoree produced the unfinished white fabric that was used to design the pants and shorts Team USA will wear at the beginning and end of the games in Rio. The products came together thanks to a partnership between Inman Mills and two companies in North Carolina. "This is a real Carolinas project," said Inman Mills CEO Rob Chapman. "There's a huge sense of pride. Made in America, made in the Carolinas, and our Olympic athletes are wearing them — how do you beat that. One of the criticisms you had in the past is, Americans are wearing these, and where are they made — not here."

Local News:

The State: Much of Charlotte man's ISIS recruitment happened in Columbia, timeline shows

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article93830847.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan, Mark Washburn, and Tim Funk

A Charlotte man arrested Thursday on charges of trying to recruit radical Islamic terrorists apparently did much of his work while living in Columbia, according to a federal complaint and the FBI. Erick Jamal Hendricks, 35, used largely social media to identify people to train and to join ISIL – also known as ISIS – between early March last year and end of May 2015, according to federal charges. Hendricks also claimed to be planning a secret training camp on U.S. soil and was involved though not present during a failed May 2015 terrorist attack in Garland, Texas, over an art event that mocked pictures of the prophet Muhammad. Hendricks lived in Columbia from May 2015 to June 2016, according to Special Agent Vicki Anderson with the FBI office in Cleveland, where the charges were issued. Nearly half of the instances listed in the 35-page federal complaint where Hendricks is said to have communicated with people for terrorist purposes took place in May 2015 – 12 out of 29 conversations cited in the document. During one in-person meeting with a recruit in the Baltimore area on May 2, 2015, an FBI agent said a Honda Odyssey van that had a South Carolina license plate and was registered to Hendricks' ex-wife was spotted. The couple divorced in 2009.

Associated Press: Greenville pastor accused of molesting 12-year-old girl

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

SC State Wire

Deputies say a Greenville pastor is accused of inappropriately touching a 12-year-old girl. Media outlets report the Greenville County Sheriff's Office says that 54-year-old James Brian Briley was arrested Wednesday and charged with third-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor. Deputies say Briley is accused of inappropriately touching and molesting the victim at his home on Sunday. Authorities say Briley was the campus pastor at Summit Church in Greenville. Master Deputy Ryan Flood says Briley also previously worked at the Frazee Dream Center, a free preschool, before and after school and summer program. The Elders of Summit Church released a statement Thursday saying they have terminated Briley from his positions at the church. It isn't immediately clear if he has an attorney.

Charlotte Observer: Fate of Carowinds visa workers is unclear after underage drinking charges

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/local/article93659477.html>

Kiana Cole

The fate of the Carowinds visa workers who were accused of underage drinking Tuesday morning remains unknown. Officers responded to a call at 1:20 a.m. Tuesday at the parking lot of a Motel 6 near the amusement park. A group of Carowinds employees in the United States on work visas were charged with underage drinking and running from police. Trent Faris, a spokesman for the York County, S.C., sheriff's office, said 23 of the 24 individuals at the scene ran when officers arrived. Of those, 10 were charged with underage drinking. The employees were in Charlotte on J1 visas through the Exchange Visitor Program run by the U.S. Department of State, according to Nathan Arnold, a public affairs officer from the state department. WSOC-TV reported that 27 employees were fired in connection to Tuesday incident. Carowinds did not return phone and email requests for comment.

Herald-Journal: Spartanburg courthouse to use e-filing to expedite cases

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160804/articles/160809850>

Daniel J. Gross

The filing process within the Spartanburg County Courthouse will soon go digital, eliminating paperwork for civil cases and improving case management. Clerk of Court Hope Blackley held an information session in a courtroom Thursday afternoon to introduce lawyers and law office personnel to the process of filing cases electronically in the near future. Spartanburg County is set to go live with its e-filing system on Aug. 23, making it the seventh county in South Carolina to adopt the program that closely mirrors the federal court e-filing system. The other counties already using e-file are Clarendon, Lee, Williamsburg, Sumter, Pickens and Greenville. Chief Justice Costa Pleicones came to the session to show support for the switch to a digital system. He expects e-filing of civil court cases to be implemented statewide by 2019.

Associated Press: Officials: Norbord plant employee suffers severe burns

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=h97RUiwl

SC State Wire

Emergency officials say a Laurens County plant employee has been rushed to the hospital after suffering severe burns at the facility. Local news agencies report that Lauren County EMS officials say incident happened Thursday afternoon at Norbord Industries in Kinards. WYFF-TV reports that dispatchers say over 90 percent of the employee's body was burned from steam. The unidentified victim was airlifted in critical condition to JMS Burn Center in Augusta, Georgia. Officials have not released any other details about the incident. According to the company's website, Norbord Inc.

makes wood-based panels and has 17 plants around the world.

Post and Courier : Charleston airport passenger traffic sets record for first 6 months of 2016

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160804/160809738/charleston-airport-passenger-traffic-sets-record-for-first-6-months-of-2016>

Warren L. Wise

Passenger traffic at Charleston International Airport is on course to break another record this year. Through June, 1.8 million ticket holders passed through the state's busiest airport, up 13 percent over the first six months of 2015. At the current rate, Charleston International could see 3.8 million passengers arriving and departing for all of 2016, according to airport officials. That reflects stronger anticipated growth for the final six months of the year. "The growth of tourism and business in the Lowcountry has helped fuel the growth we are seeing at the airport," said Paul Campbell, executive director and CEO of Charleston County Aviation Authority, which oversees the airport. "It is both a challenge to meet the needs of travelers and a welcome opportunity to be a contributor to the economic vitality of this region".

Post and Courier: West Ashley revitalization: City Council eyeing almost \$70 million in improvements

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160804/160809756/west-ashley-revitalization-city-council-eyeing-almost-70-million-in-improvements>

Diane Knich

The revitalization of West Ashley was spinning its wheels for years, but it's finally getting some traction. Next month, Charleston City Council is expected to approve a special tax district that could raise \$69 million for road work, drainage and other improvements along the largely commercial Sam Rittenberg Boulevard corridor. Later this month, the group will approve members for a new West Ashley Revitalization Commission. And a more-engaged group of residents will be keeping an eye on it all. "It's like a snowball rolling downhill gaining momentum," said Councilman Bill Moody, who represents a part of the largely suburban portion of the city. People had talked about improving West Ashley for years, he said, but until now, "it was just dreaming."

Post and Courier: North Charleston land auction brings lower bids than expected

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160804/160809703/north-charleston-land-auction-brings-lower-bids-than-expected>

Brenda Rindge

North Charleston officials thought they could make a quick buck by auctioning off surplus land Thursday, but it didn't seem to pan out. Only one of four properties up for grabs reached its appraised value, and City Council has reserved the right to reject any bid that came in under the property's appraised value. Council members will consider the sales at its Aug. 11 meeting. City Council decided last month to sell the tracts in an effort to rebuild the city's bank account after it agreed in October to a \$6.5 million payout to the family of Walter Scott, a move that avoided a wrongful death lawsuit. Fewer than 25 people registered to bid.

Post and Courier : Denial of Charleston short-term rentals also kills new parking spaces

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160804/160809720/denial-of-charleston-short-term-rentals-also-kills-new-parking-spaces>

Dave Munday

A Charleston city board's denial of a request to convert 11 apartments on King Street into short-term rentals for visitors also kills about three dozen new parking spaces in downtown Charleston, according to the developer. Troy Barber, principal with King & Society Real Estate, is proposing the

conversion at 289-291 King St. above Sephora, a retailer that sells beauty products. The conversion to accommodations use would require a zoning variance because the building has no parking spaces. Barber said he would create about three dozen parking spaces at 25 George St. if he gets approval from the city. Barber also owns The Quarters on King St., a space at 292 King with nine condominiums for short-term rentals. He leases parking spaces for those visitors. If the city approves the conversion of 289-291 King, guests at The Quarters would also use the parking spaces on George Street, he said.

The Herald: A Rock Hill Eagle Scout is making the Catawba River safer, one mile marker at a time
<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article93733122.html>

Teddy Kulmala

The Catawba River will be a little safer, thanks to the work of a Rock Hill teenager. For his Eagle Scout project, Harris Vaughan, 16, decided to erect mile marker signs along the Catawba River so that if someone gets in trouble on the water, they can better relay their location to emergency responders. There are now 16 signs every half mile from the dam to River Park, including signs that alert boaters and swimmers to takeout points. Carrying out the project required the help of York County Emergency Management and speaking with property owners. Emergency Management director Chuck Haynes said the plan is for Lancaster County Emergency Management to pick up the project and continue it down the river through Lancaster County. "This has been talked about for a while, but Harris brought the energy to actually pull it together," he said. "It's not just a sign; it is actually in our dispatch center's system, so when folks call 911 they're not just saying there's a sign. That tells us information on how to access people at that point appropriately, which resources to send and that sort of thing."

The State: Runners, walkers getting in step on trail in Cayce park

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article93780202.html>

Tim Flach

A trail through a new Cayce park no longer is off the beaten path for walkers and joggers. Jeannie Aull and Betsy Hutton decided the trail in a wooded preserve near I-77 and 12th Street is the right spot for their weekly get-together to work out and catch up with each other. "It's pretty, peaceful and scenic," Aull said of the path along Congaree Creek. Her rave is echoed by others who come to the Timmerman Trail, a 3.5-mile paved path through a 1,000-acre area on the south edge of the community slowly being developed as the 12,000 Year History Park. "I see it as my own little getaway," said Kayla Millholland, a doctor's assistant at nearby Lexington Medical Center offices who runs the paths training for a marathon. Those descriptions are what leaders of the River Alliance had in mind in proposing the park 20 years ago.

The State: Pokemon Go meet-ups scheduled for upcoming Friday nights at Columbia parks

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article93710152.html>

Sarah Ellis

Hey now, let's all stop crying about the missing PokeStops at the S.C. State House. Columbia Parks and Recreation is calling all Pokemon trainers to come together on Fridays for a series of Pokemon Go meet-ups at parks around the city. Park rangers will be available at the meet-ups to discuss PokeStops, which are often located at historical or cultural markers and landmarks. On the heels of the city of West Columbia launching a site Monday at its riverfront amphitheater, Pokemon Go in the Parks begins Friday at Columbia's Riverfront Park. The full schedule...

Sun News: Oktoberfest end signals new path for business organization

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/business/tourism/article93815042.html>

Chloe Johnson

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/business/tourism/article93815042.html> A group representing local business owners is taking a new direction as Myrtle Beach adjusts its downtown events to become more family friendly. Earlier this month, city council approved a new event — the first Myrtle Beach Seafood Festival. Organizers said they hope to make the event an annual one, but as it begins it will replace another long-running event: the yearly Oktoberfest celebration. Oktoberfest celebrations in The Market Common will continue. The Oceanfront Merchants Association, which represents businesses in Myrtle Beach's downtown area, had long organized downtown events like Oktoberfest. But after St. Patrick's Day events were canceled under the group's leadership this spring, the city decided to pull its funding for OMA and move event planning to a different organization.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press : Poll: Most young Americans say parties don't represent them

<http://bigstory.ap.org/539177f3b7d643f3b274fdde7336b936>

Laurie Kellman and Emily Swanson

Most young Americans say the Republican and Democratic parties don't represent them, a critical data point after a year of ferocious presidential primaries that forced partisans on both sides to confront what — and whom — they stand for. That's according to a new GenForward poll that shows the disconnect holds true across racial and ethnic groups, with just 28 percent of young adults overall saying the two major parties do a good job of representing the American people. The poll shows that despite this across-the-board feeling of disenchantment with the two-party system, the Democratic Party holds a clear advantage in appealing to young people of color. But among young whites, majorities feel left out by both parties. More than two-thirds of young adults, including vast majorities of young Asian-Americans, Hispanics and blacks, say the Republican Party does not care about people like them.

Associated Press : Trump acknowledges that footage he saw was not from Iran

<http://bigstory.ap.org/db721c1f3ee248bb9506a269de1981c0>

Donald Trump is making a rare admission he was wrong — in claiming he saw a video of a U.S. cash payment going to Iran. Trump tweeted Friday that "The plane I saw on television was the hostage plane in Geneva, Switzerland, not the plane carrying \$400 million in cash going to Iran!" Trump has been expressing outrage about a \$400 million payment the U.S. made to Iran this year. It was delivered on the same day that Iran released four Americans they had detained. Republicans call it ransom; the Obama administration says it was money the U.S. legally owed Iran. Trump said Wednesday he saw video showing the money being delivered. The campaign acknowledged Thursday that this was incorrect, yet Trump repeated the claim hours later at a rally.

National News:

Associated Press: Obama denies \$400M payment to Iran was ransom

<http://bigstory.ap.org/fd5f72fc642f4961b2777744fd68517f>

Josh Lederman

President Barack Obama vigorously denied that a \$400 million cash payment to Iran was ransom to secure the release of four Americans jailed in Tehran. He defended the transaction as evidence that the nuclear accord with Iran has allowed for progress on other matters. "This wasn't some nefarious deal," Obama said Thursday during a news conference at the Pentagon. The cash was delivered to

the Iranian government in January, at the same time the nuclear deal was settled and the Americans were released. The payment was part of a decades-old dispute over a failed military equipment deal dating to the 1970s, before the Islamic revolution in 1979. The president also pushed back at Republican nominee Donald Trump's suggestions that the November election might be rigged, calling the assertion "ridiculous." He said his advice to Trump, a candidate he has declared "unfit" for the presidency, was to "go out there and try to win the election."

World News:

Associated Press: Rio Olympics opening ceremony highlights Brazil, environment

<http://bigstory.ap.org/7f557efd2ca7442da04c2fd9624508a9>

Mauricio Savarese

There's nothing like the unique Brazilian vibe — and the opening ceremony for the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro will see no shortage of samba, culture, diversity and history as the South American nation proudly showcases its traditions and environmental wonders. Millions of television viewers from around the world are expected to watch the three-hour ceremony Friday night, which comes as the country is reeling from political and economic turmoil. Since the event won't be able to avoid the issues that are gripping Brazil — a president facing impeachment, a deep recession and environmental threats — organizers made sure that global warming and the environment, especially the country's magnificent Amazon rainforest, are important parts of the Olympic opening ceremony. "The world is very tense and so is Brazil. We are also willing to tell the world to stop attacking our home. The world is threatened because of global warming. We are calling for action," said Fernando Meirelles, one of the directors of the show.

Associated Press: Visitors to Rio Olympics will find all 5 senses triggered

<http://bigstory.ap.org/e05eb3f80c1d4552a08909c456802d0b>

Peter Prengaman

Right after getting off the plane, sweat beads will start to gather on your forehead. That's just Rio de Janeiro's ever-present humidity saying "hello." Look around and you will be enveloped by shades of green — lush tropical forests jammed between buildings of all sizes — and tones of blue along the miles of inviting coastlines. Towering over the 2016 Summer Olympics host city is the Christ the Redeemer statue. After a few days, you might chuckle when a hotel brochure or tour guide tries to sell you something by saying it "includes" a view of the statue. Jesus is everywhere here, as is plenty of temptation and sin. In Brazil, prostitution is legal, though that doesn't mean that you will see women and men hawking their bodies all over the city. In fact, walking around, you are more likely to come upon churches, especially of growing evangelical denominations like Pentecostals. Up in the hills, you can see small dwellings that look like stone huts jammed one after the other, in red and green and pink and orange and many other colors of the rainbow. The slums of Rio, known as favelas, are the most colorful places in the city, culturally vibrant and filled with interesting people. They are also the city's poorest areas, often controlled by drug-traffickers and plagued by violence.

Associated Press: Malaysia confirms Flight 370 course was on pilot's simulator

<http://bigstory.ap.org/30564639c1924bb1aa4145b961944136>

Eileen NG

Malaysia acknowledged for the first time that one of the pilots of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 had plotted a course on his home flight simulator to the southern Indian Ocean, where the missing jet is believed to have crashed. Australian officials overseeing the search for the plane last month said data recovered from Capt. Zaharie Ahmad Shah's simulator included a flight path to the southern Indian

Ocean. Malaysian officials at the time refused to confirm the findings. On Thursday, Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai told local journalists that the flight path was found on the simulator. He also cautioned there were "thousands" of destinations on the simulator and no evidence that Zaharie flew the plane in that area or deliberately crashed it. A recording of the news conference was made available to The Associated Press on Friday.

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