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Subject: Morning Clips – Thursday, June 16, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Haley, A Great Day, still have work to do in primary runoffs

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160615/160619581/haley-a-great-day-still-have-work-to-do-in-primary-runoffs>

Gavin Jackson

Gov. Nikki Haley's attempt to unseat some of her top Statehouse rivals in Tuesday's Republican primary will make for a bumpier final two years in office. Instead of knocking off long-serving heavyweights Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, and Senate Ethics Committee Chairman Luke Rankin, R-Conway, Haley only took out Senate Banking and Insurance Committee Chairman Wes Hayes, R-Rock Hill. Leatherman said the failed bid by Haley's political advocacy group, A Great Day SC, to oust him and others by raising and spending hundreds of thousands of dollars could have long-standing ramifications.

Note: There's no denying the political differences between the two, said Tim Pearson a senior Haley aide who oversees A Great Day. But even though both Rankin and Leatherman narrowly avoided runoffs, he's still pleased. "One of the governor's endorsed challengers won outright, another is now in a runoff, and as I said before, this would have been a far, far different legislative session if challengers hadn't had the courage to put themselves up for public service," Pearson said in an email.

Note: Leatherman and Rankin "will be back next year — and they earned it — but South Carolina is already a better place because they knew the voters were watching," Pearson added.

Associated Press: Legislators uphold less than \$200K of Haley's budget vetoes

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

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina lawmakers on Wednesday restored most of the money struck by Gov. Nikki Haley's budget vetoes, though they agreed with her on nixing a study about moving the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum to Charleston. The Republican governor vetoed \$41 million worth of spending last week from the \$7.5 billion state spending plan that takes effect July 1. The Legislature sustained a dozen of her line-item vetoes during Wednesday's special, one-day session. But most of those struck mandates, not money.

Associated Press: Legislature sending 2 ethics bills to Gov. Haley's desk

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ojw0E0Nb

Seanna Adcox

Legislators gave final approval late Wednesday to bills on officerholder income disclosure and legislative investigations, sending Gov. Nikki Haley the two ethics bills she wanted. The measures require all officeholders to report their private sources of income and mandate that complaints against South Carolina's legislators be independently investigated. The measures had appeared dead - yet again. But legislators didn't want to go home a fourth consecutive year without passing changes

they've repeatedly called a top priority. Legislators in both chambers said the bills are far from perfect, but they're progress.

Associated Press: The Latest: SC lawmakers pass independent ethics probes

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=NhkP4nBZ

SC State Wire

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 late Wednesday on the compromise, minutes after the House voted 99-0. The compromise has been four years in the making. Currently, House and Senate ethics committees oversee the campaign filings and handle complaints against their colleagues. Critics, including Haley, equate the arrangement to "the fox guarding the henhouse" since the State Ethics Commission oversees all other public officials.

Post and Courier: General Assembly passes ethics reform for lawmakers' income disclosure, independent investigations

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160615/PC1603/160619559>

Maya T. Prabhu

Ending a slow, four-year march toward ethics reform, the General Assembly late Wednesday adopted two bills requiring lawmakers to disclose sources of independent income and also creating an independent investigation commission to oversee lawmaker conduct. They now go to Gov. Nikki Haley for her signature. Lawmakers in a compromise committee reached an agreement that will require elected officials who file a statement of economic interest — from the governor down to locally appointed boards — to include sources of private taxable income. Members of the House and Senate voted unanimously for approval.

The State: SC lawmakers approve two ethics reforms

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article84072187.html>

Cassie Cope

S.C. lawmakers could no longer investigate themselves, and public officials soon could have to reveal their sources of private income. After four years of ethics-reform efforts, lawmakers approved both proposals late Wednesday as the legislative session ended, sending the bills to Gov. Nikki Haley for her signature. "I'm relieved to have these two important bills across the finish line and on the governor's desk," said state Sen. Larry Martin, R-Pickens, who pushed for the proposals. Lawmakers have been criticized for investigating ethics complaints against other House and Senate members. Critics say it is impossible for lawmakers to be objective about their colleagues.

Post and Courier: Legislature tackles gubernatorial vetoes, sustains Confederate museum veto

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160615/160619566/legislature-tackles-gubernatorial-vetoes-sustains-confederate-museum-veto?source=RSS>

Cynthia Roldan

The South Carolina Legislature sided with Gov. Nikki Haley's veto and killed a study into moving the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum to the Lowcountry. Rep. Chip Limehouse, R-Charleston, was a proponent of allowing Haley's veto to stand, even as it was his idea to move the museum. The measure covered whether officials should investigate moving the Relic Room and Military Museum to the Charleston region. Among the artifacts at the current Columbia site is the Confederate battle flag that was removed from the Statehouse grounds in July. Limehouse said the executive director of the Department of Administration - Marcia Adams, told him a study would be

conducted anyway, regardless of the veto.

The State: S.C. House kills study of moving Confederate flag, military museum

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article84029847.html>

Cassie Cope

S.C. House members voted to sustain Gov. Nikki Haley's veto of a study into moving the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum to Charleston from Columbia, killing that proposal. The Columbia Mills Building that houses the Relic Room is being examined as part of a state buildings study conducted by the state Department of Administration, Haley said in her veto message. She said that study will consider whether it makes sense to move the Relic Room. "This veiled attempt to justify the co-location of the (Confederate submarine) H.L. Hunley and Confederate Relic Room is nothing more than a legislative pet project and should not become law," Haley said in her veto message.

Note: State Rep. Chip Limehouse, R-Charleston, responded the study was "an unveiled attempt to save money." In its current location, the Relic Room "loses money, hand over fist," he added. Still, Limehouse encouraged House members to sustain Haley's veto, citing the Department of Administration building study.

Associated Press: SC legislators uphold Gov. Haley's moped safety veto

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Y4XWe3lc

SC State Wire

A moped safety bill is dead after the Senate failed to override Gov. Nikki Haley's veto. The House voted 69-33 to override the measure Wednesday, hours after a previous vote failed. But the special session ended with Democratic Sen. Gerald Malloy blocking a vote in that chamber, which passed the bill 41-1 two weeks ago. Haley's veto said requiring reflective vests for nighttime driving and helmets for drivers under 21 represents government overreach. The bill's supporters contend moped drivers are dying because people can't see them, especially at night, and the requirements save lives.

Post and Courier: Moped bill dies after Senate fails to take it up

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160615/160619599/moped-bill-dies-after-senate-fails-to-take-it-up>

Cynthia Roldan

An effort to have the legislature override a veto by Gov. Nikki Haley on a comprehensive moped safety bill came to an unceremonious end Wednesday, when the Senate adjourned without taking it up for a vote. The Senate's actions rendered the House's earlier efforts to override the veto moot. The House had managed to overturn Haley's decision by a narrow margin of the two-thirds majority needed to override vetoes, with a 69-33 vote. That vote came after an earlier attempt to overturn Haley's veto failed in a 65-47 vote. But the Senate failed to gain traction on voting for the bill, because Sen. Gerald Malloy, D-Hartsville, kept blocking it. When the chamber was short enough members to not have a quorum, Republicans moved to adjourn, ending the chances of an override.

The State: Moped bill dies in SC Senate

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article83943092.html>

Avery G. Wilks

A moped-safety bill died Wednesday when the S.C. Senate adjourned without deciding whether to override Gov. Nikki Haley's veto of the wide-sweeping legislation. "What killed us this year was the calendar," said state Sen Greg Hembree, R-Horry, one of the bill's most vocal supporters. "The clock

killed us ultimately. If we had another three days, we could win this thing.” The Republican governor objected to the bill last week, saying it went too far in requiring moped riders to wear reflective vests at night and mandating riders younger than 21 wear helmets. The bill also would have raised the minimum age to drive a moped to 15 from 14 and required drivers to register with the Department of Motor Vehicles. Most importantly, some supporters said, it would have given mopeds a single definition under state law, allowing officers to charge intoxicated moped drivers with DUI.

WSPA: SC Moped Bill Dead for the Year

<http://wspa.com/2016/06/15/sc-moped-bill-dead-for-the-year/>

Robert Kittle

A bill to put new requirements on moped riders in South Carolina died for the year Wednesday when the SC House failed to override the governor’s veto of the bill. The bill would have required moped riders to buy license tags, register their mopeds, have either a driver’s license or a moped license, and wear reflective vests. Riders under 21 would have had to wear helmets. All moped riders would also have to follow traffic laws, which is not the case now. Rep. Derham Cole, Jr., R-Spartanburg, told House members Wednesday that was the most important part of the bill, in his opinion.

“Currently, under the law, because of the way mopeds are defined, you cannot be charged or convicted of a DUI offense if you are riding a moped under the influence of alcohol or other substances on the roadways. This is an extremely dangerous situation that has gone on for many years,” he said.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley vetoed the bill because she says it was government overreach. In her veto letter to lawmakers, she wrote, “I believe adults over the age of 18 – who are allowed to vote and serve in our military—should decide for themselves what they should wear for their personal safety.” She also said moped riders under 21 shouldn’t be required to wear helmets since motorcycle riders under the age of 21 don’t have to.

The State: S.C. Senate revives coyote-bounty program

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article84028517.html>

Cassie Cope

The S.C. Senate revived a coyote-bounty program overriding Gov. Nikki Haley’s veto on Wednesday. The Senate reconsidered the proposal after earlier sustaining Haley’s veto. The S.C. House also voted to override Haley’s veto. The program requires the state Department of Natural resources to tag 16 coyotes across the state. If a hunters bag a tagged coyote, they would receive a reward – a free lifetime hunting license. Previously, lawmakers had proposed a \$1,000 reward for killing tagged coyotes.

Berkeley Observer: Goose Creek City Administrator Dennis Harmon Receives Order Of T

<http://www.berkeleyobserver.com/2016/06/15/goose-creek-city-administrator-dennis-harmon-receives-order-silver-crescent/>

Goose Creek City Administrator Dennis Harmon has been awarded The Order of the Silver Crescent by South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley. Harmon, who is retiring on Aug. 1 after 38 years as Goose Creek City Administrator, was presented the award by Rep. Joe Daning and Rep. Bill Crosby at the June 14 Goose Creek City Council meeting. The Order of the Silver Crescent is the state’s highest civilian award for significant contributions, leadership, volunteerism, and lifelong influence within a region or community. Daning, who was recognized to speak by Goose Creek Mayor Michael Heitzler at the beginning of Tuesday’s meeting, praised Harmon for his decades of strong leadership. Daning then read a letter from Gov. Haley.

General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Rep. Chip Limehouse roasts his colleagues during his farewell speech

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160615/160619579/rep-chip-limehouse-roasts-his-colleagues-during-his-farewell-speech->

Cynthia Roldan

Rep. Chip Limehouse spent his last day at the South Carolina Statehouse doing what he had done every day under the dome during the past 22 years: laughing. During his goodbye speech Wednesday, he deferred highlighting his accomplishments and instead chose to roast his long-term colleagues. From former U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond to House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Harstville, no one was safe from Limehouse's jokes. When asked by retiring Rep. Grady Brown, D-Bishopville, not to tease him over his hair, Limehouse instead made fun of Brown's eyebrows. "He's got the best two caterpillars I've ever seen in my life," Limehouse joked. Limehouse, 53, R-Charleston, was recruited into public service by former House Speaker David Wilkins, taking the House District 110 seat from a Democratic incumbent in 1994. This year he chose to not seek re-election after two decades of serving in the House of Representatives.

Associated Press: Former House member Southard fined \$2,000 for harassment

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ngs65fcG

Seanna Adcox

Former South Carolina Rep. Edward Southard must pay \$2,000 for harassing several women at the Statehouse, according to an agreement signed Wednesday. The House Ethics Committee unanimously found the 69-year-old married Republican from Moncks Corner violated the chamber's no harassment policy. It publicly reprimanded Southard and required he pay the fine within 30 days. Ethics Chairman Kenny Bingham, R-Cayce, said the committee imposed the harshest fine it could for the April complaint.

Wilson-Pasco Dispute:

Associated Press: SC justices hearing prosecutor dispute over corruption case

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

Meg Kinnard

South Carolina's highest court is hearing arguments over whether a prosecutor other than the attorney general can open a state grand jury investigation. The state Supreme Court's hearing Wednesday is over the dispute between Attorney General Alan Wilson and prosecutor David Pascoe. Pascoe says he had the authority to open a state grand jury probe into legislative corruption because Wilson had previously turned the case over to him due to a possible conflict. He's suing Wilson, saying the attorney general turned his investigation into a political game. Wilson says state law allows only him to start a grand jury investigation and that Pascoe overstepped his authority and tainted the case by leaking information to reporters.

Post and Courier : Palmetto Sunrise: Supreme Court hears Wilson-Pascoe showdown

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160616/PC1603/160619558>

Maya T. Prabhu

Attorney General Alan Wilson and 1st Circuit Solicitor David Pascoe will have their day in the South Carolina Supreme Court on Thursday, when they will attempt to settle a months-old debate around the state's investigation into possible Statehouse corruption. The battle began in late March after Wilson fired Pascoe as he was preparing to take the allegations to a grand jury. The disagreement

has led to several court filings of accusations and an impassioned press conference by the attorney general. The high court will decide if Pascoe had the authority as the special prosecutor appointed to the case to convene a grand jury. Justices also will decide if Wilson is able to remove Pascoe from the position. The hearing begins 9:30 a.m. at the Supreme Court.

The State: Duel between AG Alan Wilson, Solicitor David Pascoe is Thursday

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article84021372.html>

John Monk

Thursday's historic legal duel before the S.C. Supreme Court between special prosecutor David Pascoe and Attorney General Alan Wilson over who has control of the public corruption investigation at the S.C. State House is sure to be closely watched. Here are seven key points to keep in mind...

Savannah River Site/MOX News:

Aiken Standard: Commission completes assessment of nuclear shipment at Savannah River Site

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160615/AIK0101/160619596>

Thomas Gardiner

Results for an environmental assessment filed by the Nuclear Waste Partnership with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 2014 have been issued, regarding an exemption request for a shipment headed for New Mexico. The materials at Savannah River Site, or SRS, are headed for interment at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, or WIPP, in New Mexico. An environmental assessment is an official request to research potential health, environmental and exposure risks when special circumstances arise when handling nuclear materials. In this case, the request considered possible exemption for a shipment of nuclear equipment that slightly exceeded current regulations for shipping material.

Orlando Shooting News:

Associated Press: Orlando gunman raged against 'filthy ways of the west'

<http://bigstory.ap.org/67d463d906064230911249210a2df957>

Eric Tucker and Mike Schneider

While his victims texted heartbreaking last words to loved ones from the blood-drenched floors of packed bathrooms, Omar Mateen apparently turned to social media to measure the viral shockwaves his attack on a gay nightclub had generated. As this grief-stricken city prepares to bury the first of the 49 who perished at the Pulse dance club, a Senate Committee has asked Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg for help uncovering the trail of hate Mateen left behind in cyberspace. "The real muslims will never accept the filthy ways of the west," the 29-year-old American-born Muslim wrote on one of at least five Facebook accounts believed to be associated with him, according to the letter from Sen. Ron Johnson, chairman of the Senate Homeland Security Committee.

Associated Press: Obama to seek healing in Orlando even as politicians spar

<http://bigstory.ap.org/9c066538dfa64f7c807660b897f0b3ec>

Josh Lederman

On a grim and delicate mission, President Barack Obama will offer solace and healing to a distraught Orlando, even as the political world turns the shooting into a fresh excuse to fight about terrorism and gun control. In Orlando, Obama will confront an event whose causes seem to grow murkier by the day. Even as the families of 49 victims prepare to bury their loved ones, it's still unclear what confluence of factors led a 29-year-old Muslim born in New York to open fire in a gay nightclub where he may have been a frequent patron. Typically, when the president visits a mourning community, the

right message to deliver is relatively straightforward. After past incidents Obama has urged the nation to reject the attacker's ideology and do what it can to prevent such tragedies from happening again. This time, neither of those is clear.

Associated Press: Muslim view of LGBT people in spotlight after Orlando attack

<http://bigstory.ap.org/5097c94cd5604dc5bb247302c5bbb31b>

Rachel Zoll and Deepti Hajela

After the massacre in Orlando, the head of a prominent Muslim advocacy group stood before a bank of microphones and made remarks beyond the expected condemnations. Along with denouncing the attack by gunman Omar Mateen as a violation of Islam, and offering prayers for the victims at the gay nightclub Pulse, Nihad Awad of the Council on American-Islamic Relations expressed unequivocal support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights. "For many years, members of the (LGBT) community have stood shoulder to shoulder with the Muslim community against any acts of hate crimes, Islamophobia, marginalization and discrimination. Today, we stand with them, shoulder to shoulder," Awad said at a Washington news conference. "We cannot fight injustice against some group and not against others."

Post and Courier: Lone wolf terrorism remains almost impossible for police to stop

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160615/PC16/160619560>

Doug Pardue

Lone wolves are among the hardest terrorists to identify because they act alone, even if incited by someone else or some other group, authorities say. Even when lone wolves are brought to the attention of authorities, they are hard to stop because they generally don't let anyone know what they plan. That seems to be the case with the gunman in Sunday's Orlando, Fla., gay nightclub shooting. Federal authorities had questioned him earlier about suspicious comments but he had done nothing authorities were aware of to give away his deadly plot. That gunman, Omar Mateen, reportedly pledged allegiance to ISIS in a 911 call during the rampage, but federal officials have said they don't believe he was directly connected to the Islamic State or any other extremist group.

Post and Courier: In wake of Orlando shooting, Charleston's LGBT community and police discuss safety

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160615/PC16/160619565>

Diane Knich

Cody Michael Henderson was never ashamed of being gay, but after he learned about Sunday's mass shooting in a gay nightclub in Orlando, Fla., he felt afraid to be gay. Henderson was one of several dozen people who attended a listening session for the Charleston Illumination Project, which was held at the Charleston Marriott and sponsored by the Alliance for Full Acceptance. The project is an effort to bolster police ties and trust with the community. Warren Redman-Gress, the alliance's executive director, said he asked Charleston Police Chief Greg Mullen to conduct a listening session for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community before the shooting in a gay nightclub in Orlando that left 49 people dead and more than 50 others injured. But the tragedy sparked more people to come out to the session seeking reassurance from police that they will be protected.

Independent Mail: VIDEO: Clemson vigil remembers Orlando victims

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/clemson-vigil-remembers-orlando-victims-35586934-8bc4-5645-e053-0100007fbf7a-383206521.html>

Abe Hardesty

Seneca couple Christopher and Ellen Girardeau lingered longer than most at Wednesday's vigil in

memory of the 49 Americans killed in Sunday's jihadist attack in Orlando, as if hoping to find some answers before they left the Clemson University campus. "I worry that I'm becoming more accustomed to what happened in Orlando. That bothers me," said Ellen, who is a Florida native. Christopher, who attended the vigil a year ago in memory of the nine African-Americans that were killed in Charleston, viewed Wednesday's ceremony in a more hopeful light. "I wouldn't say we're becoming accustomed. I think we're starting to become more aware of that trend," he said.

Morning News: Central UMC to host remembrance, prayer service in light of Orlando shooting

http://www.scnw.com/news/local/article_39a0a054-3357-11e6-8e96-dbad6542684d.html

Shamira McCray

Central United Methodist Church will offer the community an opportunity to seek comfort and solace following Sunday's mass shooting in Orlando, Fla. through A Service of Remembrance and Prayer. The special service will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday in the church's sanctuary. Central UMC's senior pastor, the Rev. Will Malambri III, said that whenever events such as the Orlando shooting happen, people think about what they can do to help. "As our nation continues to grieve the deadliest active shooter event in our history, we have to draw on the resources that we have," Malambri said. "We are not in a position to provide medical or emotional care in Orlando. Most of us are not prepared to fashion policy. Our primary resource for an event like this is to offer prayer and consolation where we are."

Herald-Journal: Spartanburg vigil mourns Orlando shooting victims

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160615/articles/160619778>

Allison M. Roberts

Community members came together for a candlelight vigil at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spartanburg Wednesday night to grieve for the victims of a mass shooting at a gay nightclub in Orlando. Nearly 50 people took part in the service, which remembered the 49 people killed in the Sunday attack. Participants of different faiths sang songs of peace and love and encouraged everyone in attendance to sing along. The group then lit candles, and the names of the victims were read aloud. Sally Beth Shore, the church's minister, said she was glad to see people who cared enough about the shooting and the victims to participate in the vigil. But Shore said she couldn't ignore the tragedy that had brought everyone together.

Emanuel AME Shooting Anniversary:

The State: In SC, armed guards, armed parishioners part of response to mass shootings

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article84047797.html>

Clif Leblanc

Houses of worship, feeling unsafe in the midst of mass shootings, have trained their parishioners to be more alert to newcomers amongst them and to weigh the consequences of arming themselves, law enforcement authorities are saying. Much of the attention to safety in churches, mosques and temples across South Carolina heightened after last year's massacre at Mother Emanuel, a historically black church in Charleston, according to the FBI, Columbia-area police agencies and churches. The fear of the stranger in our midst is new to many houses of worship. But tighter church security, it seems, is one of the legacies of the Emanuel AME shootings. Some places of worship have hired armed police to stand watch in their sanctuaries. Others have installed buzz-in systems for their doorways, added lighting or increased safety drills. Many have asked for concealed weapons training and safety training for their flocks.

Associated Press: Bible study urges focus on God as shooting anniversary nears

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=aZ3C7uoy

SC State Wire

The husband of a victim of the Charleston church shootings is urging people to focus on God as the anniversary of the tragedy approaches. About 150 people attended a Bible study at Emanuel AME Church Wednesday, gathering upstairs from the room where nine people were killed during a similar Bible study a year ago. The Rev. Anthony Thompson taught from the book of Mark - the same verses his wife, Myra, was teaching from when the shootings occurred last June 17. He told the group to focus on God because he is the only one who is really in control.

The State: Emanuel victim's husband leads Bible study on anniversary of shooting

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article84068107.html>

Sarah Ellis

'Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers! ... The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble.'" A reading of Psalm 37 set the tone for an evening of remembrance, praise and holy celebration Wednesday at Emanuel AME Church. A year ago, the historic Charleston church opened its doors to congregation members and the public - friends, family and strangers - as it did and continues to do every Wednesday for an evening of worship, prayer and studying God's word. A dozen people had gathered for a study of the Gospel of Mark, chapter 4, Jesus' parable of the seed sower.

Post and Courier: Emanuel victim's husband at Bible study one year later: 'Now is the time to focus on God'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160615/PC16/160619569>

Melissa Boughton

On June 17, Myra Thompson read from the Gospel of Mark, chapter 4, as she led the Bible study at Emanuel AME Church that ended in gunfire, killing her and eight others. One year later, her husband read from the same chapter as he taught at the anniversary Bible study. More than 175 people sat in the church's sanctuary as the Rev. Anthony Thompson discussed the Parable of the Sower and how people either accept or reject the word of God. The Bible study wasn't held in the church's basement, as usual, and it was broken into two parts with the finale expected June 22. "Now is the time to focus on God," Thompson said.

Dylann Roof Case:

Post and Courier: If OK'd by federal judge in Dylann Roof case, attorney's move could change Michael Slager trial date

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160615/PC16/160619585>

Andrew Knapp

The attorney for several of Dylann Roof's victims and for former North Charleston officer Michael Slager has asked a federal judge to excuse him from court appearances during a time when Slager's trial in state court is scheduled. Charleston lawyer Andy Savage is scheduled to defend Slager against a murder charge in Walter Scott's shooting death during a trial set to start Oct. 31. But Roof's death penalty trial will begin a week later, on Nov. 7, in federal court.

SC Political News:

Post and Courier: Mark Sanford turned down offer to run for Libertarian Party VP

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160616/PC1603/160619570>

Emma Dumain

U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford is running for reelection to Congress, but he conceded this week he turned down a chance to run for vice president of the United States. In an interview with The Post and Courier, the South Carolina Republican revealed he was recently offered the No. 2 spot on Libertarian presidential nominee Gary Johnson's ticket. Sanford said he has known Johnson for some time. The two first became acquainted in 2003, as Johnson was completing his tenure as governor of New Mexico and Sanford was just moving into the governor's mansion in Columbia. "I admired his work and the way he approached things as governor," Sanford said, saying there were similarities in their ideas on spending, approaches to the legislative process and taxpayer issues. Sanford turned the offer down. Asked if he took it seriously, he said, "not really."

Post and Courier: Confederate flag removal may have been a substitute for real gun law reform

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160615/160619580/confederate-flag-removal-may-have-been-a-substitute-for-real-gun-law-reform>

Schuyler Kropf

Faced with the worst mass shooting in South Carolina's recent history, Gov. Nikki Haley and the state Legislature did nothing this past session to make it harder to keep guns out of the hands of people who shouldn't have them. And the removal of the Confederate flag in Columbia may be one reason why. South Carolina's most senior member of Congress says the state's political powers ignored the need to seriously address the state's gun-law weakness. Instead, lawmakers chose to channel their outrage and grief over the mass shooting at Emanuel AME Church by taking down the rebel banner from the Statehouse grounds, according to U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C. After the removal last July, Clyburn suggested that state legislators didn't feel a need to do anything else in response to the tragedy. "This Congress and the state Legislature down there, they moved almost immediately after Walter Scott," Clyburn said from Washington. "They started what they could do to get body cameras because it was a national disgrace."

Aiken Standard: Aiken residents, politicians weigh in on gun control following Orlando shooting

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160615/AIK0102/160619610>

Tripp Girardeau

When an event like the shooting massacre in Orlando, Florida, on June 12 occurs, it sparks a debate in Aiken County over gun control laws. President Barack Obama on Tuesday called on Congress to reinstate the assault weapons ban as well as pass legislation to make it harder for suspected terrorists to obtain firearms. The president spoke on this after Omar Mateen, 29, of Fort Pierce, Florida, carried an assault rifle and a pistol into a packed gay nightclub about 2 a.m. and started shooting Sunday. However, U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., rejects Obama's call for additional gun control measures. "This is not a gun control issue, it's a terrorism issue," Graham said Tuesday. "If gun control were the answer, there would be no Paris and Brussels attacks. Instead of calling for more gun control, we need a more robust intelligence gathering system and a rejection of the 'leading from behind' model of President Obama, which allowed ISIS to come into being and continue to exist."

SC Elections:

Post and Courier: Sanford-Horne close primary race defies expectations while raising questions

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160615/160619588/sanford-horne-close-primary-race-defies-expectations-while-raising-questions->

Emma Dumain

On Tuesday night, U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford beat state Rep. Jenny Horne in the 1st Congressional District Republican primary. The outcome was expected. The slim margin of victory was not. While Sanford triumphed over Horne 55 percent to 45 percent, political observers expected Sanford, who had national name recognition and nearly a \$1 million in campaign cash available, to beat Horne in a landslide. In the aftermath, political watchers said everything from the male-versus-female nature of the race, Sanford's past indiscretion and the anti-incumbent mood of the country probably played a role in the relatively close outcome.

The Herald: A closer look at how Climer unseated SC Sen. Hayes

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/politics-government/election/local-election/article84018262.html>

Bristow Marchant

Before Tuesday, voters in S.C. Senate District 17 had opted seven times to send Wes Hayes to represent them in Columbia – for the past 25 years, after he was first elected to the Senate in a 1991 special election. At times during that stretch, Hayes was re-elected by wide margins or ran unopposed. As recently as 2012, Hayes returned to Columbia with 74 percent of the vote. But Hayes' string of election victories came to an end Tuesday, when he narrowly lost the Republican primary to political newcomer Wes Climer, a 33-year-old former county GOP chairman who has been alive for nearly as long as Hayes, previously a member of the state House, has been a legislator. Why the change? In politics, one night's election results can seem sudden, but they can reflect shifts that have been percolating for years.

The State: Lively, Hubbard start runoff bid to succeed Myers as solicitor

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article84001227.html>

Tim Flach

Rick Hubbard and Candice Lively immediately started gearing up Wednesday for their June 28 showdown in the solicitor's contest in Lexington County and nearby areas. Lively's political team insisted the runoff isn't an impossible challenge even though she finished well behind frontrunner Hubbard in the Republican primary election Tuesday that narrowed the field to two finalists. "It's not that big a mountain to climb," Lively campaign manager Steve Foshee said. Lively, who lives in the Chapin area, is counting on her outsider message to deliver a win at the polls that both sides agree probably will see no more than half of the 28,026 primary votes.

Aiken Standard: The cost to run: Aiken County candidates report nearly \$500K in campaign contributions

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160615/AIK0101/160619609>

Michael Smith

Aiken County candidates for public office raised nearly \$500,000 for the June primaries, according to June quarterly reports filed with the South Carolina Ethics Commission. More than two-thirds of the money raised came from two South Carolina Senate races. South Carolina voters headed to voting precincts Tuesday to cast their ballot in the Republican and Democratic primaries. Sen. Shane Massey, R-Edgefield, led Aiken County candidates with \$164,583.17, according to filings with the Ethics Commission.

Herald-Journal: Spartanburg primary results could shift Upstate's power in Statehouse

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160615/articles/160619784>

Chris Lavender

Spartanburg County's primary election results are expected to affect the Upstate's power in Columbia after several members of the local delegation failed to win reelection. The fate of another incumbent

— state Sen. Lee Bright of Roebuck — won't be decided until his runoff with Republican challenger Scott Talley on June 28. Bright, who faced three challengers in Tuesday's primary, failed to capture a majority of the vote in the District 12 race. The Good Government Committee associated with the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce endorsed Talley on Wednesday.

Opinion/Editorial:

Times and Democrat: S.C., Orlando, anywhere: Hate is no answer

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/editorial/s-c-orlando-anywhere-hate-is-no-answer/article_9888d1b7-4cc7-51a1-9463-b2e816ba4b58.html

Editorial

The Orlando mass killings have produced a convergence of key issues for the left and right. For the right, the killings are proof that Islamic extremism is being downplayed, including by none other than President Barack Obama. GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump is again calling for limits on immigration of Muslims. For the left, the killings are proof the right is fomenting hatred in America, particularly for minorities from Muslims to the LGBT community. Both say the shooting deaths of 50 people on Sunday reinforce their positions on guns. The left says there must be more regulation so people such as the Orlando shooter cannot get an assault-type weapon. The right argues terrorists and criminals such as the shooter will get weapons no matter what. And a legally armed populace has a chance to prevent the likes of the Orlando carnage. The problem is both sides are right and both are wrong...

Post and Courier: Too many guns, too many compliant lawmakers

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160616/PC1002/160619556>

Editorial

This year, South Carolina lawmakers approved a bill to grant Georgia residents with concealed carry permits the right to bring their weapons into South Carolina. It was among the last bills that passed the Legislature and, as such, the last word by elected state officials who just can't say no to guns. Every year, South Carolina legislators find new ways to promote firearms and their broader prospective use. And this year was no exception, even in the wake of the terrible slaughter of nine church members at a Bible study class at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. Meanwhile, Charleston Sen. Marlon Kimpson was unable to budge his colleagues on a bill to close the loophole that allowed Dylann Roof to buy a handgun despite a drug charge that should have stopped the sale at the point of purchase.

The State: Pastides: USC's race initiatives will lead to healing conversations

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/op-ed/article84012822.html>

Opinion Extra

It was just a year ago that the horrific and senseless act at the Mother Emanuel A.M.E. Church sent shock waves throughout the state and nation. Racial hatred in the form of a young white assailant cost nine black South Carolinians their lives. Yet, in return, the victims' families taught the world a humbling lesson about the power and grace of forgiveness. This week, USC's Institute for Public Service and Policy Research released a study assessing race relations a year later. The study found that a much higher percentage of blacks than whites rate race relations in the state as poor — 32 percent to 10 percent; whites were much more likely to rate them as good — 49 percent to 24 percent. Black respondents were also more likely than whites to believe that race relations within the state were getting worse while more whites thought they were getting somewhat better or had stayed about the same. Clearly, this is an affirmation that ongoing interracial conversations are not only

desirable but also sorely needed. The University of South Carolina, the state's flagship institution, is uniquely positioned to play a pivotal role in moving state race relations forward.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Univ. of SC holds investigative journalism student classes

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=m7l6G5Ec

SC State Wire

The head of the Tampa Bay Times' Pulitzer-prize winning investigative team is holding a journalism workshop for high school journalists at the University of South Carolina. The workshop runs through Saturday at the School of Journalism and Mass Communications on the Columbia campus. University alumnus Chris Davis is the deputy managing editor for investigations and data at the Times and is a workshop instructor. The event is supported by the Baldwin Pre-collegiate Fellowship in Business and Investigative Journalism.

Local News:

Associated Press: Juveniles escape from North Charleston jail for 6 hours

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=eOFt4Bpy

SC State Wire

Two 16-year-old boys being held in jail on armed robbery charges have briefly escaped from custody. Charleston County deputies said in a statement that the teens were free for about six hours Wednesday after breaking a window, peeling back a protective screen and using a bed sheet to climb down. Authorities say the two teens shared a cell at the juvenile annex at the Charleston County jail. Deputies say officers took the teens back into custody after they were spotted walking on a street about 14 miles away from the jail. The sheriff's office says a supervisor and a guard have been placed on leave with pay while the escape is investigated further.

Aiken Standard: Aiken County ranks high nationally on list of heavily armed places

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160615/AIK0101/160619608>

Dede Biles

Aiken County is one of the most heavily armed places in the United States based on a list that appears on a social networking and information website. City-Data.com ranks Aiken County No. 11 among the "top 101 counties with the highest percentage of residents who keep firearms around their homes." The percentage locally is 50 percent. Hunting and other sports that involve shooting are popular activities in Aiken County and the surrounding area, but Aiken County's large retirement community also probably is a big factor, in Medlin's opinion. "A lot of older people move here from areas where they weren't allowed to have firearms, especially handguns," Medlin said. "Super heavily populated cities like New York, Los Angeles and Chicago have some of the most restrictive gun laws in the country. Suddenly, they (senior citizens) are free to possess a firearm, and they know they are not a physical match for the bad guys out there that may want to do them harm," he said. "A handgun levels the playing field. More than 50 percent of my customers in my CWP (concealed weapons permit) classes are 60 years of age or older."

Sun News: Myrtle Beach plans resolution to help prevent mass shootings

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article84009362.html>

Chloe Johnson

Myrtle Beach City Council will consider a resolution to reach out to state and national officials for

advice on stopping mass shootings. "All that it means from my perspective is we would use the bully pulpit of the Myrtle Beach City Council to call on our congressional delegation in Washington to start talking about this in a serious way," council member Mary Jeffcoat said in a phone interview. She added that the resolution will likely not come up at the next city council meeting on June 28, and that she and other council members are still deciding on the document's exact wording. Jeffcoat said the move is aimed at protecting the lives of law enforcement and first responders. The move is a change from her position during the council's meeting this Tuesday, when Jeffcoat suggested a resolution that would have urged a full federal ban on the sale of assault-style weapons. She said the idea was part of an "emotional outburst" after the recent shooting in Orlando, where a gunman killed 49 people in an LGBT nightclub and injured dozens more with two guns, including a semi-automatic AR-15.

Sun News: CCU suspends men's golf coach McPherson following arrest on domestic violence charges

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article84029952.html>

Alan Blondin

Coastal Carolina University men's golf coach Kevin McPherson has been indefinitely suspended from his position following an arrest early Wednesday morning on charges of misdemeanor second degree domestic violence. McPherson was arrested after Horry County Police responded to a complaint by his wife of two years shortly after midnight Tuesday. He was held at J. Reuben Long Detention Center until being released late Wednesday afternoon following a bond hearing and posting the required 10 percent of his \$2,500 bond.

Island Packet: USMC: St. Clair to direct Parris Island recruit training

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/bg-military/article83997762.html>

Wade Livingston

Col. Matthew St. Clair took command of Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island's Recruit Training Regiment on Wednesday. The regiment's previous commander, Col. Paul D. Cucinotta, was relieved of command earlier this month after the death of recruit Raheel Siddiqui in March. St. Clair, a Baltimore native and 1989 Virginia Military Institute graduate, comes to the depot from the U.S. Fleet Forces Command in Norfolk, Va., where he served as the fleet Marine officer to the commander. He's served on Parris Island before, from July 1999 to June 2002, as a battalion executive officer for 2nd Recruit Training Battalion and director of the Drill Instructor School.

Sun News: Myrtle Beach businesses say they'll survive Bikefest boycott

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/bike-rallies/article84040477.html>

Emily Weaver

People in the business community had mixed reactions Wednesday to the news of a campaign among Atlantic Beach Bikefest attendees to boycott the city next year. Some Bikefest participants, who stayed in Myrtle Beach over the Memorial Day weekend, were infuriated over enforcement efforts that included a traffic loop, extra police presence and barricaded roads city leaders say were needed to keep everyone safe. Some vowed never to return, opting instead on a plan to spend money in beach towns north of Myrtle Beach in order to hit the city they said mistreated them where it would hurt most – "in their pockets." "The move for 2017 is to boycott the city of Myrtle Beach. Move everyone to Atlantic Beach, North Myrtle Beach, Cherry Grove, and the surrounding areas, and to not spend a single dime in the Myrtle Beach city limits," said Clarence Middleton, moderator of www.blackbikeweek.us and its corresponding Facebook page, on a GoFundMe site he set up for the boycott campaign. "Let's bankrupt Myrtle Beach!"

Post and Courier: Port of Charleston expects 6% cargo growth in fiscal 2017 despite trade market trends

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160615/PC05/160619586>

David Wren

Ongoing investments in infrastructure and the global trend of using bigger containerships to move freight will help the State Ports Authority set a record for cargo shipments during the coming fiscal year, the maritime agency's top executive said Wednesday. "We plan to grow in spite of a very tepid trade market," said Jim Newsome, the SPA's president and CEO. A budget approved by the SPA's board of directors calls for 6 percent growth in the number of cargo containers moving through the Port of Charleston during the 2017 fiscal year, which starts July 1. That would equal 1.175 million cargo containers, topping the record of 1.134 million set in 2005.

National News:

Associated Press: Sheriff: Charges unlikely after 2-year-old killed by gator

<http://bigstory.ap.org/4737785fc4af4e10a416eb6b7f080ec5>

Jay Reeves, Jason Dearen and Terrance Harris

A sheriff said charges are unlikely against a Nebraska couple after an alligator killed their 2-year-old son by snatching him out of shallow water at a Walt Disney World beach, but the entertainment giant is reviewing whether to add gator warning signs. Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings told The Associated Press after a news conference Wednesday there was no indication Will and Melissa Graves of suburban Omaha, Nebraska, committed any crime that contributed to the reptile grabbing their son, Lane Graves. "There's nothing in this case to indicate that there was anything extraordinary" in terms of neglect by the parents, Demings said.

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