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Subject: Morning Clips – Monday, August 8, 2016

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## Morning Clips – Monday, August 8, 2016

### Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Haley seeking S.C. boost from international horse competition in North Carolina  
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160806/160809621/haley-seeking-sc-boost-from-international-horse-competition-in-north-carolina>

Last Sunday, Gov. Nikki Haley had a rare weekend agency phone call with state Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director Duane Parrish about a chance to make hay. Haley and Parrish discussed the state's support for North Carolina's bid to host the 2018 World Equestrian Games at Tryon International Equestrian Center in Mill Spring, N.C. The event would bring an estimated 500,000 people to the venue that's 40 minutes north of Spartanburg — along with a \$200 million economic impact, according to Fédération Equestre Internationale. "We have a long and rich history in equestrian competition and welcome the opportunity to showcase our state's world-renowned hospitality and tourism assets to the attendees and participants of this prestigious event," Haley said in a statement. Haley's last weekend agency call was with Department of Public Safety officials supervising a Black Lives Matter protest at the Statehouse on July 10. Prior to that, her last weekend agency call was Jan. 9, according to her public schedule.

Post and Courier: Concerns on the rise after incidents at assisted-living facilities

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160806/160809633/concerns-on-the-rise-after-incidents-at-assisted-living-facilities>

Derrek Asberry and Gregory Yee

The alarm didn't sound when Marie Duddy, an 80-year-old dementia patient, pushed open the door and walked out of Savannah Place, a James Island assisted-living facility. She was last seen about 3:30 p.m. May 20 and was found dead a day later in a nearby marsh. On July 27, police found 90-year-old Bonnie Walker, a resident of Brookdale Charleston in West Ashley. Walker had walked away from the facility and was killed by an alligator. She was reported missing about 7:40 a.m. and her body was recovered at 11 a.m. Authorities did not indicate if Walker suffered from dementia or some other memory loss condition. Concerns are growing over incidents at assisted-living facilities statewide. Advocates for the elderly believe staffing quotas and employee negligence may be reasons why these seniors are wandering off undetected. Brookdale officials have not explained how Walker was able to leave the facility, but say they are cooperating with police during the investigation. NOTE: Meanwhile, on Aug. 4, the state Department of Health and Environmental Control finalized a consent order against Savannah Place, stating that the facility failed to properly care for Duddy. DHEC found that Savannah Place did not properly describe Duddy's needs in her care plan. Also, the facility's paging system, which is supposed to sound off when a door is opened, was not working on the day Duddy disappeared. DHEC wrote that Duddy "exhibited socially inappropriate behavioral symptoms" that Savannah Place failed to control.

NOTE: Gilliard said he's asked Gov. Nikki Haley to form an ad hoc committee to address issues surrounding the homes. The need for accountability in the industry is only increasing as the population of senior citizens rises, he said. "When I saw these signs coming up again I knew we had

to take action," Gilliard said. "We can't stand by idly."

#### SC Political News:

McClatchy DC : Will ties to Biden help or hurt his former aide's run for Congress?

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/election/article93944522.html>

Vera Bergengruen

A close relationship to Vice President Joe Biden could be something of a double-edged sword for a former aide running for the South Carolina congressional seat held by Republican Rep. Mick Mulvaney. On the one hand, Fran Person has posted strong fundraising numbers, boosted by his former boss. Biden sent out a fundraising email on Person's behalf soon after the announcement that he was running. Biden then hosted a fundraiser in June, and he has made some individual calls to raise money, according to the vice president's office. On the other hand, it could be risky for Person to ally himself too closely with the White House in an election year defined by rage and frustration with the Washington establishment, especially in a Republican-leaning district. Person said that while he understood that frustration he heard from voters in his district, he would apply the main lesson of eight years serving as a personal aide to Biden: "simply getting things done." "It really isn't a Democrat or Republican thing to want leaders go up there and get things done again, move things forward," he said in an interview.

#### SC Agency News:

Associated Press: SC prisons agency kicking off annual conference on gangs

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5Ap8S9IF](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5Ap8S9IF)

SC State Wire

State prison officials are hosting an annual conference to talk about gangs and their impact on South Carolina's communities. The South Carolina Department of Corrections kicks off its three-day gang conference on Monday at Midlands Technical College's Harbison Campus in Irmo. Corrections director Bryan Stirling says nearly 400 law enforcement officers and legal representatives are expected to attend. Organizers say the gathering provides valuable information for correctional officers, narcotics officers, school resource officers and military personnel.

Post and Courier: DHEC director talks Zika transmission, public release of information

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160807/160809637/dhec-director-talks-zika-transmission-public-release-of-information->

Derrek Asberry

If South Carolinians start contracting the Zika virus through local mosquitoes, Catherine Heigel, the state health department director, says her agency will disclose the counties where Zika patients live so that residents can better protect themselves. But for now, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control will not release information about the physical condition, hospitalization, age, sex or residence of any Zika patients. "At this point, the cases have all been travel-related and we have no evidence nor do we have any suspected cases of local transmission," Heigel said during a recent interview with the Post and Courier. "We have to balance the interest of the public in knowing where these travelers live, versus the behavioral health implications of inciting undue concern and fear among the population." Heigel, who joined DHEC as its new director last summer, said there is a possibility that the mosquitoes will start spreading the disease in South Carolina because this state is home to the *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes, both of which have spread the virus in other parts of the world.

## SC after Police Shootings:

Post and Courier: Shootings, election fuel gun sales, permit application increase in S.C.

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160806/160809594/shootings-election-fuel-gun-sales-permit-application-increase-in-sc>

Gavin Jackson

Want to apply for a concealed weapon permit in South Carolina? Be prepared to wait, in some cases, for 11 weeks or longer to get one. With South Carolina's gun climate facing election year uncertainty, gun activity has broken records, including the number of people seeking to exercise their state-sanctioned right of concealed carry. "New faces," said Archie Woodberry, pointing to the steady flow of customers to his Blue Line Shooting Center in Florence, the only public gun range between Columbia and Myrtle Beach. "Our place is based on first-time shooters." Every customer has a different reason for seeking a concealed weapons permit: a friend bought a gun, someone knows a crime victim, a spouse inherited guns and wants to know how to use them, Woodberry said. Plus there's the fear that gun rights may become restricted after the November election. Data backs up the spike. State Law Enforcement Division statistics indicate more than 17,300 people in South Carolina are currently waiting to receive their CWP permits in the mail or a confirmation that their permit is being renewed. But there is concern by some that the state can't keep up with demand.

## Opinion/Editorial:

Post and Courier: Better response to future floods

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160808/160809582/better-response-to-future-floods->

Editorial

State officials are working to improve the oversight and maintenance of private dams in the wake of the great flood of last October. But a new federal report suggests there is more to be done to keep South Carolinians safe. The findings of the National Weather Service should be incorporated into a comprehensive plan for better preparation and response. The October flooding swamped many homes, inundated extensive farmland and, sadly, took 19 lives. Recovery is ongoing. The Weather Service report highlights some successes in dealing with the floods — forecasting in plenty of time for people to prepare, and communicating well through social media to keep the public informed. But the report also reveals obstacles that must be overcome before the next significant rainfall. For example, emergency management and community officials were instructed by local weather forecast offices (WFOs) to look at flood maps on a federal website, to better understand the potential extent of flooding in certain areas. But the Weather Service reported that information was lacking for places such as the Pee Dee Basin because Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA) studies were either not up to date or nonexistent. On the one hand, FEMA cited the need for an impact-focused flood map that would take all the relevant information into account in order to simplify the forecasting process.

Aiken Standard: Editorial: National Night Out serves vital purpose

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160807/160809728/editorial-national-night-out-serves-vital-purpose>

At no time during recent history have we needed National Night Out day more than we do now. National Night Out Day is observed annually on the first Tuesday in August. It is a community police awareness-raising event in the United States. Last Tuesday, Aug. 2, was National Night Out Day. National Night Out was created to increase awareness about police programs in communities. It is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and

neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, better places to live. Some of these programs include drug prevention, town watches, neighborhood watch and other anti-watch, or block watch events. National Night Out has been celebrated since 1984 and is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch in the United States and Canada. We need a night out like this. Desperately. Especially after the events of the past three months where almost daily horrors perpetuated against others have dominated the news. We need to take a breather. A time out.

#### South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Economists: S.C.'s economy, driven by Charleston and Upstate, to outpace nation through 2017

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160807/160809638/economists-scs-economy-driven-by-charleston-and-upstate-to-outpace-nation-through-2017>

Warren L. Wise

Bookended by thriving development in Charleston and the Upstate, South Carolina's economic growth is expected to outpace the nation's through 2017 and add 110,000 jobs by the end of next year. The Palmetto State, with its growing industrial might and diversified base, should see economic growth of 3.6 percent this year and 3.8 percent in 2017, Wells Fargo Securities economists Mark Vitner and Misa Batcheller said in a recent report. For comparison, the U.S. economy is expected to expand 1.4 percent this year and 2.1 percent next year. "South Carolina's economy continues to be more firmly anchored in industrial development," the report said. The economists pointed to the widening of the Panama Canal and the opening of an inland port at Greer in the Upstate as setting off a development boom for warehouse and industrial space. The Charleston area picked up 1.3 million square feet of industrial space in the first quarter. For all of 2015, the region delivered 1.1 million square feet of similar space.

Associated Press: Boom Times: South Carolina expected to outpace US economy

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=q80S6ONx](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=q80S6ONx)

SC State Wire

A new report suggests the Port of Charleston and booming development along the Interstate 85 corridor should mean the South Carolina economy will outpace the national economy next year. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports (<http://bit.ly/2b6wAhU>) the analysis from Wells Fargo Securities suggests that the state's economy should grow about 3.8 percent during 2017. The national economy is predicted to grow about 2.1 percent. The report predicts that South Carolina businesses will add another 110,000 jobs by the end of 2017. The report notes that manufacturing employment jumped 6 percent in the Charleston area over the past year, accounting for 1,400 new jobs. The report said that the widening of the Panama Canal and the state's inland port in Greer should spur demand for both warehouse and industrial space.

#### Local News:

The State: How much would you pay to stay in contact with your loved one in jail?

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article94284117.html>

Cynthia Roldan

Lexington County jail inmates are being charged phone rates to call home that are substantially higher than their counterparts in Richland County – rates a state senator said take advantage of their relatives. The money collected from inmate calls has added an annual average of about \$290,500 to the budget for operating the jail during the past five years, figures from the county's finance office

show. The company that has the contract with the Lexington County Detention Center, Securus Technologies, which is one of the nation's largest phone providers for inmates, has been accused of predatory pricing by a human rights organization that focuses on jails and prisons. Lexington County has one charge for calls made out of state, two pricing tiers for in-state calls and one for local calls. At \$3.95 for the first minute for the most expensive in-state call, Lexington County's charge is nine times greater than the most expensive charge at Richland County's Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center, according to research done by The State newspaper.

Aiken Standard: Public defender costs rising in North Augusta

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160807/160809637/public-defender-costs-rising-in-north-augusta>

Michael Smith

With public defender costs on the rise, North Augusta leaders are looking into managing expenses by re-evaluating which offenses warrant criminal trials. At a study session Monday, North Augusta leaders said the City has spent more than \$16,000 for defendants who are indigent, putting North Augusta on pace to surpass its \$22,000 annual budget for public defenders. "We're on pace to exceed that," said North Augusta City Administrator Todd Glover. The issue arose as North Augusta is set to renew a six-month contract with Aiken County to provide public defender services in North Augusta municipal court. A resolution authorizing the City to renew the contract for another six months was on the agenda for Monday night's Council meeting. Municipal public defenders are part of the City's general fund. According to the contract, public defenders are paid \$400 per municipal defendant represented. Terms of the agreement renewal apply retroactively to July 1 and continue through Dec. 31, Council documents show. The contract is necessary in order to comply with provisions recently established in state law.

Associated Press: Sheriff: Teen shoots would-be intruder while housesitting

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=60CuJGkc](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=60CuJGkc)

SC State Wire

A South Carolina sheriff says a 15-year-old boy who was housesitting during a funeral has shot a would-be intruder. Abbeville County Sheriff Ray Watson tells television station WYFF (<http://goo.gl/8VitRb>) that the boy was house-sitting for a family who had gone to a funeral on Friday when he saw the man come onto the property from nearby woods. The sheriff says the boy confronted the man and felt threatened when the suspect reached behind his back for what may have been a weapon. The sheriff says the boy then shot the man in the leg with a .22 caliber pistol. Watson says it's a shame a family can't go to a funeral without worrying about somebody trying to break in. The sheriff says deputies couldn't find the man despite tracking him into the woods with dogs.

Associated Press: Deputies: Car passenger killed in crash during chase

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

SC State Wire

Authorities say a woman has been killed in South Carolina after the vehicle she was riding in crashed during a chase with deputies. Berkeley County Coroner Bill Salisbury tells news outlets 25-year-old Megan Calhoun of Goose Creek was ejected from the car and died early Sunday. Berkeley County Chief Deputy Mike Cochran says Calhoun was a passenger in the vehicle that a sheriff's deputy tried to stop for a traffic violation. South Carolina Highway Patrol Lance Cpl. Judd Jones says the car was traveling when it ran off the side of the road and the 27-year-old driver lost control, hitting the curb. The car went into a ditch and struck several trees before returning to the roadway. Salisbury says Calhoun was ejected from the vehicle. The crash remains under investigation.



Associated Press: Officials: Greenville Co. deputy, 1 other injured in crash

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=d2stEVzO](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=d2stEVzO)

SC State Wire

Authorities say a Greenville County deputy and another driver have both been injured in a crash. Local news agencies report the South Carolina Highway Patrol says the incident happened around noon Sunday at an intersection in Greenville County. Officials say the deputy's patrol car collided with the driver of another vehicle. Lance Cpl. Tony Keller says both individuals were taken to the hospital. Their conditions and the extent of their injuries were not immediately known. Authorities say the driver of the other vehicle was entrapped and had to be extracted from the car. Keller says a passenger in that vehicle, a girl in a child seat, was not hurt. The crash remains under investigation.

Associated Press: Deputies: Seriously injured woman found lying in road

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8rU21xlA](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8rU21xlA)

SC State Wire

Richland County deputies are investigating after they say a seriously injured woman was found lying in the road. Media outlets report officials say responding deputies discovered the unidentified woman Sunday afternoon after receiving a call about someone lying in the middle of a roadway. Investigators say witnesses told them that the woman was pushed from a moving vehicle. Officials say the woman was transported to a local hospital with serious injuries to the upper body. The incident remains under investigation.

The State: After soldiers killed at Chapin bar, fundraiser set to help families

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article94258782.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

When two soldiers were gunned down at a Lake Murray restaurant just two weeks ago, it left the community reeling. But after shock came solidarity – and a Monday fundraiser aims to help families of the victims with expenses related to their deaths. From 5 to 8 p.m., 10 percent of all food sales at two Texas Roadhouse locations will be donated equally to the families of Sgt. 1st Class Charles Allen Judge Jr. and Sgt. 1st Class Jonathon Michael Prins, according to a news release. The fundraiser came about after a customer at one of the restaurants read the news the day the soldiers were killed, according to Jackie Brown, marketing coach for Texas Roadhouse. “When the news broke ... a lady stood up and started bawling,” Brown said. “So one of the mangers – she started crying too – she got on the phone and called me and said, ‘We’ve got to do something.’” Organizers have reached out to family members of the victims, but Brown said Sunday it’s unclear if they’ll be able to make it.

Island Packet: Winthrop nepotism debacle parallels Moss controversy

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article94286447.html>

Rebecca Lurye

A top education leader initiates changes that lead to a new position and ultimately the hiring of a spouse. Public outcry ensues. The leader tries to defend the move by saying it’s OK because the spouse reports to someone else. The spouse is forced out of the job, conflicting stories emerge, the involvement of a board chairman is called into question, and the S.C. Ethics Commission finds probable cause to call a hearing on potential violations of using an office for financial gain. The narrative will sound familiar to those who have followed the nepotism controversy that has dogged Beaufort County School District Superintendent Jeff Moss since his wife was hired to a director-level position last September. But the narrative doesn’t fit just Moss. A strikingly similar nepotism controversy happened at Winthrop University in Rock Hill in 2014. And it did not end well for Winthrop President Jamie Comstock Williamson.

Beaufort Gazette: The Moss ethics case: How we got here

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article94286377.html>

Rebecca Lurye

In less than two weeks, Superintendent Jeff Moss is scheduled to appear before the S.C. Ethics Commission to address the controversial hiring of his wife last fall. The commission has found probable cause to hold an Aug. 17 hearing to consider allegations that Moss knowingly used his position as superintendent to sign a consulting contract between his wife and the district and changed the district's nepotism rule, allowing his wife to be hired to the district job. The commission will decide whether these two actions constitute Moss using his official office to obtain an economic interest for a family member — a violation of state law. In a third count, Moss is accused of participating in a governmental decision in which an immediate family member had an economic interest when he presented his wife to the school board as a job candidate in a Sept. 1 executive session.

The State: Lexington County residential growth more than pays for itself, study says

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article94253927.html>

Tim Flach

Steady residential growth in Lexington County more than pays for itself, according to a study by home builders. The 1,368 homes built across the 758-square-mile county last year will produce \$8.8 million in taxes while requiring \$6.9 million in services initially, according to estimates for the Building Industry Association of Central South Carolina. That conclusion comes amid builders' concern of discussion about more fees on growth to pay for road improvements and limits on new neighborhoods in the Chapin area. Those two factors are "part of the mix" that led to the study, said Earl McLeod, executive director of the builders association. Some County Council members looking at new growth fees don't dispute the benefits of more homes, but say extra revenue is needed to ease increasing road congestion created by commuters moving into the dwellings.

Associated Press: Airfares for Charleston drop in recent years

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=i6RAewDp](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=i6RAewDp)

SC State Wire

Government statistics show that airfares for Charleston, South Carolina, have been dropping in recent years. The Post and Courier newspaper (<http://goo.gl/DvV61e>) reports that the average cost to fly out of the Charleston airport fell to around \$381 in the first quarter of 2016. The newspaper cited U.S. Department of Transportation statistics. That's a drop of about 17 percent since the same time in 2011. It's also about a 4 percent drop from the same time last year. Charleston International Airport is the busiest in South Carolina. The trend for Charleston owes to increased competition and lower fuel costs. Airfares are also dropping around the country.

Post and Courier : 'Intense' swimming class teaches children as young as 6 months self-rescue in the water

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160807/160809688/intense-swimming-class-teaches-children-as-young-as-6-months-self-rescue-in-the-water>

Melissa Boughton

Eleven-month-old Michael Baxley was plopped in the water face first and immediately began moving his little arms and legs until he made it onto his back, and then just floated. There was water in his face and he was crying, but he was alive. Kristina Baxley put her son in an Infant Swimming Resource self-rescue class when he was just 6½ months old. He cried, kicked a lot and had no sense of how to float or any other water skills Baxley would have hoped for. "We live on the water, and he's

quick," she said. "We wanted to take all steps possible to protect him." It takes anywhere from four to six weeks to teach children as young as 6 months old a roll and swim technique in the water that allows them to stay afloat and survive in the water while also trying to find a way out. ISR is highly specialized and tailored to students. Lessons last about 10 minutes five days per week. They are taught one on one and lessons are intense. It is hard work for the child, and it can often be uncomfortable for parents to watch at first.

#### Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press : Trump to outline economic plan as he seeks to reverse slide

<http://bigstory.ap.org/44d191fc22744697a65bab92d5c64d24>

Jill Colvin

Donald Trump is focusing his economic message on boosting jobs and making the country more competitive on a global stage by cutting business taxes, reducing regulations and increasing domestic energy production. With a speech Monday to the prestigious Detroit Economic Club, the Republican presidential nominee seeks to reset his campaign and delve into a subject — the economy — that is seen as one of his strengths. It also is aimed at showing that Trump is a serious candidate in spite of a disastrous stretch that prompted criticism from Republicans and Democrats alike. Controversy over Trump's repeated criticism of a Muslim-American family whose son, an Army captain, was killed in the Iraq War took attention away from his nominating speech at the Republican National Convention. His refusal for days to endorse the House Speaker Paul Ryan in Tuesday's Wisconsin primary — he announced his backing of Ryan last Friday — was another damaging distraction.

#### National News:

Associated Press: Delta grounds flights due to systems problems

<http://bigstory.ap.org/e685fa855149498d9b33f883652ba0f5>

Danica Kirka

Delta Air Lines has grounded flights and predicted widespread cancellations Monday after a power outage hit its computer systems globally, disrupting the travel plans of thousands of passengers. The Atlanta-based carrier said in a statement that the outage began at around 2:30 a.m. Eastern. Flights which were already en route were operating normally, but many passengers took to Twitter to express frustration with being stuck on the ground. "We are aware that flight status systems, including airport screens, are incorrectly showing flights on time," the company said in a statement. "We apologize to customers who are affected by this issue, and our teams are working to resolve the problem as quickly as possible." Confirmation of the troubles first came in an official account that responds to customers via Twitter. The company had said its IT systems were down "everywhere" and "hopefully it won't be much longer."

Associated Press: About 400 Fort Campbell soldiers joining unit in Iraq

<http://bigstory.ap.org/6663d1d2c6134a56852e38a8f24abfd1>

Fort Campbell says about 400 soldiers with the 101st Airborne Division are deploying to Iraq this summer. The post on the Kentucky-Tennessee border says the soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team will deploy as part of an increase in authorized troop levels in Iraq. They are to join some 1,300 previously deployed soldiers from the same unit who deployed in the spring. Lt. Col. Eric Lopez, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team provision brigade commander, said in a news release from the post that the soldiers are referred to as the "Strike Ready Force." He says they're "prepared to deploy



and join the team in Iraq at a moment's notice."

World News:

Associated Press: Former Iran president writes to Obama over \$2B court ruling

<http://bigstory.ap.org/fe85f80ec56d449c8aa2354329a084a8>

Iran's former hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has written a letter to President Barack Obama, asking him to "quickly fix" a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that could cost Iran some \$2 billion. That April ruling allows families of victims of the 1983 Marine barracks bombing in Beirut and other attacks linked to Iran to collect monetary damages from frozen Iranian funds. In the letter, which was posted on Monday on a website affiliated with Ahmadinejad's office, he writes: "I passionately advise you not to let the historical defamation and bitter incident be recorded under your name."

Ahmadinejad says he gave the letter to the Swiss Embassy in Tehran, which represents U.S. interests in Iran. Embassy officials declined to comment. The letter comes amid speculation about Ahmadinejad's political future.

Associated Press : Suicide bombing at Pakistani hospital in Quetta kills 53

<http://bigstory.ap.org/63378315f4e143a1b59f46e47f2c5d79>

Abdul Sattar

A suicide bomber killed at least 53 people and wounded dozens in an attack that struck a gathering of Pakistani lawyers on the grounds of a government-run hospital in the southwestern city of Quetta on Monday, police said. Witnesses described horrifying scenes of bodies being scattered about and the wounded screaming out and crying for help. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the blast. Nearly 100 lawyers had come to the hospital in the heart of Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan province, after the body of their colleague, prominent attorney Bilal Kasi was brought there. Kasi was shot and killed by gunmen earlier on Monday, as he was on his way to his office, and the lawyers later gathered at the Quetta Civil Hospital to express their grief. "It was a suicide attack," said Zahoor Ahmed Afridi, a senior police officer. Afridi said the attacker hit shortly after Kasi's body was brought in and that it seemed the two events were connected.

Associated Press: A star rises from poverty, is killed defying Pakistan norms

<http://bigstory.ap.org/206634ec4c564880ba3ccd589dc8aa09>

Kathy Gannon

Like most of the men in this village of mud homes and wooden carts pulled by water buffalo, Muhammed Azeem cannot read or write. Like the other fathers, he raised a family of six boys and three girls on whatever he could coax out of a soil baked by the searing Punjab sun. But in a culture where a family's worth is tallied in the number of males it can produce and girls are second-class citizens at best, Azeem was different. He valued his daughters as much as his sons. He raised them to be independent young women. When one of the girls married, she refused to take her husband's name. Another changed hers to Qandeel Baloch and became famous, shocking this conservative Islamic country with risqué dance videos that showed her in skin-tight clothing grinding against men. Azeem didn't care. He loved Qandeel - whose new name meant "torch" in their native language. "I supported everything she did," Azeem says, tears glistening on his weather-beaten face. "I liked everything she did."

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