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Subject: Morning Clips – Thursday, June 23, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

WIS: Governor Haley signs long-awaited ethics reform bill Thursday

<http://www.wistv.com/story/32288786/governor-haley-signs-long-awaited-ethics-reform-bill-thursday>

WIS Staff

Governor Nikki Haley will make a legislative victory official Thursday as she signs the long-fought ethics reform legislation into law. The governor will hold a bill signing ceremony for two bills passed last week which are aimed at bringing more transparency to the State House. Among the provisions are independent investigations for officials who've had complaints filed against them and a requirement that officials must disclose private sources of income. The Legislature has approved a bill requiring complaints against legislators to be independently investigated, sending Gov. Nikki Haley the second ethics bill she wanted. The Senate voted 42-0 on the compromise, minutes after the House voted 99-0. The compromise has been four years in the making.

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley to sign ethics reform bills in Easley Thursday

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160622/PC1603/160629783>

Maya T. Prabhu

Gov. Nikki Haley is heading to Easley on Thursday afternoon to sign two ethics bills passed last week by the General Assembly. The signing will take place at the Easley Law Enforcement Center at 2 p. m. Thursday. Haley and several state lawmakers spent four years pushing for ethics reform. The General Assembly last week passed bills that create an independent panel of investigators when elected officials are accused of wrongdoing and another that will require everyone who files a statement of economic interest to include sources of income.

Greenville News: Martin says he'd shine light on 'dark money'

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/elections/2016/06/22/martin-says-hed-shine-light-dark-money/86271054/?from=global&sessionKey=&autologin=>

Rudolph Bell

State Sen. Larry Martin of Pickens said he doesn't know who's running television ads in his district showing his head bobbling over a cartoon figure and claiming he's been "ripping off taxpayers for decades." The ads say they're sponsored by a group called Better Future For Our Community LLC, but no one knows who that is because South Carolina doesn't require groups seeking to elect or defeat candidates to disclose their donors. Martin vowed to push ethics reform legislation that would shine light on such "dark money" if he's re-elected to the Senate in a runoff on Tuesday. "Unlimited amounts of money can be spent anonymously, and you don't even know who it is trying to influence your vote," Martin said during a candidate forum at the Zen event space in downtown Greenville.

NOTE: Martin vowed to push ethics reform legislation that would shine light on such "dark money" if he's re-elected to the Senate in a runoff on Tuesday.

NOTE: Martin is scheduled to appear Thursday in Easley with Gov. Nikki Haley for a signing ceremony for two ethics reform bills...Rice said he wasn't invited to the ceremony, which he said is Haley's attempt to help Martin, one of her legislative allies.

The State: Hinson gets help from Haleys in Lexington County clerk of court race

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article85346242.html>

Tim Flach

Emily Hinson's quest to become Lexington County clerk of court received high-powered help Wednesday. Gov. Nikki Haley and husband Michael signaled their endorsement of fellow Republican Hinson with what the candidate said is a \$100 donation. Hinson "has everything it takes to do a fantastic job as the next clerk of court and keep Lexington moving in the right direction," Haley said. Haley is a former state representative from Lexington County who occasionally backs candidates there. "I really appreciate the governor's support and help," Hinson said. Hinson faces Lisa Comer in the GOP runoff election Tuesday to succeed Beth Carrigg, who is retiring. Both Comer and Hinson are former assistants to Carrigg.

The State: State employees to pay more into S.C. retirement fund

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article85378967.html>

South Carolina financial leaders Wednesday approved requiring state employees to pay more toward their retirement. State employees will pay 0.5 percent more of their salaries into the state pension system, starting July 1, after that hike was formalized Wednesday by the State Fiscal Accountability Authority. Their employers – the state, cities, counties or other public institutions – also will be required to contribute 0.5 percent more. S.C. leaders still are weighing how to cover \$16.75 billion in unfunded liabilities in the state's pension system. The 0.5 percent increases this year are not a long-term solution, experts said Wednesday. S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley, who chairs the five-member board, called the situation "urgent" and said solving the problem won't be easy. "This is going to upset people," the Republican governor said. "It's going to make it hard."

Post and Courier: Board approves state employee retirement contribution increase

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160622/160629771/board-approves-state-employee-retirement-contribution-increase>

Gavin Jackson

Starting in July, teachers, local and state government employees will see part of their new pay raise go toward shoring up the underfunded state pension fund. A long-awaited 0.5 percent retirement plan contribution increase was approved by the State Fiscal Accountability Authority on Wednesday after Gov. Nikki Haley, Treasurer Curtis Loftis Jr. and other members said the move is a first step to fix the retirement fund's estimated \$23 billion shortfall. "I think we passed the tipping point — I believe the system has to be altered," Loftis said. "To fix the plan now is going to be an outrageously expensive proposition." Loftis predicts the pension plan will eventually need to be closed to new employees and replaced with a 401(k)-type retirement plan.

NOTE: Haley was more optimistic and added there needs to be a "new guard" way of thinking, which later prompted senior lawmaker and Senate Finance Chairman Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, to leave the meeting before the vote.

NOTE: "What sets South Carolina back is when you have any legislators that think they know all and they aren't willing to work with anybody," Haley said after Leatherman left. "Walking out of a meeting just for the sake of walking out of a meeting is unproductive and unprofessional."

Savannah River Site/MOX News:

Post and Courier : Feds' request to delay summary ruling in MOX case denied

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160622/PC16/160629775>

Derrek Asberry

South Carolina may be one step closer to getting a quick ruling in its lawsuit against a federal agency — a case in which the state is seeking \$100 million and the removal of plutonium from the Savannah River Site in Aiken. A federal judge decided Tuesday that she will not delay her summary ruling on the state's lawsuit against the Department of Energy. The decision came about a week before a June 30 hearing in Columbia and about a month after the Energy Department requested that a ruling be postponed. The lawsuit is based on the plutonium recycling plant, or MOX facility, located at the Savannah River Site. The facility would meet an agreement with Russia by converting 34 metric tons of weapons-grade plutonium into commercial nuclear fuel. But the facility is still under construction and the federal government missed a Jan. 1 deadline to either process a ton of the plutonium through the SRS facility or remove a ton from the state.

Aiken Standard (Opinion): Editorial: Salt Waste Processing Facility fills an important void at SRS

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160623/AIK0201/160629795>

Editorial

The opening of the Salt Waste Processing Facility, or SWPF, at Savannah River Site, or SRS, might sound to many like another dog and pony show to divert the public's attention from the severity of threats in the nation's nuclear caretaking missions. Neither this facility nor its technological prowess are red herrings, though. In a world of federal oversight, failed endeavors from choked funding and undulated mentalities from governmental transitions, this project is a diamond in the rough. After all, it's not often that a major federal project is finished ahead of schedule. It seems even more rare that it came in \$60 million under budget, standing in stark contrast to the MOX project. But there is no controversy, lawsuit or unrest surrounding the SWPF project, largely because of its common-sense appeal as a solution to a major problem. Salt waste makes up approximately 90 percent of the site's 36 million gallons of liquid waste. That means more than 32 million gallons of salt waste are held in the SRS tank farms.

LGBT Laws:

Associated Press: 2 Floridas emerge in attitudes toward LGBT community

<http://bigstory.ap.org/7a0ab46042e74d94abc71b9dcb8a4d2b>

Brendan Farrington

Florida's Key West is one of the most gay-friendly places in the country. The Florida Panhandle — many locals call it the Redneck Riviera — is a different story. The massacre of 49 people in a gay nightclub happened between these extremes, forcing many Floridians to reconsider their assumptions about the state's evolving culture. Key West has a gay police chief, a lesbian county mayor and was the nation's first city to elect an openly gay mayor. It attracts 450,000 gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender tourists a year. Bumper stickers reading "One Human Family" appear on all city vehicles, including police cars, ambulances and fire trucks. "It's a safe place; they know that they are free from judgment, free from hassle, free from physical violence," said Guy Ross, who heads LGBT sales at the Monroe County Tourist Development Council. "We do not tolerate gay bashing down here. It just doesn't happen."

Post and Courier: Dorchester 2 transgender settlement may spark changes in Lowcountry school district policies

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160622/PC16/160629765>

Deanna Pan

A civil rights settlement with the U.S. Department of Education that includes far-reaching consequences not only for transgender students but for all students and staff in Dorchester District 2, may encourage neighboring Lowcountry school districts to adopt their own policies or risk facing similar lawsuits and federal oversight. District 2's settlement, unveiled Monday, stems from a complaint a parent filed with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights last fall, claiming that the district discriminated against his daughter, a transgender student, by banning her from the girls' restroom at her elementary school. The parent alleged that school administrators forced his daughter to use either the private bathroom in the nurse's or assistant principal's office, which "embarrassed" her "because she was forced to separate from her friends."

SC Political News:

Washington Times: Lawmaker presses for tougher U.S. stance on Venezuela

<http://m.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/jun/22/jeff-duncan-presses-for-tougher-us-stance-on-venez/#!>

Jessie Fox

The Obama administration needs to take a more aggressive stance to help resolve the political stalemate and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, a key lawmaker told administration officials Wednesday. Rep. Jeff Duncan, the South Carolina Republican who chairs the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, said the U.S. government has sent "conflicting messages" as opposition parties press ahead with a drive to recall leftist President Nicolas Maduro amid a deepening economic crisis in the South American country. "The Obama administration should have greater courage of conviction to send a clear U.S. message: release all political prisoners, accept humanitarian aid, hold a recall referendum this year, and submit to the Venezuelan people's wishes to resolve this crisis," Mr. Duncan told a trio of administration officials at a hearing.

McClatchy DC: As Democrats stage House sit-in, Clyburn prays

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/congress/article85328782.html>

Vera Bergengruen and Megan Henney

Twice after the Orlando shooting, U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn of Columbia tried to bring up pending gun legislation and was ruled out of order or ignored by House Speaker Paul Ryan. By Wednesday, Clyburn and his Democratic colleagues said they'd had enough. Led by U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., they launched a sit-in. Halting regular proceedings, several Democrats sat down on the House floor about 11:30 a.m., vowing to hold it until Ryan allows a vote on gun-safety legislation. "We can no longer wait," said Lewis, a civil-rights era icon and former aid to the late Martin Luther King Jr. "We can no longer be patient. So, today, we come to the well of the House to dramatize the need for action. Not next month. Not next year. But now. Today." Clyburn led a prayer, remembering the victims of gun violence who lost their lives "because of our refusal to speak up, stand up, and support just laws that could ensure the safety and security for our fellow humans."

Post and Courier: Clyburn, House Democrats stage sit-in on chamber floor for gun safety legislation

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160622/PC1603/160629794>

Emma Dumain

U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., last week followed a prayerful moment of silence on the House floor with a plea to vote on legislation that could stop further acts of gun violence after the June 12 mass-shooting in Orlando, Fla. On Wednesday, the third most senior House Democrat led colleagues in a prayer of his own, summoning up the memories of "those lives lost, those families broken ... because of our refusal to speak up, stand up, and support, just laws that could ensure the safety and security for our fellow humans." Around 11:30 a.m., Clyburn and dozens of other House Democrats, led by

civil rights icon and U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., stopped House floor proceedings by staging a “sit in” to protest Republicans’ refusal to bring up legislation preventing individuals on the no-fly list from purchasing firearms.

Associated Press: Federal court nixes SC court's ruling on graduation prayers

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=zNb1hsDp

Meg Kinnard

A federal court in Virginia has overturned a South Carolina judge's ruling over a public elementary school's graduation ceremony at a Christian university. The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Tuesday rejected a district judge's ruling that had upheld prayers at a graduation ceremony for Mountain View Elementary School in Taylors. The Richmond, Virginia-based appellate court sent back to the lower courts to determine if the American Humanist Association members can stop future graduation prayers and also the constitutionality of holding public school events in religious venues. The association sued in 2013 on behalf of a fifth-grade Mountain View student, arguing the school improperly holds graduation at Baptist-affiliated North Greenville University. The suit says the location of the graduation ceremony violates the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Post and Courier: Lawsuit by former mayoral candidate dismissed

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160622/PC16/160629784>

Robert Behre

U.S. District Judge Margaret Seymour has dismissed a lawsuit that former North Charleston mayoral candidate John Singletary had filed against the city and several media outlets, including The Post and Courier. The lawsuit sued North Charleston, the city’s police department, mayor and multiple news outlets and stemmed from recent news reports that Singletary had been convicted of soliciting a prostitute in 2010. During last year’s mayoral campaign, which Singletary lost to incumbent Mayor Keith Summey, Singletary held a news conference to call those news reports “malicious and willful reporting of disinformation” and a “smear tactic.”

SC Elections:

Post and Courier: Sheriff Cannon endorses Sandy Senn in Senate race

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160622/PC1603/160629780>

Schuyler Kropf

Charleston County Sheriff Al Cannon endorsed Sandy Senn for the Statehouse while the investigation into her use of deputies in a TV ad is on-going. Cannon said Wednesday he found Senn to be exceedingly qualified for the post of state senator from Charleston. “I fully support Sandy Senn for that office,” he said. The endorsement came as the sheriff’s department said Senn will reimburse the department for the cost of their time when she errantly used the four deputies in her TV advertising. The amount was set at \$241.41. Cannon earlier this month prompted Senn to take down her TV commercials featuring four Charleston County deputies after the sheriff said it was an inappropriate use of his men in uniform who were used without permission.

Morning News: Latta Police Chief Crystal Moore petitioning for Dillon County Sheriff candidacy

http://www.scnow.com/townnews/politics/article_0afae9c-38c2-11e6-a216-ff5f7d37598f.html

Jessica Imbimbo

Latta Police Chief Crystal Moore announced Wednesday morning that she will petition to become a candidate in the race for Dillon County Sheriff in the general election in November. Moore said the petition requires 980 signatures and must be submitted by July 15. Moore said starting Wednesday, she had plans to go door-to-door every afternoon across Dillon County to collect the signatures needed. “I’m excited,” Moore said about her decision to run for the sheriff’s seat. “It’s just time for a

change." If Moore obtains enough signatures and the paperwork is certified, she will be listed as a candidate for sheriff in the Nov. 8 election.

Greenville News: Man who raised allegations against Loftis was fired from Sheriff's Office

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/elections/2016/06/22/greenville-county-sheriff-race-steve-loftis-will-lewis/86235352/>

Romando Dixon

A man who said he saw Sheriff Steve Loftis drinking during business hours was fired from the Greenville County Sheriff's Office in 2013 after he was charged with driving under the influence in North Carolina. Brandon Brown, a former deputy, thrust himself into the middle of a contentious race for Greenville County sheriff when he went public this week with allegations against Loftis. He appeared at a press conference Tuesday with Will Lewis, Loftis' challenger in a runoff for sheriff. Loftis has said the allegations of drinking on the job are untrue. Brown worked for the Sheriff's Office from 2002-13 and became friends with Loftis, the former deputy said. Brown was terminated after he was charged with suspicion of DUI in 2013 while driving his personal vehicle on vacation, Brown said.

Opinion/Editorial:

Post and Courier: If you can't say something nice, shut up?

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160623/160629785/if-you-cant-say-something-nice-shut-up>

Frank Wooten

Many folks frequently feel that awkward social-convention obligation. But Gov. Nikki Haley and Sen. Tim Scott will suffer an especially daunting dose of it at the Republican National Convention less than a month from now at Cleveland's Quicken Loans Arena, home of the NBA champion Cavaliers. And while, as reported in Wednesday's Post and Courier, they're not on the speaker schedule, that doesn't mean they will be able to remain politely quiet about Donald Trump when pressed for comments by the press. Sure, the not-nice things we have said about a birthday girl or boy, bride or groom, or the dearly departed likely escaped national notice. Yet harsh remarks by Haley and Scott about their party's soon-to-be presidential nominee were widely publicized.

The State: Turn out one more time to make Rick Hubbard Midlands' new solicitor

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/editorials/article85307777.html>

Editorial

Voters are fortunate to have two solid choices in Tuesday's Republican runoff election to replace retiring Solicitor Donnie Myers. We understand why some voters would want an entirely clean break from an entrenched incumbent who too often has bent if not broken the rules, failed to live up to the higher legal and ethical standards that we should be able to expect of prosecutors and ignored a prosecutor's obligation to seek justice even at the cost of victory. We understand why some voters would want a new solicitor who has no ties whatsoever to the old solicitor whose personal behavior has been not only embarrassing but dangerous. And Ms. Lively is smart and capable and qualified for the job. But we've seen nothing since our initial endorsement to shake our belief that Mr. Hubbard is the better choice. Despite his long association with Mr. Myers, he makes a convincing case that his election would also be a fresh start — but a fresh start by someone with far more courtroom and managerial experience than his opponent.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Asian population the fastest-growing minority locally and statewide, Census report

shows

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160623/160629772/asian-population-the-fastest-growing-minority-locally-and-statewide-census-report-shows>

Abigail Darlington

The Asian population is the fastest-growing racial group in the country, and its growth in South Carolina and particularly in the Charleston area slightly outpaces the national average, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's latest report. The group may be small — it makes up 2 percent of the state's population, and slightly more locally — but it has more than doubled in the past 15 years. Since 2010, the Asian population in South Carolina has grown by a quarter, and a significant amount of that growth has been in the tri-county area. The Asian grouping in the census captures a diverse group of citizens who trace their ancestry to countries that include Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand and Vietnam. The largest group of Asian people living in South Carolina came from India, according to a 2014 report from the Migration Policy Institute.

NOTE: As more Indians move to the area, he hopes it will make government more representative of the cultural differences in the state. One thing that might help, he said, is the fact that the governor comes from an Indian Sikh family. "Having Nikki Haley as our governor might be kind of a boost for other Indians to join politics, maybe," he said.

McClatchy DC: 7 percent of SC children have an incarcerated parent

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/congress/article85348197.html>

Vera Bergengruen

In South Carolina, 73,000 children – some 7 percent of the state's childhood population – have experienced the incarceration of a parent. Having grown up without a father, Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., says he can relate. "I grew up in North Charleston . . . in a single-parent household, mired in poverty," he told youth advocates Wednesday at a Capitol Hill briefing [on a new report](#) by the nonprofit Annie E. Casey Foundation. "I just learned very quickly how easy it is to get off track," he said. "Living in one of the more difficult ZIP codes in our country, too often the experience is that your better friends end up either incarcerated or in the grave." He described visiting prisons and seeing children meet their incarcerated fathers, some for the first time – now he wants to work on translating that experience into legislation. Currently he's doing that through what he calls his "opportunity agenda," which focuses on school choice, job training and apprenticeship in poor communities, he said.

Associated Press: Fine print says riders can't blame Uber for unsafe drivers

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

Tom Krisher

When you catch a ride using Uber or Lyft, you do so at your own risk. Under terms and conditions that riders agree to - but few read - at sign up, the app-based ride-hailing companies say they aren't legally liable for the safety of their drivers or the quality of their services. That's because the drivers are independent contractors, not employees. The terms seem to be at odds with company statements that highlight their efforts to keep riders safe with driver background checks, a code of conduct and other measures. Instead, if a rider is injured in a ride-hailing car, the driver appears to be liable. If a driver gets lost and makes a rider late for an appointment, or if a driver assaults someone, the company says it's not involved.

NOTE: Two women who say they were sexually assaulted by Uber drivers in Massachusetts and South Carolina sued last fall, saying Uber misled them about safety. The women say they didn't explicitly agree to terms and conditions, which they weren't required to read before getting accounts. They seek damages and changes to safety practices including driver fingerprint background checks.

Post and Courier: USC wants to become nation's first college to end Greek pledging

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160622/PC16/160629782>

Andy Shain

Fraternities can't stay out of trouble at the University of South Carolina. Nearly 75 percent of the school's chapters, 18 in all, have been closed or placed on probation over the past three years for hazing, alcohol and drug violations. A pledge died last year from alcohol poisoning. Frustration reached such heights that USC invited leaders from national fraternity and sorority offices for an unprecedented summit last month. At the summit, South Carolina's flagship university proposed a radical idea meant to curb hazing and cut down alcohol and drug abuse.

The State: USC wants to end pledging at fraternities, sororities

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/education/article85426252.html>

Avery G. Wilks

The University of South Carolina plans to pursue ending pledging at its fraternities and sororities. USC held a summit last month with national fraternity and sorority leaders to introduce a plan that would eliminate the months-long, sometimes abusive induction period for Greek organizations. The goal now is to get the school's fraternities and sororities behind the plan, which could be enacted as early as the 2017-18 school year, USC spokesman Wes Hickman said. Ending pledge terms would steer Greek organizations back to their founding principles and create a "constructive environment" for personal, professional and leadership development, Hickman said.

Local News:

Independent Mail: Freshman sues Clemson to overturn sex misconduct suspension

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/freshman-sues-clemson-to-overturn-sex-misconduct-suspension-35e408d3-8dbc-4155-e053-0100007f9cb3-384023821.html>

Kirk Brown

A federal civil rights lawsuit was filed against Clemson University last week by a freshman who is seeking to overturn a one-year suspension that he received for sexual misconduct and other infractions. The student, identified only as John Doe, contends that he had consensual sex last October with another Clemson student who later filed a complaint claiming that she was a victim of sexual misconduct, according to the suit. After an administrative hearing, Clemson officials found that "complainant was incapacitated during the incident and unable to give consent," according to the suit. The suit says that the male student was suspended for six months and evicted from his dormitory for violating university rules involving alcohol, disorderly conduct, harm to person and sexual misconduct. The male student appealed the ruling, according to the suit. On May 27, university Chief of Staff Max Allen upheld the ruling and increased the student's suspension to one year, the suit says.

Sun News: Elvis trial enters third day, ends with testimony about text exchanges

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article85437602.html>

Elizabeth Townsend

The kidnapping trial of Sidney Moorer, charged in connection with the disappearance of Heather Elvis, entered its third day Wednesday. A forensic expert testified he believed a truck seen on surveillance cameras headed to and from the area of Peachtree Boat Landing was Moorer's. The last movements and activity of Elvis' cellphone were further laid out for the jury as well, along with an exchange of text messages between Moorer and Elvis. "Watching the video of the truck going by and wondering if your daughter is in the truck. ... It's traumatizing. The whole thing is traumatizing," said

Debbi Elvis, Heather Elvis' mother, of hearing and seeing evidence in the trial after court wrapped for the day. Court began Wednesday morning with Judge R. Markley Dennis accompanying the jury on a bus as they rode by the locations of surveillance cameras from a home and business off Mill Pond Road and S.C. 814.

Greenville News: Psychologists testify Dacusville mom didn't know right or wrong when she killed her children

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2016/06/22/psychologists-testify-dacusville-mom-didnt-know-right-wrong-when-she-killed-her-children/86210084/>

Ron Barnett

Two psychiatrists and a psychologist testified Wednesday that Suzanna Simpson was incapable of distinguishing between right and wrong when she killed her two young children and shot her husband in the head three years ago. The three expert witnesses described a severely disturbed woman who believed her neighbor was the devil, that God spoke to her through a red light on her phone, and that her family wanted her to kill them and herself so they could all be together in a place somewhere between heaven and earth, to return after the evil that had turned the world into hell on earth was gone. The defense in the case of the Dacusville woman rested its case after bringing forward the three forensic psychology experts, all of whom had interviewed Simpson for hours and studied her voluminous psychiatric records.

Associated Press: Jury finds man guilty of beating, killing mother

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

SC State Wire

A jury has found a Pacolet man guilty of beating and fatally stabbing his mother inside her home. The Herald-Journal of Spartanburg (<http://bit.ly/28Ot4ml>) reports that 51-year-old Mark Allen Bradberry was sentenced to life in prison Wednesday. He had been charged with murder, armed robbery and possession of a weapon during a violent crime. Prosecutors say Bradberry killed Connie Bataille in 2014, staged a burglary and then fled to Myrtle Beach for several days. Bataille was found dead in her home on Nov. 2, 2014. She had multiple stabs wounds on her chest and shoulder and she had been beaten on the head.

Herald-Journal: Greer police forming team to better handle mental health calls

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160622/articles/160629876>

Daniel J. Gross

Police in Greer are forming a special unit designed to better handle incidents involving people diagnosed with mental illnesses. The crisis intervention team will include a number of specially trained officers available 24 hours a day. The officers would be on-call to respond to any incidents that involve someone with a known mental illness. They have been trained to talk people out of a dangerous situation and to better diagnose a problem without the use of force. Such training can help officers prevent incidents from escalating to violent confrontations, Greer Police Chief Dan Reynolds said. Reynolds hopes to have the team in place within four to six months, with two officers on every shift trained to handle such situations.

Island Packet: Roth points finger back at school board for improperly chastising him

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article85356207.html>

Rebecca Lurye

A day after being reprimanded for making disparaging comments about his peers, Paul Roth is firing back that he's not the only one on the Beaufort County school board breaking the rules. The manner

in which the board censured him Tuesday violates the board's own Code of Conduct, according to the greater Bluffton and Okatie representative, who says he was absent from the meeting's public session due to the limited air conditioning in the meeting space. Before the board can vote to publicly state its disapproval of a member's actions, it is required to discuss the matter with the member in private, according to the policy manual. In this case, Roth says, board members neglected to tell him in private that they disapproved of an interview he gave last week in which he called fellow board member JoAnn Orischak a "hot chick" and other members "screw ups." Roth conceded Wednesday that some may find those comments offensive but said he was "bushwhacked" when he learned he'd been reprimanded.

The State: Unsafe bacteria levels disrupt swimming, tube rentals at Saluda Shoals

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article85409372.html>

Sammy Fretwell

Some float trips have been suspended at a popular waterfront park and kayakers are being warned about pollution in the lower Saluda River following a sewage discharge that sent bacteria soaring to unsafe levels. The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control issued an advisory Tuesday night against swimming in the river at Saluda Shoals Park, saying a private utility's sewage treatment plant was to blame for the contamination. Carolina Water Service has a discharge pipe near the Saluda Shoals boat landing, where people launch watercraft and sometimes swim. DHEC and park officials said the no-swim advisories are the first they can remember at Saluda Shoals, a regional park that draws more than 600,000 visitors annually.

Charlotte Observer: Rare brain-eating amoeba infection blamed in death of teen who visited Charlotte's Whitewater Center

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/local/article85234187.html>

Adam Bell, Kiana Cole, Ames Alexander and Katherine Peralta

Local, state and national health officials are investigating Sunday's death of an 18-year-old Ohio woman who may have contracted an infection from a rare brain-eating amoeba while rafting at the U. S. National Whitewater Center in Charlotte. On Wednesday, the center remained open under normal operations after extra precautions were taken to ensure the water met quality control standards, whitewater officials said. Experts with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention went to the center Wednesday to test the water, CDC medical epidemiologist Dr. Jennifer Cope said. Investigators do not know for certain if the victim, Lauren Seitz, contracted the amoeba at the center. But authorities are unaware of any other circumstances that could have led to her getting the infection.

Post and Courier: Ride-hailing app Lyft to launch Thursday afternoon in Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160623/PC05/160629767>

Thad Moore

Charleston will have a new way to catch a ride Thursday. The ride-hailing service Lyft will launch its service in the Lowcountry at noon, the San Francisco transportation company's first foray into South Carolina. Lyft's arrival comes two years after its larger competitor Uber started picking up passengers across the Palmetto State, giving the transportation startup its first serious challenge in the state. Murmurs about the company had bubbled up in recent weeks as Lyft began to recruit drivers and the company laid the framework to launch the service here.

Morning News: First home renovations complete for Johnsonville flood recovery team-up

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_cda8d654-38d9-11e6-b6c2-038473e9629d.html

Deborah Swearingen

Mae Woodberry cannot see the changes that have been made to her Johnsonville home. But she knows. "I can't see none of it, but I can feel it," she said. Woodberry, a 90-year-old Johnsonville native, is blind. In October, her home was destroyed during historic flooding that hit parts of South Carolina. Now, more than seven months after the flooding occurred, the home is refurbished. A celebration was held Wednesday afternoon to commemorate the first house to be seen to completion since the North Carolina Baptist disaster-relief team and the Florence long-term flood recovery group joined forces in early May. Since Woodberry received no money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the approximately \$11,000 in repairs were funded by Blue Cross Blue Shield, the American Red Cross and the Southern Baptist Convention. The North Carolina Baptist disaster-relief team provided the volunteer labor.

Aiken Standard: Military Spouse magazine names USC Aiken a military spouse friendly school

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160622/AIK0101/160629817>

Larry Wood

As a military wife juggling three children and a household while completing her degree, Keleigh Glover said she has found not just a school, but also a home at USC Aiken. Recently, the university was recognized specifically for its family friendly support of spouses of veterans and students in the military. In its April issue, Military Spouse magazine named USCA one of 100 2016 Military Spouse Friendly Schools across America. "I recommend USC Aiken to other military families all the time," said Glover, whose husband, Rahed, is stationed at Fort Gordon near Augusta. "Some people say it's too far to drive from Augusta, but I tell them it's not far at all, and it's the place you want to be. They help and support you. You feel like you have a family there. You're not out there by yourself."

National News:

Associated Press: Dems stage election-year sit-in on guns, GOP unmoved

<http://bigstory.ap.org/d1d7f10365f443429a3bd05d12089e2c>

Erica Werner

A drained and dwindling group of Democrats, some draped in blankets and toting pillows, carried their remarkable House floor sit-in past daybreak Thursday, disrupting the business of Congress in the wake of the Orlando shooting rampage with demands for gun-control votes in an extraordinary scene of protest broadcast live to the world. Unyielding Republicans who control the chamber branded the move a publicity stunt and summarily adjourned the chamber at around 3:15 a.m. EDT until after the Fourth of July. By 6:30 a.m. Thursday — 19 hours after the protest commenced — some 16 Democrats remained including Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, giving speeches that mixed victory declarations with vows to never back down in their drive to curb firearm violence. "While the Americans don't always expect us to win, they do expect us to fight," said Rep. Al Green, D-Texas, as dawn broke and the few remaining lawmakers sat in a paper-cluttered chamber beneath empty visitor galleries. "We demonstrated to the American why we can't get votes on common sense safety measures."

World News:

Associated Press: British referendum decides on future EU membership

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a8a682f40ea740609ca2d61e8c67db00>

Danica Kirka and Jill Lawless

Voters in Britain are deciding Thursday whether the country should remain in the European Union —

a historic referendum that threatens to undermine the experiment in continental unity that began in the aftermath of World War II. More than 46 million people are registered to vote in the referendum, which asks: "Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?" The heated campaign saw the nation take stock of its place in the modern world, even as it questioned the direction it wanted to take in the future. "This is, I'd say, the most important day in the past 20 years, at least for the U.K., and the economic consequences of a vote out are huge," said investment banker Hasan Naqvi outside a London polling station.\

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