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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, August 31, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: Richland legislators demand 5 Rec Commission board members quit

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article99023107.html>

Avery G. Wilks

Ten Richland County legislators demanded Wednesday that five members of the troubled Richland County Recreation Commission's board resign, threatening to remove them if they don't. Meanwhile, documents released to those legislators show the Recreation Commission employs at least 10 relatives of embattled director James Brown III. At least four of those relatives have received raises of more than \$8,000 since being hired, documents show. Lawmakers at a press conference Wednesday said they found six "acts of malfeasance" – including "blatant abuses of nepotism" – by the board while looking into recent turmoil at the commission. The legislators said they will give board members time to quit but will fire them if necessary. "I regret that we didn't step in earlier," said state Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Richland. "This is a failed structure where we appoint commissioners, county council funds them, and they're accountable to nobody." The commission has come under fire in recent months. State and federal law enforcement agencies have opened probes into allegations of public corruption at the office – which is funded but not controlled by Richland County. Current and former Rec Commission employees have filed civil lawsuits alleging sexual harassment and other improper behavior by director Brown, who has denied any wrongdoing, and some staffers and board members. **NOTE:** State law provides S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley – and not the Richland County State House delegation – the power to fire the board members, whom she appoints on the recommendation of the delegation. But state Rep. James Smith, D-Richland, an attorney, said the delegation has avenues available to remove the members, if need be. He would not say what those avenues are.

Greenville News: Governor renews call for DOT reform

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2016/08/30/governor-renews-call-dot-reform/89592052/?from=global&sessionKey=&autologin=>

Michael Burns

To assess small-business manufacturing where the rubber meets the road, Gov. Nikki Haley visited Taylors Tuesday and toured Calder Brothers Corp., a commercial asphalt paving product manufacturer that employs about 75. While touting recent honors that proclaim South Carolina to be among the nation's friendliest, most patriotic and most attractive to new residents, she reiterated a call for further reform of the state Department of Transportation, a move that she said is needed to fix the state's deteriorated roads. "The conversation in South Carolina is not revenue," Haley said in addressing questions from employees of Calder Brothers, the makers of Mauldin Paving Products. She did not answer questions from media members. "We've got the revenue," Haley said. "I don't need another tree bill. I need a pothole fixed. I need my interstates widened. I need to make sure that we've got roadways that work, that we don't have dangerous bridges anymore, and so what I think you will see is a conversation again with the Legislature saying we can't truly fix the problem if we don't fix the system."

NOTE: Legislation Haley signed in June enables officials to borrow \$2.2 billion to jump-start road improvements, but she said it does not do enough to alter Department of Transportation governance that relies on legislators looking out more for local pet projects rather than statewide priorities.

NOTE: Haley press secretary Chaney Adams said investments to promote technical education have

already been made and are paying dividends. “We are not only investing in education; we are investing in workforce training for those who are interested in opportunities besides four year undergraduate degrees – and thanks to our investment, companies that call South Carolina home are flourishing,” Adams said. “What we see at companies like Calder Brothers gives us all the motivation we need to continue strengthening our workforce and build on the momentum of the last six years.”

Post and Courier: Cracking the code: Despite learning challenges, parents aim to set kids up for success

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160831/160839877/cracking-the-code-despite-learning-challenges-parents-aim-to-set-kids-up-for-success>

Holly Fisher

Tom Wilson knew his son Trey was bright and intelligent. But when Trey's Montessori preschool teacher began working with the class on the ABCs, she noticed Trey was demonstrating signs of a learning disorder. Ultimately, the Wilsons had their son tested by a psychologist who diagnosed him with dyslexia and ADHD, or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder. For children growing up with learning challenges, finding the right educational fit can be frustrating. Families must first secure an accurate diagnosis to identify what factors are at play, then choose a course of action. Helping a child with a learning disability thrive involves collaboration with schools, learning about available resources and lots of support at home. Trey began first grade at a Montessori school, but he was reluctant to participate in class. He would make a joke or act out as a way to deflect attention from his struggles. Tom's, wife, Ellen, took some training courses at Trident Academy to learn specialized teaching methods so she could work with her son after school...

NOTE: This year, the state has taken the first step toward training teachers specifically on dyslexia. In May, Gov. Nikki Haley signed a resolution requiring the S.C. Department of Education to provide all kindergarten through third-grade literacy coaches, interventionists and teachers with training on dyslexia and related disorders before the 2016-17 school year.

SC Political News:

The State: SC pension fund deficit to increase by \$1.4 billion

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article98892092.html>

Cassie Cope

Billions in unfunded obligations in the S.C. pension funds for state and local government workers, teachers and police officers are “a freight train out of control,” a state representative said Tuesday. The unfunded obligations of the largest of those pension funds, the S.C. Retirement System, are expected to grow by \$1.4 billion over the next year, according to actuarial firm Gabriel Roeder Smith and Co. That system serves more than 180,000 state and local government employees, including teachers. Another 134,634 retirees also are part of the system. The Retirement System has about \$24 billion in assets, according to the Retirement System Investment Commission. But the system has \$16.8 billion in unfunded liabilities — the difference between the amount the pension fund has to pay retirement benefits and the amount it has promised to pay. That red ink is expected to grow to \$18.2 billion in the next budget year. A group of state legislators held their first meeting Tuesday to try to come up with a way to meet the state's unfunded pension obligations. South Carolina has five pension funds for public workers.

Island Packet: Sen. Tom Davis says these 4 infrastructure projects are top priorities

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/politics-government/article99061442.html>

Lucas High

“Things are about to explode.” That’s how Sen. Tom Davis described Beaufort County’s economic and population outlook over the next decade. With that explosive growth comes the need for a host of large infrastructure projects, he said earlier this week. Now that the Bluffton Parkway flyover — the county’s biggest construction undertaking in nearly two decades — is complete, the Republican state senator is looking ahead to the next set of high-priority projects. “I want to start having these

conversations now, rather than four or five years down the line,” he said. “The last thing you want is things to be snagged because the public doesn’t have enough information and isn’t entirely behind (the projects).”

Post and Courier: S.C. lawmakers consider pepper spray use on youthful offenders

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160831/160839864/sc-lawmakers-consider-pepper-spray-use-on-youthful-offenders>

Maya T. Prabhu

Lawmakers are considering letting all staff members who guard the state’s juvenile offenders to carry pepper spray as a means to avoid a repeat of the February riot that exposed serious security lapses in the agency. In May, the Department of Juvenile Justice’s 21 police officers became certified to carry pepper spray. Previously, no one carried the security method within DJJ facilities. Some members of a joint review panel comprised of state House and Senate lawmakers on Wednesday marveled at the fact that the guards who interact with youthful offenders are regularly unarmed, with only the ability to use verbal commands before they could resort to physically restraining someone. Larry Reid, of Correctional Consulting Services, said it typically is not a best practice to use pepper spray in juvenile facilities. Reid was hired by DJJ to do a safety audit of the agency’s Broad River Road Complex. “What we see in our auditing, especially in juvenile environments, there are concerns about misuse of that particular tool,” he said of resorting to pepper spray to control inmates.

Post and Courier: Graham asks DOJ to explain delay in implementing law that could save police lives

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160831/160839862/graham-asks-doj-to-explain-delay-in-implementing-law-that-could-save-police-lives>

Emma Dumain

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham wants to know why the Justice Department is lagging in implementation of a 2015 law to streamline communications when a police officer has been killed, injured or threatened on the job. In a letter Wednesday, the South Carolina Republican — along with U.S. Sen. Benjamin Cardin, D-Md., U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell, D-N.J., and U.S. Rep. Dave Reichert, R-Wash. — wrote to Attorney General Loretta Lynch asking for an explanation. The four co-sponsors of the legislation are especially concerned that the Justice Department missed its May 19 deadline to submit a report to Congress detailing its progress in implementing a national “Blue Alert” communications network across state and local governments. Graham, Cardin, Pascrell and Reichert also said they were unaware whether a coordinator had been assigned to oversee the project, also required by the new law. “Every day our nation’s law enforcement officials put their lives on the line to keep our communities safe,” the lawmakers wrote. “The heart-wrenching deaths of the officials killed in Dallas and Baton Rouge remain a national tragedy. They also give us a reminder that we must do everything we can to help ensure the safety of our police officers when they’re in the line of duty.”

Associated Press: Legislators ask if DJJ officers should carry pepper spray

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=zO8CyxTO

Seanna Adcox

Security changes at the Department of Juvenile Justice’s main prison following a February riot include searching inmates head-to-toe when their visitors leave and allowing its police force to carry pepper spray. Agency spokesman Patrick Montgomery said Wednesday pepper spray has been used once since the prison’s police officers received authority in May. Montgomery could not immediately give details. Legislators reviewing the troubled agency suggested the prison’s other officers carry pepper spray as well. They scoffed at guards regaining control only through their voice or hands. But a DJJ security consultant said that’s not among his 110 recommendations. Larry Reid of Correctional Consulting Services says pepper spray can lead to misuse and lawsuits. He did not detail his recommendations. A redacted version of his report could be available next week.

The State: Could SC’s election be hacked? Not likely

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article99086332.html>

Bristow Marchant

After a raucous presidential campaign, voters finally will have their say in November on whether Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton is the next president of the United States. Or will they? The FBI is investigating hacking attacks on election data in two states and suggests Russian hackers may be to blame. The incidents raise the specter of foreign agents trying to alter the results of America's next presidential election. That possibility is a big enough concern for federal agencies to get involved in safeguarding states' election databases. S.C. Election Commission officials have listened in on nationwide conference calls in recent weeks with Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, the FBI and Justice Department on safeguarding voter files, said spokesman Chris Whitmire, adding S.C. officials have been coordinating their efforts with federal and state security experts. Whitmire is quick to stress there is no evidence any S.C. election data ever has been attacked. But digital security is a hot topic that election officials want to stay on top of, he added.

The State: Another poll finds Clinton-Trump tied in South Carolina

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article98996902.html>

Bristow Marchant

How competitive will South Carolina be in November? It may depend on who turns out on Election Day. A Reuters/Ipsos projection this week labels the Palmetto State "too close to call." Both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump are projected to receive 46 percent of the vote under the organization's turnout model. The site's national projection gives Clinton an electoral college lead of 295 to Trump's 171, with 12 states either too close to call or with insufficient polling data to make a projection. Reuters/Ipsos's model projects a 60 percent national turnout in November, with variations in turnout among different demographic groups: the model predicts minority turnout at 43 percent, a 59 percent turnout for African-American women and a 69 percent turnout for white men.

SC Agency News:

The State: \$3 million upgrade coming to Richland Social Services offices

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article99054757.html>

Sarah Ellis

Richland County is spending \$3 million to improve the county-maintained Department of Social Services facility on Two Notch Road. The renovations will include larger office space, better lighting and upgraded heating and cooling, along with cosmetic updates such as new paint, tile and carpeting. Richland County DSS director Reese Palmer said the renovations will "address a number of critical needs" for the office that provides a variety of programs including child support services, elderly care, food assistance, domestic violence victim protection, disaster response and more. "While the overall scope of the project will not address every need, it makes significant and much-needed improvements that will have an immediate, positive impact," Palmer said in a news release. "We are working very hard to enhance the public perception of Richland County DSS, and I believe this aesthetic 'facelift' will greatly help in that effort and allow us to continue to improve our services to the community." The 82,000-square-foot DSS facility was built over 50 years ago. Construction is expected to begin in September 2017 and be complete in June 2018.

LGBT News:

Greenville News: Three Upstate universities on CampusPride shame list

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/08/31/three-upstate-universities-campuspride-shame-list/89583714/>

Elizabeth LaFluer

Three Upstate South Carolina universities landed on a 'Shame List' created by CampusPride.org. The Shame List identifies what it calls the "absolute worst campuses for LGBTQ youth" in the United States. CampusPride.org says the colleges and universities on the list openly discriminate against

LGBTQ youth and have requested Title IX exemptions that "perpetuate the harms of religion-based bigotry". Upstate schools on the list are Anderson University in Anderson, Bob Jones University in Greenville and Southern Wesleyan University in Central. All three schools hold Title IX exemptions. Anderson and Bob Jones Universities have exemptions that allow the colleges to make decisions on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy or receipt of abortion while still receiving federal funds. Southern Wesleyan's Title IX exemption allows the school to make decisions on the basis of gender identity or receipt of abortion while still receiving federal funds. Campus Pride It releases the list annually and updates it regularly.

Dylann Roof Case:

Associated Press: Judge hears objections to closing church shooting hearing
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1Puj62Pp

Bruce Smith

A judge heard Wednesday from news organizations objecting to his closing a hearing about evidence that the defense of Dylann Roof wants to keep out of his federal trial in the Charleston church shootings. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel said 3,000 potential jurors are being summoned for jury selection, and he doesn't want them exposed to information that might be excluded from his death penalty trial. "There are some circumstances where you can't un-ring the bell," the judge said, adding he would release his decision on closing the hearing later Wednesday. He said the hearing would not be secret, and that a transcript would eventually be released. Roof, 22, goes on trial for hate crimes and other federal charges in November. He also faces nine murder charges, also carrying the death penalty, in a state trial next year. His defense wants to keep some evidence out of his federal trial over the June 2015 shooting deaths of nine black parishioners at Emanuel AME Church. Gergel has proposed closing a Thursday hearing on that evidence.

The State: What explosive evidence do lawyers want to keep from Dylann Roof's jury?

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article99027302.html>

John Monk

Evidence to be discussed at a hearing Thursday in the Dylann Roof case is potentially so explosive, a judge indicated Wednesday, it could taint prospective jurors' ability to be fair far more than anything already made public in Roof's widely publicized and sensational church shooting case. Federal Judge Richard Gergel strongly indicated Wednesday that when he and Roof's lawyers and prosecutors review that evidence on Thursday, the media and the public will not be allowed to listen. Keeping the hearing closed will protect the jury pool and help ensure a fair trial, Gergel told the lawyers at the morning hearing. He said he will issue a formal order Wednesday afternoon. The public has a right to know what Roof's lawyers want to keep out of the upcoming federal death penalty trial, attorneys for media outlets argued at the hearing. Media attorney Jay Bender, meanwhile, told reporters after the hearing that Gergel appeared to have already decided to keep Thursday's hearing closed.

Post and Courier: Signaling closure of hearing, judge cites Dylann Roof's 'sacred right' to fair trial

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160831/160839901/signaling-closure-of-hearing-judge-cites-dylann-roofs-sacred-right-to-fair-trial>

Andrew Knapp

To the news media attorneys who sought a better explanation of why he wanted to close a hearing in Dylann Roof's case, a federal judge said Wednesday that they must trust his reasons. At issue in the proceeding scheduled for Thursday is evidence in the Emanuel AME Church massacre that Roof's defense team aims to exclude from his death penalty trial. If U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel decides that the information should be suppressed, jurors picked for the case will never hear it during the trial. But if Thursday's hearing were to be open, prospective jurors could learn about the evidence that has never before been made public, Gergel said, and that could threaten Roof's right to a fair trial. The judge said he intended to close the hearing without any request from Roof's lawyers or from prosecutors. But he couldn't give the news organizations who opposed the closure a more thorough

explanation because it would reveal the evidence in question, he said. Gergel said he hoped that people would have some "confidence" in his choice.

Michael Slagger Case:

Associated Press: Judge sets 2017 trial for ex-officer who shot black motorist

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

Bruce Smith

A federal judge has decided that the trial for a white ex-police officer in the shooting death of a black South Carolina motorist will be held early next year. U.S. District Judge David Norton said during a brief hearing Tuesday that he will hold the trial of 33-year-old Michael Slager during a term of court beginning in January. No specific date was set. Slager, a former North Charleston officer, faces federal civil rights charges in the April 2015 shooting of 50-year-old Walter Scott who was fleeing a traffic stop. The incident, caught on a dramatic cellphone video, reignited the national debate over treatment of blacks by white police officers. Separately, Slager faces a murder charge in state court. That trial is set to begin on Oct. 31.

Post and Courier: Despite defense request, judge pushes Michael Slager's federal trial to 2017

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160830/160839974/despite-defense-request-judge-pushes-michael-slayers-federal-trial-to-2017>

Andrew Knapp

A judge Tuesday brushed off a bid by Michael Slager's defense team to have the former North Charleston policeman stand trial this fall on a federal civil rights charge, opting instead to push the proceeding into next year. Slager already is scheduled to be tried Oct. 31 in state court, where he is charged with murder in motorist Walter Scott's shooting death. But during a hearing Tuesday afternoon, an attorney for Slager asked U.S. District Judge David Norton to set the federal trial a few weeks sooner. A prosecutor, meanwhile, sought a delay. "(It would be) unnecessarily disruptive to try to squeeze a federal trial in this case ... before the start of the state case," Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric Klumb said. Norton agreed, saying the court would revisit the scheduling of the trial after the start of the new year. He mentioned the difficulty for Slager's team of lawyers, led by Andy Savage, to defend both cases simultaneously. "With all due respect for Mr. Savage, who is a fine lawyer," the judge said, "I don't think he can be in two places at one time." Slager, 34, attended Tuesday's hearing, his first appearance in federal court since his May arraignment on charges of violating Scott's rights under the color of law, lying to investigators and using a firearm in a violent crime.

SC After Recent Violence:

Associated Press: Justices: No reimbursement needed when cops damage property

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=m7Ha7a5w

Meg Kinnard

South Carolina isn't required to reimburse private property owners for damage by law officers doing their jobs, the state Supreme Court ruled Wednesday. The 3-2 ruling involves the takeover of a Spartanburg convenience store in 2004 by Jimmy Johnson, who took a clerk hostage and held off police for 13 hours. After trying tear gas and pepper spray, the officers ultimately used a bulldozer to end the standoff. Johnson pleaded guilty to kidnapping and is serving a life sentence. The building was never used again. And when the owners refused to tear it down, the city demolished it. Ruling against Carolina Convenience Stores, the justices said the police did not officially appropriate the building for government use before breaking into it with a bulldozer, and therefore don't have to compensate the owners. "The South Carolina Constitution does not contemplate that damage occasioned to private property by law enforcement in the course of performing their duties constitutes a compensable taking," the court wrote.

The State: SC trooper morale a concern for state legislators

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article98910692.html>

Cynthia Roldan

State legislators are worried the state's Department of Public Safety has a morale problem. During an off-session meeting, a House Legislative Oversight panel on Tuesday continued its ongoing scrutiny of DPS. Lawmakers made no attempt to hide their frustration when questioning DPS Director Leroy Smith and his staff about a range of issues, from how they hire potential troopers to why some get promoted while others get reassigned. At the crux was whether the agency's procedures are fostering a perception of unfair or unequal treatment for troopers. Rep. Eddie Tallon, R-Spartanburg, said since the July meeting the panel held on DPS, he's averaged three to four phone calls a day from S.C. Highway Patrol troopers expressing frustration with their managers. Tallon said troopers have told him they don't trust their managers and don't feel they'll be protected if they express those concerns with the agency's leadership. He also said the number of complaints is unusual and stressed grievances weren't just coming from troopers who have faced disciplinary measures. "There's always a certain amount of griping that goes on, but this seems to be different than just the regular old malcontents," Tallon said.

NOTE: Smith, who was appointed by Gov. Nikki Haley to the Cabinet-level post, stressed that DPS already conducts its own internal survey of its staff that dives into morale and job satisfaction. The latest revealed morale for the entire department was at 3 on a 4-point scale.

The Herald: Rock Hill officials seek to close 'information gap' after talks with Concerned Black Men group

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article98942927.html>

David Thackham

When City Manager David Vebaun first read over a detailed list of demands sent by a determined activist group to the Rock Hill Police Department, he says he considered it an opportunity. "My initial reaction was not necessarily to respond, but see the opportunity to inform," said Vebaun. "It seemed to me, from what I saw, was that we needed to get these guys the information that's already available." Vebaun and Mayor Doug Echols told The Herald on Tuesday that they are committed to keeping communication open for the public to express their opinions about the RHPD or any other city matters. It has been just over a month and a half since the Concerned Black Men of the city of Rock Hill marched downtown to the police department to deliver a list of demands for action within the following 30 days. The group was initially motivated by a number of high-profile shootings by police on black men nationwide, including those in Minnesota and Louisiana. Concerned Black Men group leaders have since drafted and delivered two letters addressed to police Chief Chris Watts in an attempt to increase communication and understanding between law enforcement and the black community. Since then, the group has seen almost every one of its demands either addressed or answered, including receiving department data on use of force and a mandate that all officers wear body cameras during all official police functions.

Sun News: Churches learn about active shooters, crime in safety class

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article99066652.html>

Chloe Johnson

Last August, when the nation was still reeling in the aftermath of the Mother Emanuel AME Church shooting that left nine people dead, Charleston County's Sheriff Office was looking for some help. They ended up calling Training Force USA, a company that specializes in providing classes for law enforcement, asking for a training on how to keep places of worship safe. They ended up finding Tom Gillan. "I had already developed this class years ago, and I had only taught it twice, because nothing ever happened," Gillan said. "After the church shooting, everybody wanted it." Gillan's course on safety in worship spaces has now been taught several times in South Carolina and elsewhere. His most recent sessions spanned two days at the Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in North Myrtle Beach this week. Participants could attend a class for \$125. On Tuesday, Gillan focused specifically on active shooters, discussing violence, mental health, and how to deal with someone

disruptive.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Tropical weather system spares North Carolina's Outer Banks

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=vHZYI4O1

Ben Finley and Jonathan Drew

North Carolina's Outer Banks have been spared from a tropical storm system that has been moving toward the state for two days, an official said Wednesday. Dare County Emergency Management Director Drew Pearson wrote in an email that the tropical depression resulted in "no impacts" on coastal areas such as Cape Hatteras. A hotel manager on Ocracoke Island says residents and tourists experienced less than an inch of rain. Byron Miller, manager of The Ocracoke Harbor Inn, said in a telephone interview that "it's just a normal day." Early forecasts had indicated the system could drench the state with up to 5 inches of rain before it curved out to sea. The National Weather Service said early Wednesday morning that the tropical depression was moving away from the state. Highest winds were still 35 mph. The system was about 75 miles east of Cape Hatteras and was moving to the northeast at 5 mph.

The State: Tropical weather could soak coastal SC

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article99066292.html>

Sammy Fretwell

A tropical weather system is expected to make things messy in parts of South Carolina over the next few days as the storm skirts the South Atlantic coast on a path from the Gulf of Mexico. While it's difficult to predict the full extent of the storm, some state agencies were bracing for trouble as the Labor Day weekend approaches. The S.C. Department of Transportation began checking equipment and studying readiness plans in case the storm floods highways. Meanwhile, the S.C. Emergency Management Division sent out tweets Wednesday urging the public to carefully monitor forecasts and review personal safety plans. Highway officials urged motorists "to use caution at all times, particularly in stormy conditions," an agency advisory said. "If the storm leaves significant levels of standing water on roadways, drivers are warned not to attempt to drive through it. Standing water can be life-threatening." What has folks nervous is a weather system that has been sitting in the Gulf. On Wednesday morning, it was about 400 miles west of Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press: Collateral Damage: Bees die in South Carolina Zika spraying

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=RXr3bR8Z

SC State Wire

There's been some collateral damage in the fight against Zika - millions of honeybees in South Carolina. News outlets report that Dorchester County officials have apologized for killing the bees when the county failed to notify local beekeepers about mosquito spraying last weekend. Four travel-related cases of the Zika virus have been confirmed in the county northwest of Charleston. Aerial mosquito spraying operations were conducted Sunday morning. Flowertown Bee Farm and Supply in Summerville lost more than two million bees. Company co-owner Juanita Stanley says the farm "looks like it's been nuked." Andrew Macke, a hobby beekeeper, says he lost thousands of bees. The county usually notifies beekeepers before it sprays for mosquitoes. Officials say Sunday was the first time spraying had been done from the air.

Local News:

Associated Press: Tennessee man drowns while swimming on SC coast

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=USQt2dQj

SC State Wire

Authorities say a Tennessee man has drowned along the South Carolina coast amid warnings of rip currents because of a tropical depression offshore. Local news outlets report 64-year-old Dwight

Smith of Knoxville, Tennessee, died at a hospital after he was pulled from waters on the north end of the Isle of Palms late Monday afternoon. A fire crew and bystander brought Smith back to shore. Isle of Palms Fire Chief Ann Graham says there were strong currents but said Smith may have also had a medical issue. Forecasters have been warning of rip currents along the South Carolina coast this week. While the depression is moving away from the North Carolina coast, a second tropical system is forecast to approach from Florida by Friday.

Associated Press: Officials: Woman fleeing arrest ran over deputy with car
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=PgHdSAPH

SC State Wire

Authorities say a woman has been arrested after she ran over a deputy with her car while trying to escape arrest. Greenville County Sheriff's Office Lt. Ty Miller tells news outlets that the incident happened Tuesday. Miller says the deputy involved was taken to a hospital with injuries that are serious but not life-threatening. Officials say deputies responding to a domestic incident found that the woman had assaulted someone at a home. Miller says when deputies tried to arrest the woman, she ran to her vehicle and drove off, hitting and running over the deputy with the car. Deputies later found woman later that night and arrested her. Officials haven't released her name or said what charges she is facing.

The State: 66-year-old admitted to dragging German shepherd puppy to death, sheriff said
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article99040597.html>

Jane Moon Dial

After concerned residents reported seeing a puppy abused and killed, deputies charged and arrested an Orangeburg woman. Taylor Hendrix of Crimestoppers told the Associated Press that witnesses reported the suspect held a rope out of the window of her car that was attached to the dog's neck and pulled it alongside her until the animal couldn't keep up. Officials reported the German shepherd puppy died near St. Matthews. Calhoun County Sheriff Thomas Summers said the public's help in this case helped lead to the arrest. Acting on a tip, deputies located Rita Mintz, 66, of Pineview Drive in Orangeburg about her involvement in the case. She admitted she was the person responsible for the crime, Summers stated in a news release. "This was a very shocking incident to all of us, and I am very thankful for the outpouring of help we received from the community and from the Humane Society," Summers said. Mintz is charged with ill treatment to animals. She was released from the Orangeburg-Calhoun Regional Detention Center on a \$5,000 personal recognizance bond.

Sun News: Judge rules to dismiss local solicitor's office from Zach Malinowski murder case
<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article99018812.html>

Elizabeth Townsend

An Horry County Judge ruled the 15th Circuit Solicitor's Office will not try the Zach Malinowski murder case, which the court said is a way to avoid the appearance of impropriety. Attorneys for defendants Javon Gibbs, 21, and Christopher Anfony Brown, 22, who are charged with Malinowski's 2013 kidnapping and murder, argued former Horry County public defender Chris Helms, who now works for the 15th Circuit Solicitor's Office, participated on Brown's case at a preliminary hearing before changing roles. "We felt like the solicitor's office is doing a great job, and we hate to lose them. ... We'll still continue to keep searching for Zach and going right along like we have been," said Missy Jordan, Malinowski's mother after the hearing. Defense attorneys Ralph Wilson and Eric Fox argued that while they believed nothing improper had transpired, they wanted the office removed from the case to avoid the appearance of impropriety, and Circuit Court Judge Larry B. Hyman, Jr. agreed to dismiss the solicitor's office in an abundance of caution at a hearing Wednesday held in Conway at the Horry County Courthouse.

Greenville News: Greenville police responds to clown sighting
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/08/31/greenville-police-responds-clown-sighting/89650928/>

Romando Dixson

The Greenville Police Department is responding to a report of a clown sighting Wednesday afternoon. A child who walks home from school reported seeing a clown in the woods near Hughes Middle School in the Pleasant Valley community. The child's mother called police about 3:40 p.m. Wednesday. Another individual flagged down an officer responding to the area and also reported seeing a clown, Officer Gilberto Franco said. This is the third clown sighting reported to the Greenville Police Department this week, Franco said. The most recent report is less than a mile away from the other sightings at the Shemwood apartment complex.

Associated Press: Clemson defends prayer policy after man told to move

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=r4UW51wK

SC State Wire

Clemson University is defending its policy after a staff member asked a man praying on campus last week to remove a sign or leave. Local media reported a man had a "Prayer" sign Aug. 25 when he was asked to remove the sign or file a request to hold an event. Clemson student Kyra Palange told WYFF-TV she saw the man with an empty chair with a sign that read "prayer." Palange said the staff member's action and the school policy violate the 1st Amendment. Clemson issued a statement Tuesday to clarify the school's policy. "First and most importantly, Clemson does not prohibit prayer on our campuses," the statement read. But the statement said the school has rules for people not affiliated with the school that are necessary to maintain "an effective and safe learning environment for our students." Mark Land, vice president of University Relations, said anyone who is not a student must fill out a form from the campus activities and events office stating that they would like to speak, or assemble a group.

Associated Press: Asbestos found at North Myrtle Beach High School

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ze1fXW4O

SC State Wire

Construction crews will be working at night to remove asbestos from North Myrtle Beach High School. Local news outlets report that renovations are planned at the school and that asbestos installed in the 1970s was found. District Spokeswoman Teal Britton says the asbestos does not present a danger because it is the type of asbestos that does not break up, allowing particles to be inhaled. Officials say renovations at the high school should take about 18 months and are expected to cost about \$21 million.

Post and Courier: Uzbekistan Airways takes delivery of first Boeing Co. Dreamliner

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160831/160839886/uzbekistan-airways-takes-delivery-of-first-boeing-co-dreamliner>

David Wren

Uzbekistan Airways, the official carrier of the Republic of Uzbekistan, took delivery this week of its first 787 Dreamliner — a Dash-8 model made at Boeing Co.'s assembly plant in Everett, Wash. Boeing also assembles the wide-body Dreamliners at its campus in North Charleston. "The delivery of our first Dreamliner marks a new and exciting chapter in our longstanding relationship with Boeing that began back in 1996," said Valeriy Tyan, the airline's director general. Tyan said the airline hopes to start flights on the new plane as early as September. Uzbekistan Airways' fleet consists of 34 aircraft, including nine Boeing 767 and six Boeing 757 airplanes. From its hub at Tashkent International Airport, the airline flies to more than 40 cities around the world. This first 787 delivery flight to Tashkent will also bring humanitarian aid to patients in hospitals, mother-child clinics, rehabilitation centers and orphanages. As part of its charitable activity in Uzbekistan, Boeing and Uzbekistan Airlines have partnered with AmeriCares, which supports a broad range of health care institutions throughout the country. The flight is one of the many humanitarian shipments that Boeing and Uzbekistan Airways have undertaken.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: The Latest: Trump lands in Mexico ahead of meeting

<http://bigstory.ap.org/08c9df1bf9934be98eefa7c3f456a100>

An official at the Mexico City international airport says a private plane carrying Republican candidate Donald Trump has touched down at the airport. The official was not authorized to be quoted by name, nor did he provide the plane's registry number, or say how Trump would reach the official residence of President Enrique Peña Nieto, where the meeting with the Mexican leader is to take place. Peña Nieto's office has confirmed there will be a meeting and subsequent press statement at the residence, which is across town from the airport. Trump appeared likely to fly to the residence by helicopter, rather than cross town in any kind of motorcade.—By E. Eduardo Castillo in Mexico City

Associated Press: Trump appears in Mexico before laying out immigration ideas

<http://bigstory.ap.org/0cf42eedbd404cb3b0e8aaf6c74de132>

Steve Peoples and Christopher Sherman

Donald Trump has arrived in Mexico, a surprise visit Wednesday to meet with the president of a nation he derided at the start of his White House campaign as a source of rapists and criminals coming to the U.S. The trip, a politically risky move 10 weeks before Election Day, puts Trump in a country where he's widely despised alongside a foreign leader who has compared him to Adolf Hitler. It also comes hours before the Republican presidential nominee delivers a highly anticipated speech in Arizona about illegal immigration, a defining issue of Trump's presidential campaign, but also one on which he's appeared to waver in recent days. The visit follows an invitation from President Enrique Peña Nieto, but protests are expected. Both a former Mexican president and first lady bluntly told the billionaire New Yorker that, despite Peña Nieto's hospitality, he's not welcome. "We don't like him. We don't want him. We reject his visit," former Mexican President Vicente Fox told CNN, calling the trip a "political stunt." Added former first lady Margarita Zavala on Twitter: "We Mexicans have dignity, and we reject your hate speech."

Associated Press: Clinton pitches her foreign policy to American Legion

http://hosted2.ap.org/APDEFAULT/3d281c11a96b4ad082fe88aa0db04305/Article_2016-08-31-US--Campaign%202016-Clinton/id-b0fccc4d60ce41869b8fe5998acd1177

Catherine Lucey

Portraying a vote for her as a patriotic act, Hillary Clinton made a vigorous appeal to Republican voters Wednesday, arguing that she would best uphold American values, care for the military and protect national security interests. At the American Legion's annual convention in Cincinnati, the Democratic presidential nominee called the United States an "exceptional nation," and accused Republican rival Donald Trump of thinking that approach is "insulting to the rest of the world." "When we say America is exceptional, it doesn't mean that people from other places don't feel deep national pride just like we do," Clinton said. "It means that we recognize America's unique and unparalleled ability to be a force for peace and progress, a champion for freedom and opportunity." She said America must be a leader in the world, "because when America fails to lead, we leave a vacuum." The speech came as Trump made a last-minute trip to Mexico hours before he was to deliver a long-expected immigration speech. Clinton questioned the move, saying it "takes more than trying to make up for a year of insults and insinuations by dropping in on our neighbors for a few hours."

National News:

Associated Press: Historic commercial flight from US lands in Cuba

<http://bigstory.ap.org/27c0276eeb4d4294aef559960f653132>

Michael Weissenstein

The first commercial flight between the United States and Cuba in more than a half century landed in the central city of Santa Clara on Wednesday morning, re-establishing regular air service severed at the height of the Cold War. Cheers broke out in the cabin of JetBlue flight 387 as the plane touched down. Passengers — mostly airline executives, U.S. government officials and journalists, with a

sprinkling of Cuban-American families and U.S. travelers — were given gift bags with Cuban cookbooks, commemorative luggage tags and Cuban flags, which they were encouraged to wave. The arrival opens a new era of U.S.-Cuba travel with about 300 flights a week connecting the U.S. with an island cut off from most Americans by the 55-year-old trade embargo on Cuba and formal ban on U.S. citizens engaging in tourism on the island. "Seeing the American airlines landing routinely around the island will drive a sense of openness, integration and normality. That has a huge psychological impact," said Richard Feinberg, author of the new book "Open for Business: Building the New Cuban Economy."

World News:

Associated Press: Brazil's President Rousseff ousted from office by Senate

<http://bigstory.ap.org/2440ffe7838b49a4b2cf4bba30eb5c04>

Peter Prengaman and Mauricio Savarese

Brazil's Senate on Wednesday voted to remove President Dilma Rousseff from office, the culmination of a yearlong fight that paralyzed Latin America's largest nation and exposed deep rifts among its people on everything from race relations to social spending. While Rousseff's ouster was widely expected, the decision was a key chapter in a colossal political struggle that is far from over. Rousseff was Brazil's first female president, with a storied career that includes a stint as a Marxist guerrilla jailed and tortured in the 1970s during the country's dictatorship. She was accused of breaking fiscal laws in her management of the federal budget. "The Senate has found that the president of the federal republic of Brazil, Dilma Vana Rousseff, committed crimes in breaking fiscal laws," said Chief Justice Ricardo Lewandowski, who presided over the trial. Opposition lawmakers, who made clear early on the only solution was getting her out of office, argued that the maneuvers masked yawning deficits from high spending and ultimately exacerbated the recession in a nation that had long enjoyed darling status among emerging economies.

Associated Press: IS spokesman killed in Syria in major blow to militant group

<http://bigstory.ap.org/9392beab0e0f4723819a71f5583dc6bc>

Zeina Karam

The Islamic State group's spokesman and chief strategist, who laid out the blueprint for the extremist group's attacks against the West, has been killed while overseeing operations in northern Syria, the group has announced. The IS-run Amaq news agency said Abu Mohammed al-Adnani was "martyred while surveying the operations to repel the military campaigns in Aleppo." It did not provide any further details on when or how he died. A later statement issued by the Islamic State group in Aleppo province vowed to avenge his death. Both statements were released late Tuesday evening. Russia's Defense Ministry said on Wednesday that its airstrike killed al-Adnani. In a statement, the Defense Ministry said its intelligence had confirmed that a Russian airstrike on Aleppo province had killed 40 IS militants, including the group's spokesman. On Tuesday, Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook said that a U.S. airstrike targeted al-Adnani in the Syrian city of al-Bab, which is northeast of Aleppo. He said the U.S. was "still assessing the results of the strike

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