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Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, April 20, 2016

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## Morning Clips – Wednesday, April 20, 2016

### Governor Nikki Haley News:

Washington Post: New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez makes sharp critique of Trump at RGA donor event

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2016/04/19/new-mexico-gov-susana-martinez-makes-sharp-critique-of-trump-at-rga-donor-event/>

Matea Gold and Philip Rucker

It was the political question of the moment, posed by a donor to eight Republican governors who gathered Sunday afternoon in the sumptuous Palm Beach, Fla., mansion of billionaire David Koch: What did they make of Donald Trump, and what effect would he have on the party if he were nominated? New Mexico's governor, Susana Martinez, chairwoman of the Republican Governors Association, did not mince words: She told the crowd of about 60 wealthy GOP backers that, as a Latina, she was offended by Trump's language about immigrants. Noting her years working as a prosecutor on the Mexican border and now as a border-state governor, Martinez said Trump's plan to build a wall and force Mexico to pay for it was unrealistic and irresponsible, according to multiple people in attendance.

Note: The comments were a remarkably strong rebuke of the GOP front-runner by Martinez, who has been publicly circumspect about his candidacy since the GOP contest began. She spoke out after the other female governor in the room, South Carolina's Nikki Haley, also criticized Trump, expressing concern that his rhetoric would taint the Republican brand. Haley said it was imperative that the GOP be inclusive to people from all backgrounds, according to attendees. The back-to-back critiques by two of the GOP's top female leaders — both considered potential vice presidential picks — underscored the deep gulf between Trump and some of the party's most popular figures.

Note: Haley has made no secret of her distaste for Trump's divisive politics. She urged Americans in January to resist "the siren call of the angriest voices" while delivering the Republican Party's official response to President Obama's State of the Union address, and she continued to press those points on the presidential campaign trail in February and March as [a key surrogate for Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida](#).

### General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: Senate cancels Wednesday session

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160420/PC1603/160429967>

Cynthia Roldan

Working on the state's roughly \$7.5 billion budget will be today's priority for the Senate. South Carolina's Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, requested the Senate skip meeting today as a whole so that the Senate Finance Committee can concentrate on writing the state budget. Leatherman, who is also the head of the Senate's budget writing panel, invoked a Senate rule Tuesday on the floor of the Senate to make skipping today's session happen. Several of other committee meetings have been canceled as a result on the Senate side. Chairs of the General

Committee, a Judiciary Subcommittee and the Transportation Committee called off their meetings today. Leatherman added that canceling session today would help have the state budget on the Senate floor, ideally, by April 28. The House of Representatives will operate as usual. During the 2015 Legislative session, the Senate failed to pass the state budget before the end of the regular session on June 4. They had to call a special session to finish the budget to avoid a government shutdown when money ran out at the end of the fiscal year in June.

Associated Press: Senate proposals provide \$2B in one-time spending on roads

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=rSJ2sTvN](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=rSJ2sTvN)

Seanna Adcox

Senators said Tuesday they like the idea of raising more than \$2 billion for one-time spending on road construction projects, but they disagreed over how the money would be spent. Bills discussed by the Senate Finance Committee would send \$200 million to the State Infrastructure Bank, for borrowing an estimated \$2.2 billion. Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman said the leveraging move is an opportunity to pump as much money into South Carolina's crumbling roads as possible. He said his bills offer a one-time boost, not a funding solution. Under his plan, \$1.2 billion would be spent on improving and widening interstates and \$800 million would go to what he called "rural roads," though that could include non-interstate four-lane highways. "This is one way to not only help our interstates but how these rural roads throughout South Carolina will get some attention," said Leatherman, R-Florence, adding that he recently drove U.S. 76 from Sumter to Florence. "This state ought to be ashamed to have a major U.S. highway in the shape that part of that road's in."

Post and Courier: Billions could go toward road improvements

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160419/PC1603/160419274>

Gavin Jackson

Two new road funding bills debated Tuesday would send an estimated \$2.2 billion to improve South Carolina's transportation infrastructure, but none of the potential money would go toward completing the \$725 million Interstate 526 loop around Charleston. The bills, authored by Senate Finance Committee Chairman Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, shift millions in fees from the state Department of Motor Vehicles, along with dollars from the state Department of Transportation into road projects. Funds would also be sent to the state Transportation Infrastructure Bank, which would determine projects, followed by approval coming from a committee of Statehouse lawmakers. The changes would allow the infrastructure bank to leverage about \$200 million in redirected money into a \$2.2 billion borrowing package to expand or improve current state roads, interstates and bridges — but not I-526 or projects approved before July 2013 — as well as future large infrastructure expansions. SCDOT Secretary Christy Hall told senators the financial switch up, which reduces the agency's ability to pave roads by \$65 million, creates a slew of new unanswered questions.

Associated Press: House panel approves bills to borrow for SC school districts

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8SFDunRT](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8SFDunRT)

Jeffrey Collins

Elementary, middle and high schools in South Carolina could get borrowed money from the state to build and repair buildings and wire the school for technology under a bill passed Tuesday by the House Ways and Means Committee. The proposal would have the state study how much debt it has and issue up to \$200 million in bonds each year. School districts would submit plans for how they would spend the money to the state Education Department, which would create a priority list and send that to the Legislature for a vote. The bill allows the agency flexibility to give money to poorer districts or offer loans to districts with better tax bases, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman

Brian White said. The bill passed unanimously. It now advances to the full House.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley suggested a similar plan in her State of the State address in January.

The State : Fix for crumbling S.C. schools passes House budget panel

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article72748897.html#storylink=apmobile>

Jamie Self

A plan to borrow up to \$200 million a year to help S.C. school districts pay to build new facilities or upgrade existing ones cleared a critical hurdle Tuesday. The S.C. House Ways and Means Committee unanimously approved the plan, which Gov. Nikki Haley set as a priority in January, as an antidote to leaky roofs, moldy classrooms and unsafe structures in some poor, rural public schools. Supporters say the borrowing plan would address long-standing inequity in the state's public schools by creating a new source of money for poor school districts. School districts in impoverished, rural areas often struggle to raise enough money just to replace roofs, much less renovate schools or build new ones. School districts would apply for financial help, and the S.C. Department of Education would rank the projects based on the districts' needs. Districts with approved projects would get financial assistance from the state — including loans or grants, which would not have to be repaid — to help renovate existing facilities or build new facilities.

Associated Press: Want Viagra? Come back tomorrow with a note, lawmaker says

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ZwFtQV6A](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ZwFtQV6A)

Jeffrey Collins

A South Carolina lawmaker is proposing that men who want to get Viagra or other drugs to help them have sex wait for 24 hours and get a sworn statement from their sexual partners detailing their problems. Rep. Mia McLeod says her bill is a tongue-in-cheek response to all of the rules South Carolina's male-dominated Legislature places on abortion. It's unlikely to pass, but the Columbia Democrat says just having a committee hearing on the bill Wednesday will bring attention to the issue. McLeod's bill would require a 24-hour waiting period before an erectile dysfunction medicine could be picked up from the pharmacy and require patients to get counseling on celibacy as a valid life choice.

Post and Courier: House panel advances proposal that limits ticket quotas by law enforcement agencies

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160419/PC1603/160419275>

Cynthia Roldan

A bill that prohibits police departments from establishing quotas or requirements for issuing citations within a certain amount of time is headed for the floor of the House of Representatives. The proposal received resounding approval by the House's Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, advancing with a unanimous 16-0 vote. It was introduced by Rep. Justin Bamberg, D-Bamberg, a lawyer who represents the family of Walter Scott, a motorist who was killed last year after fleeing a traffic stop and struggling with a North Charleston police officer. The officer, Michael Slager, has since been charged with murder. His defense team has said he was trying to fulfill his department-mandated quota of three traffic stops every shift for minor violations. Slager pulled over Scott for a brake light violation. Shortly after the claim from Slager's defense team, Bamberg called police department quota systems a "monster in the closet." His proposal also extends whistle-blower protections to officers who file a complaint against agencies requiring quotas be met.

Post and Courier: Law proposal would protect \$5,000 worth of firearms in bankruptcy proceedings

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160419/PC1603/160419280>

Cynthia Roldan

If you're a gun owner and there's a bankruptcy coming your way, you soon may be able to shield some of your big caliber assets. The S.C. House of Representatives passed a bill Tuesday that aims to expand bankruptcy protection to firearms. If it becomes law, weapon owners who declare bankruptcy could protect up to \$5,000 worth of guns from debt collectors. Rep. Alan Clemmons, R-Myrtle Beach, said he introduced the bill after learning that other states extend bankruptcy protection to firearms. A 2013 report by the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress says at least 13 states provide some sort of protection from debtors. "When I realized that South Carolina, a strong Second Amendment state (and) having a strong firearm-owning heritage, (lacked the law) it occurred to me that we needed to repair that oversight," Clemmons said.

Associated Press: South Carolina military veterans rally at Statehouse

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=FcvP70pK](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=FcvP70pK)

SC State Wire

The American Legion and other South Carolina military veterans' organizations are holding a rally at the Statehouse to address a number of key issues. Wednesday's event runs from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. on the Statehouse steps. Army Maj. Gen. James Siegfried is the keynote speaker. He will discuss honoring Vietnam veterans. Also addressing the group is Rep. James Smith, D-S.C., chairman of the South Carolina State Officials Veterans Study Committee. Smith has served in the South Carolina Army National Guard and is a combat veteran who served in Afghanistan. Several of the issues of concern to the veterans are passage of legislation to increase state income tax exemptions for military retirees, getting improved care for homeless veterans, and increased assistance for the spouses of deceased military service members.

LGBT Laws:

The State: SC businesses: Transgender bathroom bill will hurt jobs

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article72718757.html>

Andy Shain

A dozen S.C. business groups sent a letter Tuesday to the General Assembly asking legislators to halt consideration of a controversial Senate bill that would ban transgender men and women from using the bathrooms of their choice. "The Palmetto State has built a reputation as a welcoming place for world-class companies to call home. People are taking notice of South Carolina for all the right reasons," said the letter signed by "The South Carolina Business Community." If the bill moves forward, "make no mistake that it will have direct impact on South Carolina jobs and job prospects." North Carolina has been hit with boycotts by businesses and musical acts since passing a similar law last month. The groups signing Tuesday's letter included statewide organizations — the S.C. Chamber of Commerce, S.C. Manufacturers Alliance, S.C. Economic Developers Association and S.C. Hospital Association — as well as chambers of commerce in Charleston, Clemson, Columbia, Greenville, Greenwood, Myrtle Beach, North Myrtle Beach and Spartanburg.

Greenville News: Virginia transgender teen wins school bathroom case

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/04/19/virginia-transgender-teen-wins-school-bathroom-case/83245444/>

Mary Orndorff Troyan

A transgender high-school student in Virginia may sue his school over its policy banning him from

using the boys' bathroom, according to a federal court decision Tuesday written by a South Carolina judge. The case is important as South Carolina and other states consider laws requiring that people use restrooms or changing facilities corresponding with their gender at birth. In Tuesday's ruling, a three-judge panel from the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which includes North Carolina and South Carolina, allowed Gavin Grimm's discrimination lawsuit against Gloucester County school officials to continue. A lower court judge had previously ruled against the student, who was born female but now identifies as male. "Today's decision gives me hope that my fight will help other kids avoid discriminatory treatment at school," Grimm said through a statement from the American Civil Liberties Union, which represents him in the case.

Associated Press: Appeals ruling threatens key provision of North Carolina law

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:ed957ba962184948890567a1b1fec2f7>

Jonathan Drew

A federal appeals court ruling on transgender bathroom access in public schools threatens a key provision of a North Carolina law limiting protections for the LGBT community. The court decision has prompted swift condemnation from the state's Republican leadership. The 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond sided Tuesday with a transgender teen's arguments that a Virginia school board violated Title IX by forbidding him from using the boys' restroom. The interpretation of the federal education law directly affects North Carolina. The court's ruling imperils a provision in the North Carolina law — called HB2 — that requires transgender students in public schools and universities to use bathrooms corresponding to the gender on their birth certificate, said Maxine Eichner, a University of North Carolina law professor. "We have the writing on the wall here how that will come out," said Eichner, an expert on sexual orientation and the law.

Associated Press: Target makes a stand on transgender bathroom issue

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=N5nwK3KN](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=N5nwK3KN)

Anne D'Innocenzio

Target is making a stand on the debate around what type of bathrooms transgender people can use. In a statement posted on its company website Tuesday, the discounter, based in Minneapolis, said transgender employees and customers can use the restroom or fitting room facility that "corresponds with their gender identity." "Inclusivity is a core belief at Target," said the retailer in a statement. "It's something we celebrate." The statement comes as a national debate is exploding over whether to restrict transgender people to using public bathrooms that only match their sex at birth. North Carolina is facing backlash for its recent ban on local anti-discrimination ordinances. Several musicians including Bruce Springsteen have cancelled planned tour stops in North Carolina, and PayPal pulled back on plans to open a 400-employee operation center in Charlotte in response to the new law. Other states are considering legislation similar to that adopted by North Carolina.

Savannah River Site News:

Aiken Standard : S.C. files response in opposition to the Southern Carolina Alliance intervention in MOX motion

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160419/AIK0101/160419351>

Thomas Gardiner

South Carolina filed a response Monday to a nonprofit group's motion to intervene in the lawsuit at the core of the battle between the state and federal governments over the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility, or MOX. The state's lawsuit is a claim to fines levied against the U.S. Department of Energy worth \$1 million every day the MOX program went unfinished beyond the Jan. 1, 2016



deadline, limited to \$100 million per year. The MOX facility would convert plutonium into nuclear fuel for commercial use. The state responded to a motion to intervene, filed at the Aiken Division of the U. S. District Court March 31, on behalf of Southern Carolina Alliance, or SCA. According to SCA President and CEO Danny Black, the alliance has a vested interest in the federal government's compliance with statutory obligations. It wants to ensure the economic benefit from the MOX program gets into the community and that the impact and economic assistance is given to the community when the deadlines for construction aren't made.

Note: In a statement, S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley said, "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," she said. The opposition documents reaffirm her statement, alleging the SCA has no legally protected interest in the case. According to the response, legal precedent is in favor of the state's position, citing the 1988 Getty Oil motion to intervene in another DOE case.

#### Wilson-Pascoe Dispute:

Post and Courier: AG Alan Wilson wants Supreme Court to dismiss Pascoe complaint

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160419/PC1603/160419270>

Gavin Jackson

Attorney General Alan Wilson said in a filing Tuesday the state Supreme Court should dismiss 1st Circuit Solicitor David Pascoe's complaint about being removed as special prosecutor. In court documents, Wilson says it was within his office's powers to remove Pascoe in an ongoing Statehouse corruption probe. "This action should be dismissed and the court declared that the attorney general (or his office where the attorney general is firewalled from the matter) has a duty to supervise solicitors in all criminal matters, including a duty to remove a solicitor from a matter assigned to him when the attorney general or office deems it appropriate," the filing said about Pascoe. The state legal code "affords the attorney general and his office the unfettered and absolute right to do so," the documents said.

#### SC Political News:

Post and Courier: Sen. Lindsey Graham has 'hold' on bipartisan bill allowing 9/11 victims to sue Saudi Arabia

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160419/PC1603/160419279>

Emma Dumain

The White House is pushing back against a bill that would allow individuals victimized by the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks to sue Saudi Arabia. So is U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham. A day after President Barack Obama suggested he would veto the legislation in the lead-up to his high-profile visit to the Saudi capital of Riyadh, the South Carolina Republican confirmed he is using parliamentary maneuvers to block the bill's expedient passage. While Obama said he was concerned the bill would open the floodgates to lawsuits across international governments, Graham told reporters he's stalling because he fears new revisions could create adverse repercussions for the United States. "I want to take this legislation that we pass, whatever it is, and apply it to ourselves," Graham said Tuesday, "and see if we could withstand this legislation."

The State: Richland elections office underestimated cost to fill Washington's seat

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article72773987.html#storylink=apmobile>

Sarah Ellis

The Richland County Voter Registration and Elections office underestimated by nearly \$24,000 what it now says it will cost to hold a special election for Kelvin Washington's vacated District 10 council seat. On second reading of the budget for the special election, which is necessary after Gov. Nikki Haley unseated Washington for failure to file state income taxes for three years, council members balked at the updated request. "We've had a calculation error of some type to the tune of \$24,000, which is a 40 percent difference from the original amount asked for," Councilman Bill Malinowski said. "This is supposedly coming from a department that knows what they're doing." When originally presented to council members, the elections office estimated it would cost \$62,751 to conduct a primary and, possibly, a runoff election in District 10. An updated spreadsheet provided to council on Monday, however, raised the price tag to \$86,362.

The State: Family, eldercare company reach \$950,000 settlement in death of top SC Republican  
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article72701887.html>

John Monk and Glen Flanagan

The family of the late former Richland County Republican Party Chairman Martha Edens will receive \$950,000 in a settlement from a home health care company for a lawsuit arising from Eden's death. The case involved alleged failings in round-the-clock home health care Edens' family had set up at her Forest Acres home, documented by videos from secret surveillance cameras the family had installed, according to documents in the case and Eric Bland and Ronald Richter, the two attorneys representing the Edens family. The settlement money was paid by Home Instead Senior Care, a national company providing home health care for the elderly. It advertises itself as providing the "highest quality senior home care" and its motto is, "You can't always be there. But we can." Efforts to reach Grant Chambers, an attorney representing the company, were unsuccessful Tuesday.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: Suddenly, there's still a way to get real ethics reform  
<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article72633517.html>

Cindi Ross Scopes

THE DEBATE that Senate Judiciary Chairman Larry Martin describes as watching a melting iceberg has been inducing whiplash in recent days. So this might be a good time to review where we are on ethics: On the first day back at work after Gov. Nikki Haley attacked Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster for killing a requirement to make lawmakers tell us who pays them, the Senate voted 39-4 to remedy his disappointing but correct procedural ruling, by pulling an income-disclosure bill up to the top of its agenda from its burial ground deep down in the contested calendar. The next day, senators voted 40-1 in favor of that bill, and everybody reported that the Senate had passed income-disclosure requirements. Then senators came back the following day and did not actually pass the bill — which requires two votes, not just the one that everyone seemed to believe made it a done deal — and hands were wrung anew over its suddenly uncertain fate. But there is much to say about that possible ethics compromise, because no matter how impossible it might seem, nothing is impossible in the Senate. Maybe unlikely, but not impossible.

Post and Courier: How South Carolina could fail refugees and religion  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/how-south-carolina-could-fail-refugees-and-religion/2016/04/18/52683d1c-04d7-11e6-b283-e79d81c63c1b\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/how-south-carolina-could-fail-refugees-and-religion/2016/04/18/52683d1c-04d7-11e6-b283-e79d81c63c1b_story.html)

Opinion: Mark Hetfield and Jack Moline

South Carolina became a pioneer in providing sanctuary to refugees fleeing religious persecution with the March 1, 1669, Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina protecting the rights of "Jews, heathens,

and other dissenters from the purity of Christian religion.” This included a Charleston community of Sephardic Jews, who finally found sanctuary after generations of roaming the globe following their expulsion from Spain. The document, co-authored by John Locke, was revolutionary. It helped to form the philosophical bedrock that laid the foundation for the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights and the American tradition of serving as a refuge for the persecuted. In the coming days, however, South Carolina could go in a different direction, this time pioneering dangerous and misguided legislation that would create a hostile environment for refugees, pressuring them — and the faith-based groups that help them — to “self-deport” from the state. This legislation, which recently passed the state Senate and will soon be considered by the S.C. House of Representatives, would force social service agencies and houses of worship to register any refugees they help resettle and hold them liable in civil court for any crimes those refugees might commit.

Post and Courier: 2,000 people are worth hearing

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160420/PC1002/160429974>

Editorial

The 2,000 people who showed up Monday night to confront racial discrimination and police practices were right to be disappointed. Some of the key people they had invited to hear their message opted to stay away. Their absence suggested to some that North Charleston Mayor Keith Summey, North Charleston Police Chief Eddie Driggers and Charleston Police Chief Greg Mullen weren’t interested enough to attend. Even if they disagree with the findings of the Charleston Area Justice Ministry, they missed an opportunity to explain — albeit briefly — their thoughts on the subject. But perhaps they wouldn’t have disagreed once they heard the reports and saw how many people have issues with police practices. At the least, they missed an opportunity to pick up information and to connect with citizens — something police departments have been striving to do more effectively.

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: Clemson Students, faculty, staff speak at forum on diversity, campus climate

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2016/04/19/cu-president-announces-forums-response-student-protests/83236582/>

Ron Barnett

In the first of three forums to discuss issues that prompted a student sit-in at Clemson University, students, faculty, alumni and staff were given a chance Tuesday night to speak their minds to the university’s entire executive team. The event, held in the theater of the Hendrix Student Center, was less confrontational in tone than what’s been said on the steps of Sikes Hall, where students have been camping for the past week. But it didn’t move the needle much toward resolving the standoff between students and the administration, according to Jaren Stewart, one of the protesters who attended. “The only difference between the dialogue here is that it was more public, more officials here,” he told The Greenville News after the hour and a half session. “They didn’t tell me what would be going on at what date and what time. They just said let’s talk some more.”

Local News:

Greenville News: Solicitor: Allen Stephenson immune from prosecution

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/04/19/greenville-castle-shooting-allen-stephenson/83228906/>

Romando Dixon

The 32-year-old founder of the upscale apparel company Southern Tide is immune from prosecution



after he shot and killed an intruder armed with a knife outside his home in a gated 31-acre estate atop Paris Mountain last month. When Allen Stephenson shot and killed Matthew Whitman on March 19, it was justifiable homicide, Greenville County prosecutor Walt Wilkins said. After reviewing state law and the investigative file from the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, Wilkins said evidence indicates Stephenson was "legally standing his ground on his property and lawfully met force with deadly force and is immune from prosecution." "In this case, Mr. Stephenson was confronted with a deadly weapon — a knife," Wilkins said, standing next to Sheriff Steve Loftis. "He was in fear of death or injury to his person. And as soon as he pulled the knife on Mr. Stephenson, Mr. Stephenson had the legal ability to use deadly force at that time."

Sun News: Horry Police sued for allegedly failing to investigate rape cases

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article72675552.html>

Audrey Hudson

The parent of a teenager who reported she was sexually assaulted three years ago is suing the Horry County Police Department for failing to fully investigate the case or make an arrest until it was recently reopened as part of another investigation into police activity. Brian Scott Perry, 20, was arrested last month on charges of third-degree criminal sexual conduct with the unnamed teen who was 15 when the incident occurred on May 25, 2013, according to the lawsuit filed Friday. Perry was released on a \$5,000 bond the same day he was arrested, according to J. Reuben Long Detention Center records. "The actual prosecution of this criminal sexual assault is taking place almost three years subsequent to the heinous sexual assault due to said defendant's failure to thoroughly investigate and obtain witness corroboration at the time first reported," the lawsuit said. Horry County Police spokesman Lt. Raul Denis declined to comment Monday on the reasons for recently reopening this and other cases for review.

The Herald: Victims of violent crime remembered in York County

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article72776187.html>

A candlelight vigil Tuesday evening in Rock Hill honored those who lost their lives to violent crime in York County. The event, at the York County Coroner's Office, coincided with South Carolina's Victims Rights Week, and families, friends and community members were invited to attend and light a candle to remember violent crime victims in the York County area. The coroner's office CARE team – which stands for Connecting, Advocating and Responding with Empathy – was in attendance. The team was established in 2011 by Coroner Sabrina Gast and is made up of trained volunteers who respond with the coroner to assist families when they receive the news of a loved one's death.

Greenville News: Greenville police want to expand electronic monitoring

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/04/19/electronic-monitoring/83241432/>

Eric Connor

The city of Greenville could change the way that people charged with certain crimes are held until resolution of their cases. A new electronic-monitoring program would help keep those with low risk to the community out of overcrowded jails and to lessen the chances that they will offend while awaiting trial, Police Chief Ken Miller said. "The bottom line is we've criminalized most every kind of behavior that's not acceptable," Miller said. "The problem with that is that we have an overloaded system. The prosecutors can't prosecute enough, the courts can't docket enough, to move these cases through in any thoughtful manner." The new system would allow defendants to be placed on a more-modern monitoring system instead of being housed in jail or released under a current system that lacks structure and accountability, he said.

Island Packet: Moss undecided on opening state ethics hearing to public

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article72763967.html>

Rebecca Lurye

Superintendent Jeff Moss has not decided whether to allow the public to attend his state hearing on alleged ethics violations in August, he said after Tuesday's Beaufort County school board meeting. Moss has until Aug. 7 to request that his Aug. 17 S.C. Ethics Commission hearing be open rather than held in executive session. The superintendent also said he will not be represented by district attorney Drew Davis at the hearing, which the commission called April 13 after investigating the September hiring of Moss' wife to a newly-restructured administrative position and finding probable cause on three counts of ethics violations. Two residents filed complaints against Moss following the nepotism scandal, which resulted in the resignations of Darlene Moss after one week on the job and of the school board chairman Bill Evans in October.

The State: OneColumbia will get money to finish out year without meal tax dollars

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article72739997.html#storylink=apmobile>

Sarah Ellis

Money from Columbia's general fund will fill the gap for the OneColumbia arts advocacy group to carry out its functions through the end of the financial year, City Council decided Tuesday. The group was short money after auditors determined that meal tax, or hospitality tax, dollars are ineligible to cover some of the arts promotion group's expenses. City Council decided Tuesday to give the group \$83,800 out of the city's general operating budget to cover costs through the end of June. The costs include office rent, utilities and operating expenses, which don't qualify for reimbursement using meal tax dollars, the city's 2 percent tax on prepared meals and beverages that is designed to support projects that drive tourism. OneColumbia was created to centralize advocacy and coordination of Columbia's cultural events and to market them to tourists.

Independent Mail: Hospice of the Upstate raises \$11,000 with tournament

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/local/hospice-of-the-upstate-raises-11000-with-tournament-30da4e58-ef51-331c-e053-0100007fa465-376350991.html>

Charmaine Smith-Miles

The presence of a lake so close to home proved to be a benefit to the Hospice of the Upstate on Saturday. The nonprofit organization held its first-ever bass tournament on the lake and raised more than \$11,000 — topping its goal of \$10,000 — to help patients and their families who come to them for medical care when they are terminally ill. Hospice of the Upstate helps provide care to terminally ill patients, many of them who are nearing the end of their lives. The organization helps the bereaved in coping with their grief. The organization was founded in 1988 and provides care to patients regardless of their ability to pay. Today, Hospice of the Upstate serves more than 1,000 families each year, and about 100 a day, through their home health care program and at the Rainey Hospice House, located on Rogers Road in Anderson County.

Independent Mail: Anderson's number of employed and unemployed grew in March

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/andersons-number-of-employed-and-unemployed-grew-in-march--30c3650b-2b59-4481-e053-0100007f4c95-376240121.html>

Abe Hardesty

The number of employed and unemployed climbed during March in Anderson County and in much of the state. Anderson's unemployment rate rose to 5.1 percent from 5.0 in March, primarily because the workforce total soared by 1,022 residents. The county's number of employed grew by more than 700 for the second straight month, and its number of unemployed rose by 168. Anderson's unemployment

rate remained the fifth-lowest in the state, trailing only Lexington and Charleston (each 4.6 percent), Greenville (4.7) and Jasper (4.9). The rate increased from the previous month in each of the state's 14 lowest-unemployed counties, according to the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce. South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce Executive Director Cheryl Stanton attributed the increase in unemployment to a rise to a renewed interest among those who had at one time left the workforce. "More people are working than ever in our state's history and our labor force continues to expand as more people decide to enter the job market, including discouraged workers who have been watching our growth from the sidelines," Stanton said in a release.

#### National News:

Associated Press : Government officials: 3 to be charged in Flint water crisis

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:46e516de3b3f4171b13d0e16e3f8b51f>

David Eggert

Michigan's attorney general will announce criminal charges Wednesday against two state regulators and a Flint employee, alleging wrongdoing related to the city's lead-tainted water crisis, according to government officials familiar with the investigation. The charges — the first levied in a probe that is expected to broaden — will be filed against a pair of state Department of Environmental Quality officials and a local water treatment plant supervisor, two officials told The Associated Press late Tuesday. They spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the investigation publicly. The felony and misdemeanor charges include violating Michigan's drinking water law, official misconduct, destruction of utility property and evidence tampering, according to one official. For nearly 18 months after Flint's water source was switched while the city was under state financial management, residents drank and bathed with improperly treated water that coursed through aging pipes and fixtures, releasing toxic lead. Republican Gov. Rick Snyder announced in October that the city would return from the Flint River to its earlier source of treated water, the Detroit municipal system. But by that time, dangerously high levels of the toxic metal had been detected in the blood of some residents, including children, for whom it can cause lower IQs and behavioral problems.

Associated Press: Tennessee lawmakers to vote on override of Bible bill veto

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:02040138d3ba45b49ff294f5cace0d0e>

Erik Schelzig

Tennessee lawmakers are scheduled to vote Wednesday on an effort to override Gov. Bill Haslam's veto of a bill seeking to make the Bible the state's official book. The Republican governor last week turned back the bill over constitutional concerns and because of concerns the measure "trivializes" what he considers a sacred text. Sponsors argued that the measure seeks to honor the economic and historical impact of the Bible in Tennessee history, rather than a state endorsement of religion. But opponents say it diminishes the significance of the Bible to place it alongside other state symbols like the official salamander, reptile or rock. It only takes majorities in both chambers to override a governor's veto in Tennessee. The Legislature is expected to adjourn for the year later on Wednesday.

Associated Press: Obama meets with King Salman at start of Saudi Arabia visit

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:6b0af83049704020843cf915a06fd7f4>

Kathleen Hennessey and Adam Schreck

President Barack Obama is thanking Saudi King Salman for hosting a Gulf Cooperation Council summit taking place in Riyadh. Obama is meeting with King Salman at Erga Palace just after arriving

in the Saudi capital. He says in brief remarks to reporters at the start of the meeting that the American people send their greetings to Saudis. Obama says the U.S. is grateful to Saudi Arabia for hosting the meeting and the regional summit. King Salman says he's pleased that Obama is visiting. He says through a translator that the feeling between the Saudi people and the American people is mutual. The regional summit opens Thursday and focuses on stability, counterterrorism and Iran. The United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain are also attending.

Associated Press : Clinton on brink of Dem nomination; Trump strengthens path

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:26c545fa4e834601a83746e2c7307f33>

Julie Pace

Hillary Clinton emerged from New York's presidential primary closer to clinching the Democratic nomination and becoming the first woman to reach that milestone. Republican Donald Trump strengthened his own path to the general election with a commanding victory, but has little room for error in the states ahead. The front-runners now hope to replicate their strong showings in New York in the cluster of Northeastern states next up on the primary calendar. Clinton was scheduled to spend Wednesday campaigning in Pennsylvania, while Trump had a rally planned in Maryland, as well as Indiana. Following her win in New York, a jubilant Clinton made clear she was moving past her unexpectedly competitive primary battle with Bernie Sanders and setting her sights on the general election. "The race for the nomination is in the home stretch, and victory is in sight," Clinton declared to cheering supporters. She mentioned Sanders only briefly as she appealed for support from his loyal backers, and saved her toughest talk for Trump and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, deeming both "dangerous" for America. Trump, too, is eager to move past the Republican primaries. With at least 89 of New York's 95 delegates in hand, he insisted it was "impossible" for any of his rivals to catch him and warned party leaders against trying to take the nomination away from him at the convention.

World News:

Associated Press: Sharp tremor hits Ecuador, biggest post-quake aftershock

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:a8cf76cb40034ef3ae467eaaf0b76418>

Critian Kovadloff and Rodrigo Abd

A fresh tremor rattled Ecuador before dawn Wednesday morning, a 6.1 magnitude jolt that was the strongest aftershock since a lethal earthquake killed hundreds of people. There was no immediate report of further damage. The U.S. Geological Survey said the tremor was centered offshore, 25 kilometers (15 miles) west of the devastated beach town of Muisne, at 3:33 a.m. local time. The previous strongest aftershock following Saturday's magnitude 7.8 earthquake was magnitude 5.7. The aftershock came after Ecuadoreans began burying loved ones, with hopes fading that more survivors will be found. In the small town of Montecristi, near the port city of Manta, two children were among those buried Tuesday. They were killed with their mother while buying school supplies when the magnitude-7.8 quake struck Saturday night.

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