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To:
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Subject: Morning Clips – Tuesday, September 6, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Greer Today: State partnership launches 'Don't Waste Food S.C.' campaign to reduce food waste
<http://greertoday.com/greer-sc/state-partnership-launches-dont-waste-food-sc-campaign-to-reduce-food-waste/2016/09/05/>

StatePoint

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, S.C. Department of Commerce and S.C. Department of Agriculture have announced "Don't Waste Food S.C." — a collaborative campaign to reduce the number one item thrown away in the state: wasted food. One out of six people struggle with hunger in the United States, yet food waste is the single largest component being sent to landfills and accounted for 21 percent (35.2 million tons) of the nation's waste in 2013. South Carolina alone produced an estimated 607,000 tons of food waste in fiscal year 2015. Don't Waste Food S.C. is aimed at educating and empowering individuals, businesses and communities to take action by preventing, composting or donating surplus food. The campaign is working towards a goal of reducing food waste in the state by 50 percent by 2030. "South Carolina is positioned to be a leader in tackling the complex environmental and health challenges of food waste," said Catherine Heigel, Director of DHEC.

NOTE: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley proclaimed July 13, 2016 as "Don't Waste Food S.C. Day" as the state agencies launched the initiative and invited all South Carolinians to join the effort. The campaign has already gained momentum with early involvement from several private stakeholder partners, including Harvest Hope Food Bank, Re-Soil and Loaves & Fishes.

National Right to Life: Congratulations to South Carolina Citizens for Life for a job well done
<http://www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/news/2016/09/congratulations-to-south-carolina-citizens-for-life-for-a-job-well-done/#.V86udJMrK9Y>

Dave Andrusko

First the unambiguously good news. Yesterday, South Carolina joined the legion of honor by becoming the 14th state to say no, we will not allow you to abort babies who are capable of experiencing pain beyond imagination as they are being torn limb from limb. The Palmetto State joins Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, West Virginia and Wisconsin. South Carolina is the second state this year to pass the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act .

NOTE: There was a last-minute push by pro-abortionists to pressure pro-life Gov. Nikki Haley into not signing the bill into law. Wasn't going to happen, but it was good for headlines in the local press.

SC Political News:

Post and Courier : Abroad or at home, members of S.C. congressional delegation stay busy this summer

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160905/160909881/abroad-or-at-home-members-of-sc->

congressional-delegation-stay-busy-this-summer

Emma Dumain

While nearly every member of the South Carolina congressional delegation traveled outside the Palmetto State during the recently concluded seven-week summer recess, at least three lawmakers left the country. U.S. Sen. Tim Scott and U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford, both Charleston-area Republicans, participated in separate overseas trips during Capitol Hill's annual summer break. Both traveled great distances and landed in foreign hot spots. Scott traveled to Israel with cross-aisle colleague and the only other black lawmaker in the Senate, Cory Booker of New Jersey. The visit, which constituted official travel through the State Department, included a sit-down with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu....

WIS: SC Treasurer: Taxpayers could pay state pension debt if lawmakers don't act

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33018475/sc-treasurer-taxpayers-could-pay-state-pension-debt-if-lawmakers-dont-act>

Lawmakers are now searching for ways to pay state employees billions of dollars in retirement that have been promised to them. South Carolina Treasurer Curtis Loftis told WIS that taxpayers will be left to pay on that this debt if lawmakers on a new committee can't find an answer to this problem. Employees pay into the state pension plan and expect a return once they retire. However, the money owed that the state does not have grows by billions each year. Right now, there's about \$20 billion that legislators must figure out how to pay. Treasurer Loftis believes any pension relief tax should be prioritized above a road tax when lawmakers return this January. "You can see a pothole but can't see the pension," Loftis said, "and if we're not careful, there's this huge cloud of debt and if we're not careful, it's going to affect every single person in this state. It's going to affect every school district, every school bus, every policeman. Everything we do is going to be affected by this debt and it means we're going to have less of all the good things." State employees have already seen a hike in what they pay into the retirement system yearly as they pay more for their benefits than public workers in other states.

SC Agency News:

Associated Press: Sinkhole shuts part of South Carolina highway

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=UHAK2UAW

SC State Wire

Part of a major highway near a South Carolina resort town was shut down for about 20 hours because of a sinkhole. The South Carolina Department of Transportation said its crews and the utility made emergency repairs to the southbound lanes of state Highway 31, just south of its intersection with state Highway 22. The sinkhole was caused by the collapse of a utility line under the pavement of the Grand Strand, a stretch of highway also known as the Carolina Bays Parkway. It serves as a quick way to get from North Myrtle Beach to Myrtle Beach. Officials say the sinkhole opened Sunday night and was fixed Monday afternoon.

Post and Courier : Parents file suit claiming Johns Island day care negligence led to child's injuries

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160905/160909844/parents-file-suit-claiming-johns-island-day-care-negligence-led-to-childs-injuries>

Melissa Boughton

A Charleston area family is suing a Johns Island day care after their daughter was bitten by a copperhead snake on the playground. Phillip and Lindsay Zellner allege the bite was the first incident involving negligence on behalf of Live Oak Little School on River Road. Their daughter, the plaintiff, is

named as Jane Doe in the lawsuit. She was enrolled at Live Oak Little School when she was 8 months old. At 13 months old, she was "negligently and improperly" placed in a class for "0 to 1 year olds" to avoid a student-teacher ratio requirement, the suit alleges. On Sept. 24, 2013, the toddler was allowed to exit the day care building and run unsupervised toward the playground, the suit says. The parents claim her teacher failed to inspect the outside area, as required by an employee handbook, and a venomous snake was on the sidewalk. When the child bent down, the copperhead bit her on the hand.

NOTE: The day care has been licensed since Dec. 18, 2006, according to the Department of Social Services. The state agency's website has 13 complaints and regulatory deficiencies listed against the day care since the end of 2013, all of which were resolved.

NOTE: DSS last week did not provide the number of times the Out-of-Home Abuse and Neglect Investigations Unit investigated abuse and neglect complaints at the day care since 2012.

The State: SC Corrections Department seeks to fill vacancy void with recruiting campaign

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article99992087.html>

Cynthia Roldan

A magnetic board inside the S.C. Department of Corrections recruiting office lists every institution the agency runs – and how short they are on manpower at each one. It gets updated every day. On a recent weekday, the agency was about 535 staffers short, down from 728 in January. The small boost in staffing still means dorms are often on lockdown to protect the safety of inmates and correctional officers who are vastly outmanned. Inmates, who are usually free to roam inside their dorms during the day, are restricted to their rooms. But the Department of Corrections is aggressively working to change that. In recent months, the agency has launched an intensive recruiting effort. They've streamlined the hiring process and invested in marketing the agency through billboards, ads on the radio and in newspapers. A television commercial is also in the works. The Legislature also approved a \$1,500 pay bump for SCDC staffers, which boosted starting base pay to \$26,375. The raise, however, wasn't enough to knock the SCDC position from being one of the lowest-paid law enforcement jobs in the state.

SC After Recent Violence:

Independent Mail: Tiller attorney responds to dismissal

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/2016/09/05/tiller-attorney-responds-dismissal/89893750/>

Two days after the Seneca Police Chief John Covington announced the termination of Mark Tiller, an attorney for the former police lieutenant questioned the the dismissal. Greenville attorney John M. Mussetto, in a statement released to WSPA-TV on Monday, said his client has received no details on the termination and questioned its timing. "After many years of service in law enforcement, it is unfortunate that Lt. Tiller was given such short notice," Mussetto said. "It makes no sense for the Seneca PD to terminate Lt. Tiller when the state determined there was no basis to press criminal charges." Mussetto said Tiller, who fatally shot Zachary Hammond in a Seneca restaurant parking lot, "looks forward to the day when he can share his account of the unfortunate July 2015 incident. "Covington announced on Saturday that Tiller, a six-year veteran on the Seneca force, has been dismissed from the staff. His last day on the force, Covington said, will be Friday.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: 7 keys to being an effective senator, or ... person

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article100110777.html>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

THE KEY TO understanding how the Legislature works is volume. Hundreds of bills and thousands of amendments are introduced every session. Some are extremely simple; some are maddeningly complex, proposing changes to dozens of laws, each complicated in itself. Some are straightforward; some are written with the goal of obscuring their effect. Some are a single sentence; some go on for hundreds of pages. There's no way a legislator can read every word of every bill introduced, and probably not even of every bill that advances to the full House or Senate — much less do the legal research necessary to understand the effect some of those bills would have. Although attorneys assigned to each committee are supposed to be able to answer questions about the bills, it's often hard even to know what questions need to be asked.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Puerto Rico agriculture sector to receive \$4M federal boost

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=vh776vZk

SC State Wire

One of Puerto Rico's largest universities is receiving \$4 million from the National Science Foundation to help boost the U.S. territory's agriculture sector. The University of Puerto Rico in Mayaguez said Monday that it will use the money in part to recycle biomass to improve soil conditions and create biodegradable plastic. Officials said they will also seek ways to improve the soil's ability to retain water. Local officials will receive help from the University of South Carolina. Puerto Rico's governor has been trying to revive the island's agriculture sector amid a decade-long economic crisis. Last week marked the first time in 30 years that Puerto Ricans could buy locally produced rice.

Associated Press : 1 young person shot at Carowinds theme park in the Carolinas

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

SC State Wire

A juvenile was shot and wounded in the parking lot of the Carowinds theme park on the South Carolina-North Carolina state line near Charlotte, sheriff's deputies said. The shooting happened around 7:15 p.m. Monday in the bus drop-off and pickup area on the South Carolina side of the park, said Trent Faris, a spokesman for the York County Sheriff's Department. The teen was taken to Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte. There was no word on his condition but Charlotte Medic called the injuries life-threatening. His name has not been released. Authorities were looking for a suspect. "We view this as an isolated incident," Faris said Monday night. "I can tell you we believe it stemmed from an earlier argument that happened inside the park." He said the shooting happened as the park was closing. "By the time we arrived, it was fairly calm," Faris said. He did not immediately respond to a message early Tuesday seeking more information. Carowinds spokeswoman Laresa Thompson told local news outlets that the park is cooperating with the sheriff's office and Charlotte-Mecklenburg police. The park was closed Tuesday and is now operating on weekends only under its regular fall schedule.

Associated Press: Winston-Salem police increase patrols after clown sightings

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

SC State Wire

Police say they are doing extra patrols in a Winston-Salem neighborhood after two children reported seeing a clown trying to lure kids into the woods with treats. Police said in a news release that officers were called to the area around 8:30 p.m. Sunday. Authorities say two children said they saw the clown, and one adult reported hearing the clown. Officers say they found no evidence of a clown in

the woods. About four hours later, a caller who refused to give a name reported seeing a clown about 2 miles away. Police say again they found no evidence of a clown. Several unverified clown sightings in northern South Carolina have been in the news recently.

Local News:

Associated Press: Child drowns in Greenville County subdivision's pool

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=uUy3leLF

SC State Wire

Authorities say a 3-year-old boy has drowned in a community pool in Greenville County. Coroner Parks Evans told media outlets that Za'Marion Wilcox fell into the pool at the Partridge Ridge subdivision around 7:45 p.m. Sunday and was unconscious when one of his foster parents got him out of the water. Parks says paramedics tried to resuscitate the child, but he died about an hour later at the hospital. The coroner says an autopsy showed the boy died from accidental drowning.

Associated Press : Man removing tree that fell in Hermine struck, killed by car

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=EoXxL49Q

SC State Wire

Authorities say a man trying to remove a tree that fell on a South Carolina highway during Tropical Storm Hermine was struck and killed by a car. Colleton County Coroner Richard Harvey told media outlets that 30-year-old Michael Woodrum died at the hospital Saturday night, a day after he was hit. Officials with the Colleton County Rescue Squad say Woodrum was trying to get the tree off of U.S. Highway 17-A near Cottageville around 8 p.m. Friday when a Mercedes struck him and the tree. Troopers are still investigating the wreck, and no charges have been filed.

Associated Press: Greenville County pays private firm \$80K in strip club fight

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4I3TahU4

SC State Wire

A private law firm has been paid nearly \$80,000 to help Greenville County prosecutors in their fight against a strip club that has closed the business two times. The Greenville News obtained records that show the payments to the Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough law firm. Solicitor Walt Wilkins says about two-thirds of the money ended up coming from a settlement with Platinum Plus over paying some of the county's legal fees. A judge first ordered Platinum Plus closed for six months in 2015 after deputies found dancers were showing too much skin or soliciting prostitution. A judge again ordered a six-month closure in August after finding the club still wasn't following the county's laws.

Associated Press: Police: Drunk driver abandoned car struck by Amtrak train

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

SC State Wire

Authorities say an Amtrak train in South Carolina was delayed after hitting a vehicle that got stuck on the tracks by a drunk driver north of Charleston. Amtrak spokeswoman Christina Leeds said in an email Monday that there were no injuries and that the train was delayed for three hours before continuing north. Hanahan Police Capt. Michael Folwer said in an email that 54-year-old Hung Tran's car got stuck in gravel by the tracks after he misjudged a turn around 11 p.m. Sunday. The engineer told police Tran was waving his arms as the train neared. Tran was uninjured and arrested at the scene. Fowler says Tran was charged with driving under the influence and his blood-alcohol level was 0.15. It wasn't known if he had a lawyer.

Post and Courier: Driver charged with DUI after Amtrak crash

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160905/160909718/driver-charged-with-dui-after-amtrak-crash>

Lauren Sausser

A man whose car was struck by an Amtrak train late Sunday night had a blood alcohol concentration nearly double the legal limit, according to the Hanahan Police Department. Capt. Michael Fowler said 54-year-old Hung Tran had stopped his blue Suzuki Forenza on the tracks near Eagle Landing Boulevard, but was able to escape the vehicle without injury before it crashed with the train at 11:05 p.m. Tran told police, according to the department's report, that he had been driving down Eagle Landing Boulevard and made a right hand turn by mistake onto the tracks. He saw the train coming and "attempted to flag it down to stop." He told police that he had two beers. Tran's blood alcohol content at the time of the crash was .15 percent, Fowler said. The legal limit is .08 percent. He was charged with driving with an unlawful alcohol concentration, first offense, and was transported to the Hill Finklea Detention Center to await a bond hearing.

The State : SC lawsuits against bars that serve killer drunks on upswing

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article100087327.html>

John Monk

When Caitlin Clark died after a motorcycle crash last August, the 19-year-old Lexington County woman joined a sad and growing list of South Carolinians killed by drunks who leave bars too intoxicated to drive safely. James Gainey Jr., the motorcycle driver whose dangerous driving killed Clark, was convicted of DUI and reckless homicide. He is now serving five years in state prison. That wasn't the last legal action in that case. Across South Carolina, relatives of people killed by drivers who've become intoxicated in the state's bars and restaurants are suing, alleging those establishments knowingly kept on serving alcohol to someone like Gainey who was unfit to drive. "It's a growing problem," said Todd Ellis, the attorney who is representing Caitlin Clark's father in his lawsuit against the company that runs the Tin Roof bar at 1022 Senate St. in Columbia's Vista. "Monitoring and limiting customers' drinks is at odds with many bars' profit motives to sell alcohol as fast as you can to as many customers as you can without regard to the customers' intoxication levels," Ellis said.

The Herald: York County detective dies after dancing at daughter's wedding

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/crime/article100083567.html>

Teddy Kulmala

A longtime York County sheriff's detective died over the weekend from an apparent heart attack – just after dancing with his daughter at her wedding. Timothy "Tim" Buchanan, 54, died over the holiday weekend, the York County Sheriff's Office said in a Facebook post Monday. According to a GoFundMe page set up for Buchanan's family, he died at his daughter's wedding in Costa Rica on Saturday. "During the wedding, after the father-daughter dance, Tim had a heart attack," the post reads. "Sadly, he didn't survive it. Our hearts are broken for (his wife) Jeni and their entire family. "Buchanan was a detective in the investigations division focused on computer crimes, sheriff's spokesman Trent Faris said. He was hired by the sheriff's office in March 1998 and was promoted to forensic investigator 10 years later. He had just been promoted to his current position in the investigations division in February.

Post and Courier : North Charleston fire chief helps start firefighter cancer database

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160905/160909825/north-charleston-fire-chief-helps-start-firefighter-cancer-database->

Angie Jackson

When North Charleston Fire Chief Greg Bulanow was shopping around for a more comprehensive health physical for his department a few years ago, an ultrasound screening came back with a startling revelation. Bulanow learned he had thyroid cancer. And firefighters' requests for referrals to his surgeon suggested that others were affected by the disease, too. Now Bulanow is helping lead a statewide effort to collect data from firefighters who have been diagnosed with cancer. The new survey follows national studies that say firefighters are at an increased risk for cancer due to occupational exposure. The S.C. State Firefighters' Association is collecting the information with plans to build a database that could assist in providing firefighters with better benefits and resources, as well as potentially help draft legislation.

Associated Press: Some school fees rapidly increasing at University of SC

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

SC State Wire

Some University of South Carolina students have been surprised at rapidly increasing fees. Computer science major Lawton Mizell is paying \$918 this semester in fees after paying just \$200 a semester as a freshman two years ago. The College of Engineering and Computing says it had to raise fees to improve technology and equipment. Some classrooms still have chalkboards. But Mizell said there was no warning and he first figured his tuition bill was a mistake. "It's such a large jump. You kind of feel powerless sometimes. They can pretty much put the fee down, and once the fee is approved, that's it. It's really hard to go back and change it," Mizell told The State newspaper (<http://bit.ly/2c3ZleK>). The rising fees are in part caused by declining funding from the state, said University President Harris Pastides, who thinks raising fees for some courses of study is fairer than overall tuition.

Post and Courier: Charleston County tax-fraud program recovers \$2.1 million

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160906/160909692/charleston-county-tax-fraud-program-recovers-21-million>

Dave Munday

A Charleston County program to root out property tax fraud turned out to be a nice investment, according to the Assessor's Office. The fraud involves people who falsely claim properties as their primary residence in order to lower their tax bills. The tax bill on a rental or second home can be nearly three times higher than a primary residence. People sometimes try to cut bills by claiming multiple exemptions, claiming an exemption on a home that's not the primary residence or claiming an exemption in the name of a dead person. Assessor Toy Glennon hired Tax Management Associates to help root out offenders two years ago. The company found more than 600 cases of fraud and recovered \$2.1 million, according to an announcement from LexisNexis Solutions, which provides the computer software for cross-checking records.

Post and Courier: Charleston native named to lead U.S. Army Ordnance School

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160905/160909810/charleston-native-named-to-lead-us-army-ordnance-school>

Maya T. Prabhu

When Citadel graduate and Charleston native Army Col. David Wilson took over as chief of ordnance and commandant at the U.S. Army Ordnance School last month, he was only the third black officer to lead the school since its founding in 1812. The first black officer to lead the school was appointed 26 years ago. The second black officer to be put in command came in 1994. "I try not to focus on that, but it is an interesting factoid that took place," he said. "From 1812 to now, I'm the third to lead." "I

hope that's not the reason the Army selected me," he added. The Ordnance Corps has a broad mission. It mainly supplies Army combat units with the weapons and ammunition they need to wage war around the globe. That includes, at times, their procurement and maintenance, according to the U.S. Army website. More than 100,000 soldiers serve in the Ordnance Corps.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: Trump and Clinton turn to battleground states in the South

<http://bigstory.ap.org/4095bf575c4e4e80b79c453a865916a5>

Steve Peoples and Ken Thomas

With Labor Day behind them, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton are pushing ahead in top presidential battlegrounds in the South. Trump, the Republican nominee, is set to campaign in Virginia and North Carolina on Tuesday, two critical states in his path to the presidency. Clinton, the Democrat, is campaigning in Florida in search of an advantage in the nation's largest swing state. A Clinton victory in Florida would make it virtually impossible for Trump to overcome her advantage in the race for 270 electoral votes. The day before in swing state Ohio, Trump softened his stance on immigration while Clinton blasted Russia for suspected tampering in the U.S. electoral process. In a rare news conference aboard her new campaign plane, Clinton said she is concerned about "credible reports about Russian government interference in our elections."

Associated Press : The Latest: Trump says Mexican president broke ground rules

<http://bigstory.ap.org/808e55e7cfd8496d88504ec0b2104ee7>

Donald Trump says the Mexican president violated some "ground rules" by admitting that the two did actually discuss payment of his proposed border wall between the two countries, but he adds, "that's ok." In an interview aired Tuesday on ABC's Good Morning America, Trump said, "the fact is Mexico will pay for the wall," adding, "it was discussed that it wouldn't be discussed, but they know my stance and I know their stance." Trump made a last minute trip to Mexico last week to meet with President Enrique Pena Nieto. At a joint press conference, Trump told reporters that payment of his proposed border wall was not discussed. Pena Nieto later tweeted that it was discussed and he "made it clear" that Mexico would not pay. "See who wins in the end, who will win," Trump told ABC. "A hundred percent, they will pay for the wall."

National News:

Associated Press : Black Lives Matter partners with charity in sign of growth

<http://bigstory.ap.org/c9de0748dbf94d21a1952e4543ae8793>

Michael R. Blood

Black Lives Matter, which two years ago grew out of street protests and a social-media hashtag, has quietly established a legal partnership with a California charity in a sign of the movement's growth and expanding ambition, The Associated Press has learned. The formal relationship between the national Black Lives Matter network and the San Francisco-based International Development Exchange represents another side of the loosely knit group that many Americans recognize for its sometimes-disruptive demonstrations against police shootings of unarmed black men. Since November, the nonprofit charity also known as IDEX has been acting as a mostly unseen financial arm of Black Lives Matter, with the ability to receive grants and tax-deductible donations on the group's behalf. More recently, the relationship evolved into a contractual partnership that will run through at least mid-2017. IDEX is managing the group's financial affairs, allowing Black Lives Matter to focus on its mission, including building local chapters and experimenting with its organizational

structure.

Associated Press: Obama vows to work to tighten sanction on North Korea

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a16c7e1c6652452e82beaea1b4481a58>

Josh Lederman

In the wake of another missile launch, President Barack Obama vowed Tuesday to work with the United Nations to tighten sanctions against North Korea, but added that the U.S. was still open to dialogue if the government changes its course. Obama said the latest round of ballistic missile launches were "provocations" that flouted international law and would only lead to further isolation. "We are going to work diligently together with the most recent U.N. sanctions," Obama told reporters after meeting with South Korean President Park Geun-hye. "We are going to work together to make sure we're closing loopholes and make them even more effective." North Korea fired three ballistic missiles off its east coast Monday. The launch was widely viewed as a show of force timed to get the attention of world leaders visiting the region for a series of summits. Obama and other heads of state gathered in China over the weekend for the Group of 20 economic summit. Obama went on to Laos for a meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

World News:

Associated Press: Philippine president regrets 'son of a bitch' remark

<http://bigstory.ap.org/40556f31c19b4292aff66f862e52e2f1>

Vijay Joshi

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte expressed regret Tuesday over his "son of a bitch" remark while referring to President Barack Obama, in a rare display of contrition by a politician whose wide arc of profanities has unabashedly targeted world figures including the pope and the U.N. chief. In a statement read out by his spokesman, Duterte said that while his "strong comments" in response to questions by a reporter "elicited concern and distress, we also regret it came across as a personal attack on the U.S. president." Duterte had made the intemperate remarks Monday before flying to Laos, where he is attending a regional summit. He had been scheduled to meet Obama separately in Laos, but Obama indicated he had second thoughts, and the White House announced that the meeting had been canceled. The Philippines did not comment publicly on the cancellation until about nine hours later, when Duterte's statement said that both sides had "mutually agreed to postpone" the meeting.

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