

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
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Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, April 27, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: Senate set to pass ethics measures

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160427/160429488/palmetto-sunrise-senate-set-to-pass-ethics-measures>

Gavin Jackson

After much criticism by Gov. Nikki Haley, outside groups and House members the South Carolina Senate is poised to pass two ethics bills today, one of which will end the practice of self-policing by lawmakers themselves. The measure, along with another requiring lawmakers disclose their income sources-- but not the amounts--would be a major legacy victory for Haley, if passed. The second-term governor has made ethics a signature platform issue. But there was no "bring it home" tweet from Haley, who frequently uses social media to make lawmakers and the public aware of her stances, Tuesday after senators gave second reading to a bill creating an independent ethics commission for lawmakers.

Jobs & Hire: Chartspan Medical Adds 300 Jobs To South Carolina

<http://www.jobshire.com/articles/41831/20160427/chartspan-medical-adds-300-jobs-south-carolina.htm>

Jane Reed

Chartspan Medical Technologies is a known health care data company that empowers users to manage their healthcare information on their smartphones and other smart devices through their app. The company enables users to organize their medical history in one source. Medical history includes, medications, x-rays, lab results, immunization, health records, etc. Now, Chartspan is expanding and the business plans to accommodate 300 additional employees would be housed in a 100,000 sq foot office space. The Greenville, South Carolina based company wants to bring in additional clinical support operations which will make them the largest employers in the downtown area.

Note: Carter is extremely proud that the collaboration between everyone is being supported and strong. South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley emphasizes that the jobs the company will create a huge impact in the state.

WCSC: Keeping local water free from lead

<http://www.live5news.com/story/31825276/keeping-local-water-free-from-lead>

Sarah Danik

We are finding out that government agencies are making sure that the information about water from public water systems is available to the public. In February, the EPA reached out to South Carolina, to see how the state is monitoring lead in drinking water in all 695 public water systems in the state. DHEC answered the EPA through their own letter, dated March 29th.

Note: And then, in March, Gov. Nikki Haley asked DHEC to provide a report of what they're doing to keep residents of South Carolina, safe. Director Catherine Heigel replied with her own letter, dated April 7th. She wrote, "DHEC currently monitors 695 PWSs for lead and copper in accordance with

the federal Lead and Copper Rule. I can report that 667 of these PWSs (96%) have had no exceedance of the lead action level in the past five years.”

General Assembly News:

Associated Press: SC senators suggest independent ethics investigations

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

SC State Wire

South Carolina senators are moving toward creating an independent commission to consider ethics complaints against lawmakers. The Senate agreed Tuesday to set up a final showdown on another component of ethics reform backed by the House and Gov. Nikki Haley. The bill revamps the State Ethics Commission to an eight-member board. Four members would be appointed by the governor and Democratic and Republican lawmakers would each add two members. The final vote could come Wednesday.

The State: SC senators hope to pass ethics reforms Wednesday

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article74070372.html>

Jamie Self

A chronic impasse over ethics reform in the S.C. Senate may be clearing up. Senators gave the second of three required readings Tuesday to a bill that would end the practice of lawmakers policing themselves. It is a change to the state's ethics laws that Republican Gov. Nikki Haley, some lawmakers and good-government watchdogs have been demanding for more than three years, only to watch proposals die. The bill would create an independent panel to investigate ethics complaints against lawmakers and other public officials. Now, state lawmakers investigate themselves.

Associated Press: Majority Leader will OK funding bill if reform moves forward

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=zSTPIX0k

SC State Wire

The Senate Majority Leader says he needs to see progress on legislation to reform how the Department of Transportation is run before he can back a proposal that could borrow up to \$2 billion for road projects in South Carolina. Sen. Shane Massey says he and some other Republicans have always felt reform for DOT should go hand and hand with extra money for the agency. A conference committee of House and Senate members meets Wednesday to discuss their competing bills that change the structure of the board that runs DOT. Massey said Tuesday he will watch what that committee does before deciding if he backs the funding bill that uses \$200 million in fees and other revenue to borrow \$2 billion. That money would fix bridges and widen interstates.

Greenville News: Senate gives key ok to road-funding bill, with strings

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/04/26/senate-gives-key-ok-road-funding-bill-strings/83559566/>

Tim Smith

The Senate on Tuesday gave key approval to a bill that would produce \$3 billion for work on the state's crumbling infrastructure but a detour lies ahead. The approval by voice vote came with an understanding that Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey will object to a vote for final approval unless he sees progress between House and Senate negotiators on the issue of reform at the state Department of Transportation.

Post and Courier: S.C. House aims to ban ticket quotas by law enforcement

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160426/PC1603/160429515>

Cynthia Roldan

The S.C. House of Representatives passed a bill Tuesday that would prevent police departments from requiring officers to meet quotas for written citations. The proposal passed with no opposition on a 99-0 vote. It still has to clear the Senate by the end of session in June to become law. The bill was introduced by Democratic state Rep. Justin Bamberg. The bill is one of a few pieces of law enforcement-related legislation that members of the General Assembly have introduced since Scott's killing.

Post and Courier: Senate advances bills dealing with roads, opioids, airbags

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160426/PC1603/160429521>

Gavin Jackson

The South Carolina Senate is poised for a roads debate showdown as critical approval to send billions to fix state roads hit a bump Tuesday. Bills toughening penalties on opioid possession and airbag counterfeiters moved forward. The stream of activity in the Statehouse kicks off the peak of the legislative session where bills need to pass either the House or Senate in order to have any shot at becoming a law before session ends in early June.

Associated Press: Bill making men in SC wait for Viagra gets another hearing

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=fKtsOz21

Jeffrey Collins

A bill that would make getting Viagra and other drugs to treat erectile dysfunction nearly as hard to obtain as an abortion in South Carolina is going before a House committee. Rep. Mia McLeod has said she knows her bill doesn't have a chance to pass the Republican and male-dominated Legislature. But she wants to use hearings like the one Wednesday before the House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee to make a point. McLeod says lawmakers have no business regulating men's sexual lives and they should stay out of women's reproductive issues.

Post and Courier: Moncks Corner lawmaker absent from Statehouse after sexual harassment allegations

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160426/PC1603/160429524>

Maya T. Prabhu

A Moncks Corner lawmaker was notably absent from the Statehouse on what would have been his first day back in Columbia since a page last week accused him of sexual harassment. Republican Rep. Edward Southard has retained the Columbia-based Strom Law Firm to represent him. Calls to Southard and his attorney were not returned Tuesday. Rep. Bill Crosby, R-North Charleston, said he was surprised that an accusation was made against Southard.

SC Agency News:

The State: Lawsuit in child deaths goes to the heart of long SC DSS controversy

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article74081817.html#storylink=apmobile>

John Monk

Twenty months ago, when news of the five slain Jones children first stunned South Carolina and the nation, state Sen. Vincent Sheheen slammed Gov. Nikki Haley and the S.C. Department of Social Services for not doing more to protect the Jones children.

Note: Haley, who had earlier in 2014 praised the then-DSS director Lillian Keller as being a "rock

star," slammed Sheheen for playing politics. "Vincent Sheheen is long been known as someone who will try to take political advantage of any tragedy, but we didn't think even he would stoop so low as to politicize one of the saddest situations in state history," a Haley spokesman said on Sept. 16, 2014, two weeks after the killings came to light and DSS's involvement was just beginning to be known. Note: A Haley spokeswoman said the governor would not retract her comments about Sheheen. "This was a tragedy in 2014, and it remains one today. None of the facts from 2014 – which DSS released at the time – have changed, and that includes the fact that Senator Sheheen was running for governor against Governor Haley. So, yes, we absolutely stand by that statement," said spokeswoman Chaney Adams.

WIS: DJJ officials: Low pay, vacancies causing major issues

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31821491/djj-officials-low-pay-vacancies-causing-major-issues>

Allie Spillyards

Officials from the Department of Juvenile Justice testified before a Senate committee Tuesday following several security incidents throughout the past year. The meeting focused on more than 40 DJJ officer vacancies and the low salaries that are making the positions tough to fill. Director Sylvia Murray told the committee the ratio of officers to juveniles is currently one to 10, but she'd like to see it increased to two to 10. Right now, however, the department's 20 percent understaffed when it comes to security. While both the House and Senate have proposed budgeting for a \$1,500 raise for DJJ officers, several committee members strongly urged Murray to ask for more.

WLTX: Systemic Problems lead to Riots at Juvenile Jail

<http://www.wltx.com/news/politics/systemic-problems-lead-to-riots-at-juvenile-jail/154581085>

As lawmakers heard from agency heads at the Department of Juvenile Justice, they said their main focus now is to prevent future riots like the one that broke out on February 26. Stealing cars, escaping through drainage grates, attempting to assault female inmates, and setting fires were just some of the details on the timeline of events during the four hour long ordeal at the Broad River Road facility. Lawmakers like Senator Joel Lourie said DJJ and the General Assembly need to now focus on making changes to the department. Among changes discussed were pay increases from a \$25,000 starting salary for officers. DJJ Director Sylvia Murray said there are high turnover rates, with currently 40 openings for correctional officers at the department.

The State: High-level job vacancies filled at DHEC

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article74095037.html#storylink=apmobile>

Sammy Fretwell

Two of the highest-ranking posts at South Carolina's environmental protection agency have been filled by veteran regulators, who will oversee programs to monitor air and water pollution across the state. The Department of Health and Environmental Control named David Baize director of the department's water division and Rhonda Thompson director of its air division. Both have been acting directors of the divisions while DHEC environment chief Myra Reece sought to fill the jobs permanently.

Savannah River Site News:

Aiken Standard: U.S. Department of Energy files motion to dismiss South Carolina MOX lawsuit

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160426/AIK0101/160429631>

Michael Smith

South Carolina's lawsuit targeting the Savannah River Site MOX facility should be dismissed because

the federal government isn't legally obligated to meet construction milestones listed in the 2003 agreement, according to recent court filings. The state's lawsuit filed in February says the U.S. Department of Energy reneged on mandates to either complete the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility at SRS or transfer 1 ton of weapons-grade plutonium per year to an off-site facility.

Note: "The governor has been clear: South Carolina will not be a dumping ground for nuclear waste," Chaney Adams, press secretary for Gov. Nikki Haley, said in a statement. "We deserve better than the years of broken promises we've seen from the federal government, and we won't back down on what is an important economic development and quality of life issue for the people of our state."

LGBT Laws:

Greenville News : Bathroom bill fails to get needed votes, likely dead

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/04/26/bathroom-bill-fails-get-needed-votes-likely-dead/83549690/>

Tim Smith

Three GOP senators on the Senate General Committee say they oppose the transgender bathroom bill and a fourth said he is torn, a number which likely means the bill is dead for the year. Sen. Greg Gregory of Lancaster, Sen. Ray Cleary of Murrell's Inlet and Sen. Paul Campbell of Goose Creek told The Greenville News Tuesday they are opposed to the bill. Sen. Lee Bright, the bill's sponsor, said he needs nine of the 10 GOP members of the 17-member committee to approve it in order for it to advance to the floor. Democrats oppose the bill. If three GOP members oppose it and a fourth is on the fence, the bill cannot come out of committee.

Note: "I don't think the bill is going anywhere," Sen. Joel Lourie, a Columbia Democrat and one of the bill's main opponents, told The News. "I can tell you it's dead."

Post and Courier: Two Senate Democrats vow to kill controversial transgender bathroom bill

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160426/PC1603/160429519>

Cynthia Roldan

Two Democratic state senators have vowed to kill a controversial bill that would block local governments from expanding the use of gender-designated public restrooms to transgender people. The promise came after veteran lawmaker Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Columbia, learned that sponsor Sen. Lee Bright, R-Roebuck, was counting if he had the needed votes to send the "Bathroom Bill" to the Senate floor. The practice is referred to as "polling," and it allows senators to bypass the process for bills that are usually not controversial having to run through subcommittee meetings.

Associated Press: Alabama city passes transgender bathroom ordinance

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:d61cfc5a579b45a985049b36acdf78b7>

The city of Oxford, Alabama, has passed an ordinance making it illegal to use a public restroom different from the gender on a person's birth certificate. Council President Steven Waits tells local news outlets the ordinance passed Tuesday came in response to Target's new restroom and changing room policies. Target announced the policies last week, which allow transgender employees and shoppers to use the restroom that matches their gender identity. There is a Target store in the Oxford Exchange shopping center. The ordinance makes the offense a misdemeanor. Oxford Police Chief Bill Partridge says the law will be enforced like any other city ordinance, such as noise violations or public indecency. Violators of the ordinance could face a \$500 fine or up to six months in jail.

SC Political News:

McClatchy DC : Election trumps business issues in S.C. meetings (pun intended)

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/article74082942.html>

Vera Bergengruen

Thirty representatives from South Carolina businesses met with congressional leaders on Tuesday as part of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce's first D.C. Fly-In. Spanning both family-owned businesses and the South Carolina branches of large corporations, the business leaders got a chance to meet legislators and policy experts and ask them about issues that directly affect the state. While there was plenty of praise from the chamber's members for their delegation's leadership in Congress, there also seemed to be one overarching theme – why can't anything get done? Over the course of the afternoon, the questions ranged from tax reform to energy policy, from healthcare to international trade. Above all loomed the shadow of the upcoming presidential election.

Herald-Journal: Beatty chief justice nomination gets SC judicial panel's backing

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160426/articles/160429723>

Bob Montgomery

S.C. Supreme Court Associate Justice Don Beatty of Spartanburg has moved a big step closer to becoming chief justice of South Carolina's highest court. "He is qualified, there is no question in my mind," said Sen. Larry Martin, R-Pickens, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. "He's a single candidate for chief justice by being the most senior associate on the court." The commission will publish its decision May 12, after which Beatty can lobby lawmakers in both chambers for votes, Martin said.

SC Elections:

Aiken Standard: S.C. House District 81 candidates tackle ethics, infrastructure at Aiken forum

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160426/AIK0101/160429557>

Christina Cleveland

The four Republican candidates vying for the S.C. House District 81 seat have weighed in on who should handle ethical complaints and how they believe the state can repair its crumbling roads and bridges. In a forum hosted by the Aiken Republican Club, candidates K.T. Ruthven, Bart Blackwell, Chris Austin and Jeremy O'Donnell gave their positions on questions that included infrastructure, ethics reform and a Senate-proposed state employee wage increase. Attendees at the forum learned more about the GOP candidates who are running for the seat currently held by S.C. Rep. Don Wells, R-Aiken. Wells announced he will not seek re-election this fall.

Opinion/Editorial:

Post and Courier: 'Disturbing School Law' is criminalizing students

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160427/PC1002/160429512>

Editorial: Shaundra Scott

All children deserve a quality education in an environment where they are safe and able to learn. Right now, a law that was intended to protect kids has gone badly off track. Our state's Disturbing School Law is putting too many kids on a pathway to prison. The law is overly broad and misguided and is in desperate need of reform. We rely on our schools and the people who work there to educate the next generation and to help our kids become productive members of society. Not every kid is perfect, but right now far too many are being pushed toward incarceration. The line between school discipline and police arrest has broken down, and thousands of young people — many of them good

kids who simply made a mistake — are ending up in jail, their futures tarnished. South Carolina has an opportunity to fix the law and improve how we treat our young people.

South Carolina News:

The State: Federal court seizes websites for selling counterfeit, misbranded drugs

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article73997487.html>

A federal court ordered the seizure of dozens of website domains officials believe are involved in the smuggling and selling of misbranded and counterfeit prescription drugs. U.S. Attorney Bill Nettles announced special agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Homeland Security Investigations executed seizure orders against 67 commercial website domain names, according to a news release from Nettles' office. The websites allegedly engaged in the illegal sale and distribution of counterfeit and prescription drugs. The domains are in the custody of the federal government, and banners will notify website visitors of the violations against federal laws.

Post and Courier: State Ports Authority won't disclose offers for its waterfront HQ

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160426/PC05/160429493>

David Wren

As it looks to sell its prime waterfront headquarters in downtown Charleston, the State Ports Authority said it will not disclose any information about the dozen offers it has received from prospective buyers. Agency spokeswoman Erin Dhand said the authority "will not disclose copies of the bids" to the public. The SPA denied The Post and Courier's request for copies under the state's open-records law Tuesday. Jay Bender, a Columbia lawyer and FOIA expert, said the agency has a legal obligation to release the documents and an obligation to the public to ensure the transaction is above-board. "The reason for having a bidding process is so everyone can see the award has been made properly," Bender said. "The ports authority isn't exempt from FOIA, even though they've tried to act like they are in the past.

Local News:

The State: Family of woman struck by lightning sues Columbia airport, American Airlines

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article74060452.html#storylink=apmobile>

Avery G. Wilks

The husband of a woman who was forced out of an airplane at Columbia Metropolitan Airport as a thunderstorm approached last year is suing the airport, American Airlines and US Airways, alleging the woman died after being struck by lightning on the tarmac. "Common sense should have informed those in charge not to send passengers onto an open tarmac in the rain as a dangerous storm approached," said Ken Suggs, a Columbia attorney who filed suit in the case. The lawsuit, filed Tuesday in Lexington County circuit court, seeks unspecified damages for alleged failure to take safety precautions to eliminate the risk of injury to passengers from storms or lightning.

Associated Press: Former bank employee sentenced for embezzling \$180K

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=uebYe6Wm

SC State Wire

A former Carolina Alliance Bank employee has pleaded guilty to embezzling nearly \$180,000 from a customer's bank account. Murray Glenn, spokesman for the 7th Circuit Solicitor's Office, tells the Herald-Journal of Spartanburg (<http://bit.ly/1MYw9nr>) that 30-year-old Nichole Lynn Buchanan was sentenced Tuesday to two years in jail and five years' probation after pleading guilty to breach of trust

with fraudulent intent and exploitation of a vulnerable adult. Buchanan will also have to pay back almost \$194,000 in restitution.

Herlad-Journal: Spartanburg crime rises slightly after years of decline

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160426/articles/160429712>

Daniel J. Gross

Violent crime in Spartanburg rose in 2015, ending a seven-year downward trend, but police officials say the uptick shouldn't be cause for undue concern. Police Chief Alonzo Thompson presented the statistics to the Spartanburg City Council Monday night. He noted the city's 35 percent drop in overall crime since 2007. But from 2014 to 2015, violent crime rose 5.8 percent, from 310 to 328 incidents. Overall reported crime rose 4.4 percent, going from 3,429 incidents in 2014 to 3,581 incidents in 2015. "The bottom line when looking at numbers is steady progress," Thompson said. "Now, in the next two and three years, if there's another 4 and 5 percent (increase) or a three-year trend, that's worth noting."

The State: Coroner, jail among Richland departments expected to overspend budgets

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article74085717.html#storylink=apmobile>

Sarah Ellis

While the Richland County Voter Registration and Elections office drew much debate over its recent request for an extra \$1 million this budget year, at least three other county departments are on track to overspend their budgets as well. The Richland County Coroner, Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center and Council Services are asking County Council for a total of more than \$1.5 million to be added to their budgets through the end of June to avoid running deficits. The coroner's office is requesting an extra \$600,000, which includes \$250,000 to go toward autopsies. The coroner originally was granted \$1.6 million in this year's budget, which took effect July 1.

Post and Courier: Welcome the Justice Department to North Charleston, any way we can

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160427/PC16/160429549>

Brian Hicks

Last spring, in the aftermath of Walter Scott's death, North Charleston officials quietly invited Justice Department officials to town for a chat. Mayor Keith Summey and Police Chief Eddie Driggers wanted the feds' advice on how to deal with a problem that, escalating for years, had reached a crescendo. The DOJ meeting last year was an encouraging sign the city was serious about doing something — especially since it wasn't played out before the cameras at a time when the city could have used some good publicity. Unfortunately, it does not go far enough for some. That's fair. But it's once again time to show a little restraint.

Greenville News: Inmates charged in fight with detention officers

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/04/26/inmates-charged-fight-detention-officers/83561162/>

Anna Lee

Three Oconee County inmates are facing assault charges after a fight broke out between inmates and detention officers, according to the State Law Enforcement Division. Travis Javon Lee, 21, and Jacob Daniel Drotning, 40, both of Seneca, were charged with assault and battery — 2nd degree, according to warrants. Kenneth Strother Collins Jr., 25, of Walhalla, was charged with assault and battery — 3rd degree, according to a warrant. Two detention officers were injured during the fight April 16, warrants said. One officer was struck several times. A second officer was punched in the head and sustained "moderate bodily injury, including several stitches about his right eye," warrants

said.

Associated Press: Charleston County employee accused of sex with inmate
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=CBTyp9IR

SC State Wire

A woman working for Charleston County has been arrested and accused of having sex with an inmate at the county jail. Multiple media outlets reported that 22-year-old Victoria Linnette Brown of North Charleston has been charged with sexual misconduct with an inmate. A sheriff's department news release said Brown worked as a production supervisor and was hired by Charleston County through a private service. The department says an inmate at the jail told officers he had sex with Brown in a walk-in cooler April 2 while working in the jail kitchen. No other information was immediately available. Brown faces up to 10 years in prison if she is convicted. It was not clear if she has an attorney.

Post and Courier: Charleston County jail worker accused of sexual misconduct with inmate
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160426/PC16/160429501>

Melissa Boughton

A woman working at the Charleston County jail was arrested Tuesday after having sex with an inmate in the kitchen cooler, according to officials. Victoria Linnette Brown, 22, of North Charleston is charged with sexual misconduct with an inmate and faces up to 10 years in prison. She posted \$10,000 bail Tuesday from the same jail, according to online records.

The Herald: Northwestern High School assistant principal charged with criminal sexual conduct against student

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/crime/article74028942.html>

Jennifer Becknell

A Northwestern High School assistant principal faces six charges, including four counts of criminal sexual conduct, in a case involving a 16-year-old student. Kenneth Andrew Williams, 30, of 2610 Park Ridge Blvd., Rock Hill, was charged Tuesday with four counts of criminal sexual conduct and one count each of second-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor and unlawful conduct toward a child, according to Rock Hill police.

Island Packet: S.C. principal accused of leaving teen in underwear on bus

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/education/article74029737.html>

Mandy Matney

A South Carolina principal is under fire after he allegedly forced a female student to sit on a school bus in her underwear. Andrew HaLevi, Septima P. Clark Corporate Academy's program director, has been placed on paid administrative leave after the incident Friday, according to reporting from the Post and Courier. Police reports allege HaLevi asked a female student to remove her pants in front of a bus load of students, according to reporting from WBTW. HeLevi allegedly made the girl change into sweatpants earlier that day because he believe her dress was too short.

Sun News: New Coastal Carolina endowment campaign aims to grow funding by \$20 million

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/education/article74042692.html>

Claire Byun

Coastal Carolina University officials are trying to pump about \$800,000 more annually into student scholarships and academic improvements, thanks to a new endowment campaign. The "I'M IN" campaign, which launched last week, aims to increase CCU's endowment by \$20 million by 2020.

The college currently boasts a \$32.7 million endowment fund, which is “relatively small” compared to other colleges around the nation, according to Martha Hunn, associate vice president of communications.

Associated Press: Tolls and Taxes: Charleston's proposal for finishing I-526

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

SC State Wire

Charleston City Council is proposing a combination of tolls and taxes to pay for finishing Interstate 526 through Charleston's western suburbs. Local media outlets report that the council voted 11-2 Tuesday to ask the state infrastructure bank to give the city and Charleston County until the end of the year to develop a plan to cover the shortfall for completing the highway. The infrastructure bank has set aside \$420 million for the project but the work is now expected to cost \$725 million. The city is asking the infrastructure bank board to give the city and county until Dec. 31 to explore raising half of the needed money through a sales tax increase while the other half would be paid for by tolls on the road.

The State: Lexington County looks at expanding anti-blight plan

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article74054332.html#storylink=apmobile>

Tim Flach

A significant expansion of a blight prevention plan may be coming in Lexington County after a pilot project received rave reviews Tuesday from County Council members. A one-year test of the plan began last fall in neighborhoods on the north side of Lake Murray. Work at another 24 homes is in progress. County development officials reported problems at 41 homes – mostly overgrown landscaping – are cleaned up. The plan allows county officials to crack down on dwellings with exteriors in poor repair, overgrown lawns and stagnant water in swimming pools.

Associated Press : Sign of the times: Parking signs spur Isle of Palms protest

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=0LbiWJOV

SC State Wire

The Isle of Palms begins a new beach parking program next month but some residents think the 400 new signs to let the public know where they can park are far too many. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports (<http://bit.ly/242xKJP>) that more than 200 names are on petitions asking town leaders to take down some of the signs. Councilman Jimmy Carroll says 400 signs amount to sign pollution on the barrier island northeast of Charleston. Mayor Dick Cronin says signs are needed on every block if the plan is going to work. During beach season visitors must park on streets near the ocean while blocks in the middle of the island are reserved for residents.

Post and Courier: Everywhere a sign: IOP petition protests 400 parking signs

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160426/PC16/160429516>

Prentiss Findlay

More than 200 islanders feel that too many street signs were installed for the new beach parking plan, and they wish the city would take dozens of them down, officials said. The city purchased and installed some 400 signs for the parking plan that takes effect May 15. Residents who signed a petition feel it's OK to put signs at either end of a street but it's not necessary to have them on every block, said Councilman Jimmy Carroll.

Herald-Journal: Spartanburg events to provide information on fostering children

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160426/articles/160429706>

The University of South Carolina Upstate together with the Department of Social Services will hold a series of informational events on becoming a foster family. The first will be held at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the George Dean Johnson Jr. College of Business and Economics. The events are designed to increase the number of foster parents and families in the area. "Currently, there is one available foster home in the Upstate for every three children in need," said Jennifer Parker, director of the USC Upstate Child Protection and Training Center, in a statement. "Most of the children from the Upstate are placed in foster homes outside of the county they are from - away from their families, schools and community."

Aiken Standard: Aiken reacts to Tubman, a trailblazer with S.C. ties, on new \$20 bill

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160427/AIK0101/160429545>

Christina Cleveland

Reaction is continuing to pour in after the U.S. Treasury Department announced the \$20 bill will soon receive a makeover to include a portrait Harriet Tubman, an African-American abolitionist who helped to free hundreds of slaves. Last Wednesday, Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew announced plans for the new \$20, \$10 and \$5 bills and the stories they will tell in a letter to the American people, most notably Tubman replacing President Andrew Jackson on the front of the \$20 bill. "The same people have always been on the bills, so it's kind of nice to think that they're going to upgrade it for the future," Washington said. "I think it's inspiring that they're thinking about putting a black person on the bills. It's a celebration of black history."

National News:

Washington Post: It's official: Millennials have surpassed baby boomers to become America's largest living generation

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2016/04/26/its-official-millennials-have-surpassed-baby-boomers-to-become-americas-largest-living-generation/>

Travis M. Andrews

The term "millennial" comes with many connotations. They like socialism. They don't eat breakfast cereal. They save more money than previous generations. They enjoy a work-life balance, and they often don't think they're millennials. Now, they're the largest living generation in the United States. Pew Research Center broke down population estimates released this month by the U.S. Census Bureau. For this exercise, the millennial generation included anyone who was 18 to 34 years old in 2015. Therefore, the oldest millennial was born in 1981 and the youngest in 1997. By that definition, there are now 75.4 million living millennials, which is a half-million more than the 74.9 million living baby boomers, who were defined as anyone who was 51 to 69 years old in 2015. The interim generation — Generation X — is projected to follow suit and surpass baby boomers by 2028, Pew also projected.

Associated Press: For Trump, speech a test of foreign policy and style

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:1b98f001f19e4a69a520613acfca23d0>

Jill Colvin

Donald Trump's highly anticipated foreign policy speech Wednesday will test whether the Republican presidential front-runner known for his raucous rallies and eyebrow-raising statements can present a more presidential persona as he works to coalesce a still-weary Republican establishment around his candidacy. Trump's speech will focus on "several critical foreign policy issues" such as trade, the global economy and national security, according to his campaign. But as much as the content will be scrutinized, so, too, will Trump's ability to deliver his message in a way that comes off as both

presidential and authentic to himself.

Associated Press: Trump, Clinton press closer to general election showdown

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:745f1261ba454872809bb95dd60b16c0>

Julie Pace

Bolstering his grip on the Republican primaries, Donald Trump prepared Wednesday for a general election showdown with Hillary Clinton, accusing the Democratic front-runner of "playing the woman card" in her presidential campaign. Trump swept five states in Tuesday's Northeast primaries, bringing him tantalizingly close to securing the Republican nomination against Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and Ohio Gov. John Kasich. Clinton, meanwhile, is now 90 percent of the way to her party's nomination after four solid victories of her own.

Associated Press: Details of sex abuse could mean prison time for Hastert

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:49828c1adccd4798ac198118bba12f73>

Michael Tarm

When Dennis Hastert pleaded guilty last year to breaking banking laws, sentencing guidelines suggested that the former House speaker would probably serve no more than six months in prison for making illegal withdrawals to conceal a dark secret from his past. But after prosecutors lifted a veil of secrecy from the case, the judge made comments that suggested he might impose a longer sentence, potentially putting Hastert behind bars for several years, because of allegations that he molested at least four student athletes when he was a high school wrestling coach. Word that one of the accusers will speak at the sentencing hearing is sure to turn up the pressure on Judge Thomas M. Durkin to reject defense calls for probation and send the 74-year-old Republican to prison. If that happens, Hastert, who was second in the line of succession to the presidency after the vice president and the nation's longest-serving GOP speaker, would become one of the highest ranking politicians in American history ever to be incarcerated.

World News:

Associated Press: French prosecutor: Key Paris attacks suspect moved to France

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:e49deb0be3f24532901ae83ba6726b44>

Elaine Ganley

Paris attacks suspect Salah Abdeslam, Europe's most wanted fugitive until his capture in Belgium last month, was transferred Wednesday to France so he can appear before investigating judges who will decide how to charge him, the French prosecutor's office said. Prosecutors say Abdeslam, who was arrested in Belgium last month after four months on the run, was instrumental in coordinating logistics for the Nov. 13 attacks that killed 130 people at Paris night clubs, a noted music hall and the sports stadium outside the city. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the carnage.

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Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044