

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, August 24, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley holds ceremonial signing of Georgia gun reciprocity bill, for the second time

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160824/160829698/gov-nikki-haley-holds-ceremonial-signing-of-georgia-gun-reciprocity-bill-for-the-second-time>

Maya T. Prabhu

For the second time this summer, Gov. Nikki Haley has made a show of signing legislation twice. Both times it played to the state's conservative base. In June, she traveled to an Upstate Christian school for children with disabilities to re-sign a state law that banned abortions at 20 weeks of pregnancy. On Wednesday she traveled to North Augusta where she re-signed a concealed weapons bill. It allows South Carolina to recognize carry permits issued to residents of Georgia. The measure became law nearly three months ago. College of Charleston political scientist Kendra Stewart said the event at the North Augusta Municipal Center keeps Haley's name tied to a pro-gun topic. "I think for the first time in a while the politics of South Carolina is perhaps opening toward some gun control and so this is a pretty strong symbol of her support for (gun rights)," she said. It also solidifies Haley's brand for what she may want to do down the road. "It's a good political move for whatever her next political step may be," Stewart said, "to keep her name in the limelight."

NOTE: During the ceremony, Haley said it was important to allow law-abiding gun owners to move freely between Georgia and South Carolina, especially if they've passed a background check and taken classes to learn gun safety.

NOTE: "I think in some cases Georgia is stricter than South Carolina," Haley said when asked about the lack of required training in the neighboring state. "But what we did make sure was there are background checks, they do have to go through classes on how they handle a gun, the responsibility of when they can carry a gun and how they handle that accordingly."

NOTE: State Rep. Bill Hixon, R-North Augusta, said he's worked for five years to get a gun reciprocity bill passed because it's the No. 1 issue his constituents bring to him. Hixon sponsored the bill, which Haley originally signed June 3.

NOTE: Haley said she hopes enacting the law will encourage Georgia residents to visit South Carolina, buy second homes and not force them to lock their guns up for fear of violating the law.

Aiken Standard: Gov. Haley visits North Augusta, ceremonially signs gun reciprocity bill

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160824/160829733/gov-haley-visits-north-augusta-ceremonially-signs-gun-reciprocity-bill->

Nick Terry

A ceremonial signing by Gov. Nikki Haley of South Carolina's gun reciprocity bill was done Wednesday in one of the counties the bill arguably affects the most, even though Haley signed the bill into law on June 3. "It's a great day in South Carolina, we could not be more excited about what is happening today," Haley said. "It's a great day in Georgia, it's a great day in North Carolina. What we've done is we've acknowledged responsible citizens, ... and we've acknowledged the fact that

everybody should be able to move through our states and never doubt whether they are acknowledging the law."The bill allows gun owners to carry lawfully between South Carolina and Georgia. State Rep. Bill Hixon, R-North Augusta, the primary sponsor of the bill, said since he joined the State House of Representatives in 2011, gun reciprocity was one of the top requests from his constituents in the Palmetto State's riverfront city.

NOTE: "We want them to come visit South Carolina; tourism in South Carolina, vacation by second homes, all of that. It gets in the way of all of that if they can't legally do it because no one wants to break the law," Haley said. "So, if they've gotten their (concealed weapons permit) in Georgia, we want them to be able to go to the beach in South Carolina and not have to worry about anything happening, the same with North Carolina."

NOTE: Haley added, "It's very important that any law-abiding citizen, that does go through the proper channels, that they do not feel like South Carolina is not welcoming to them."

NOTE: Haley said the bill is an example of what sister states can do for the good of their residents.

NOTE: Haley said as issues across the country "get noticed and as people get more concerned with what's happening, never forget it's the responsible ones we're fighting for. This really is a great day in South Carolina."

Augusta Chronicle: Haley visits North Augusta, reluctantly backs Trump

<http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/government/2016-08-24/haley-visits-north-augusta-reluctantly-backs-trump?v=1472047836>

James Folker

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, in town Wednesday for a ceremonial bill signing, said Donald Trump isn't her first choice, but she'll vote for him and South Carolinians should, too. Possible Supreme Court appointments and "the taxes Hillary Clinton wants to put on people" make the governor "hope and pray" Trump wins, she said. She came to North Augusta to sign a bill authored by state Sen. Bill Hixon allowing Georgia residents who have licenses to carry concealed weapons to bring them into South Carolina. Georgia similarly recognizes South Carolina permits, so the two states have reciprocity. She signed the official bill when it passed both legislative houses in June, but came to North Augusta to honor Hixon and his work in getting the bill passed, and to include Georgia officials who worked on their reciprocity bill and are part of what Hixon called the Savannah River Caucus – made up of officials who represent areas along the 250-mile border the states share.

Associated Press : Gov. Haley campaigning for NC Gov. McCrory's re-election

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

SC State Wire

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is hoping to give a boost to neighboring Republican Gov. Pat McCrory by campaigning with him in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Haley's office confirms she will attend a reception Thursday benefiting McCrory, who is in a tight re-election battle against Attorney General Roy Cooper. Earlier this year, McCrory signed a law requiring transgender people to use public bathrooms according to their biological sex, prompting a national backlash. Haley helped defeat a similar proposal in South Carolina she called unnecessary. But she declined to criticize McCrory at the time, saying he did "what he thought was right." Haley and McCrory also differ on Donald Trump. Haley has publicly criticized the Republican presidential nominee, while McCrory joined Trump at a campaign rally in North Carolina last month.

Post and Courier: Haley to campaign for N.C. Gov. Pat McCrory

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160824/160829701/haley-to-campaign-for-nc-gov-pat-mccrory>

Gavin Jackson

Gov. Nikki Haley is hitting the campaign trail again Thursday for Republican North Carolina Gov. Pat

McCrory's re-election bid. Haley's office confirmed she will attend a fundraiser in Fayetteville in an effort to boost McCrory's sliding poll numbers against his Democratic opponent, N.C. Attorney General Roy Cooper. The North Carolina governor came under heavy fire earlier this year for signing a bill into law that requires transgender individuals to use bathrooms in government buildings and schools that are associated with their birth sex, not the gender they identify with. Ramifications of the bill, known as HB2, are still being felt throughout the state, with multiple economic development projects and high-profile events canceled since its passage. McCrory's office, however, recently noted in a press release that visitor spending across the state increased last year. His campaign also released a television ad featuring a sexual abuse survivor who slams Cooper for not defending HB2. McCrory, meanwhile, joined a lawsuit with several state lawmakers against the Department of Justice, which had challenged the measure as discriminatory.

The State: SC's Haley to stump for embattled NC Gov. Pat McCrory

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article97420272.html>

Jamie Self

Facing a tough re-election challenge, North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory will get some help on the campaign trail this week from his neighbor to the south. S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley will attend a fundraiser Thursday for McCrory in Fayetteville, Haley's office said. Aligning himself with Haley could help McCrory who has slid behind N.C. Attorney General Ray Cooper, his Democratic challenger, in the polls. N.C. Democrats hope to attract win over voters who are upset about a new state law that requires transgender people to use the bathroom of their birth sex. McCrory signed the controversial legislation, known as HB2. Haley rejected a similar proposal in South Carolina, saying it was unneeded. N.C. Democrats also are banking on GOP disillusionment with Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump to help them in down-ballot contests against Republicans, including McCrory. Haley has criticized Trump repeatedly, including during her nationally televised GOP response to President Obama's January State of the Union address. Haley enjoyed a rising national profile and popularity after she pushed to remove the Confederate flag last summer from the State House grounds in the wake of the massacre of nine African Americans in a Charleston church.

Greenville News: Anyone Home, Inc. to create 570 jobs

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/2016/08/24/anyone-home-inc-create-570-customer-service-jobs/89252366/>

Amanda Coyne

Rental management company Anyone Home, Inc. will create 570 customer service jobs in Greenville County over the next five years, Gov. Nikki Haley's office announced Wednesday. The company will invest \$1.1 million in the project, which will be housed at 750 Brookfield Pkwy. in Greenville. Workers will provide assistance to tenants whose landlords use Anyone Home, handling calls about leasing, maintenance and emergencies. "Anyone Home is the newest member of Greenville's growing customer service industry," said Greenville County Council Chairman Bob Taylor in a press release. "The company's technology enables us to experience residential and prospect management all in a call center environment. Greenville County welcomes Anyone Home to our community."

SC Political News:

Associated Press: Berkeley County school board gives final approval to prayer

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8Uk7f5g0

SC State Wire

The Berkeley County School Board has given final approval to opening its meetings with prayer, beginning next month. The Post and Courier of Charleston reported (<http://bit.ly/2bPmd09>) the board gave final approval to opening in prayer Tuesday, despite lawsuit threats. The board had opened its meetings in prayer for years but stopped in June after Americans United for Separation of Church and State warned that such prayers violated the 1st Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Charleston Sen. Larry Grooms and others wrote the school board in July saying a U.S. Supreme Court decision involving a town council allowed such prayers. Future prayers will be nonsectarian and nondenominational. The group questioning the prayer earlier said the Supreme Court case did not apply to school boards and is considering legal action.

Associated Press: Receipts show Rec Commission board member received no improper benefits, legislator says

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article97557847.html>

Avery G. Wilks

The lawyer for a member of the board that oversees the embattled Richland County Recreation Commission says he has documents that disprove a former employee's allegations that his client received improper benefits from the commission. State Rep. Todd Rutherford, who represents board member Barbara Mickens, sent The State copies of checks showing Mickens personally paid former Recreation Commission employee Darryl Davis for flooring work that he did in his spare time at her church. Other receipts show Mickens' car was serviced at a private company, not at the Rec Commission as Davis has alleged, Rutherford said. Rutherford, a Richland Democrat and member of the legislative delegation that appoints the Rec Commission's board members, said the documents show Davis has lied to media outlets in recent weeks. Davis has said some board members, including Mickens, got free tires, oil changes and brake work done on their personal cars at the agency's fleet maintenance shop. He also said the Recreation Commission paid him overtime to work on the floors at Mickens' church.

Associated Press : South Carolina Democrats drop presidents' names from dinner

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

SC State Wire

The South Carolina Democratic Party will rename its annual Jefferson-Jackson Dinner after the upcoming fundraiser in September, making it the latest state party to distance itself from the slave-owning presidents who are considered the party's founders. The party's executive committee voted Tuesday night to drop the names of the nation's third and seventh presidents, Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson. Beyond owning slaves, Jackson is known for the forced removal of Native Americans over the Trail of Tears. State Chairman Jaime Harrison says the committee decided the dinner should reflect the modern Democratic Party. South Carolina's last Jefferson-Jackson Dinner will be Sept. 30. Other states to drop the names of the late presidents from party fundraisers cited last year's massacre in Charleston of nine black parishioners by a white gunman.

Post and Courier: S.C. Democrats to change name of annual Jefferson-Jackson Dinner

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160824/160829703/sc-democrats-to-change-name-of-annual-jefferson-jackson-dinner>

Emma Dumain

Following the footsteps of Democratic parties in other states — including neighboring Georgia — the S.C. Democratic Party will change the name of its annual fundraising dinner to no longer recognize former presidents Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson. State party Chairman Jaime Harrison

announced the party's executive committee voted Tuesday to change the name of the Jefferson-Jackson Dinner. The Jefferson and Jackson names have been re-evaluated by state parties in recent months for their historical connection to slavery and for the U.S. conduct and wars with Native American tribes in the 18th and 19th centuries. "Though presidents Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson did play integral roles in the institutional development of the Democratic Party, our executive committee members — being careful not to judge historical figures solely by modern standards and thus taking full account of the range of views on the issue of slavery and treatment of Native Americans in American society during that era — decided that our annual dinner should be a reflection of the modern Democratic Party," Harrison said.

The State: SC Dems will drop Jefferson and Jackson from annual dinner

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article97519082.html>

Bristol Marchant

South Carolina Democrats are ditching two of the party's founding members from the name of its annual party fundraiser. The executive committee of the SC Democratic Party voted Tuesday night to rename the Jefferson-Jackson Dinner, according to a party press release. The event is named after former presidents Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson. "The change will take effect after the upcoming Jefferson-Jackson Dinner on September 30," party chairman Jaime Harrison said in the statement, meaning this year's fundraiser will still bare the former presidents' names – and will be South Carolina's last Jefferson-Jackson Dinner. "In the weeks and months following, the State Executive Committee will be soliciting suggestions from our county parties and will deliberate and decide on a new name for the dinner that more accurately reflects the ideals of our party." Jefferson and Jackson are considered key figures not only in early American history but in the development of the modern Democratic Party, and Democratic officials have longed proudly claimed both men as part of the party's legacy.

Post and Courier: Offshore oil seismic testing opponents map dolphin, whale movements

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160824/160829733/offshore-oil-seismic-testing-opponents-map-dolphin-whale-movements>

Bo Petersen

As federal regulators near a decision on seismic testing for oil and natural gas offshore, opponents have released animated maps that they say show dense populations of dolphins and whales gathering and moving through the area over the course of a year. In seismic tests, powerfully loud air guns are fired underwater every 16 seconds or so to read "echoes" from the bottom geology. Conservationists oppose the testing because of the potential for it to disorient and injure marine animals. Nikki Martin, president of the International Association of Geophysical Contractors, said earlier this year that after more 50 years of continuous seismic surveying around the world, including the Gulf of Mexico, and a decade of intense scrutiny by scientists, there is still no scientific support that the blasts harm marine life populations. The maps were produced using research from Duke University's Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab, according to Oceana, a conservation group that has championed the opposition. "We hope the Obama administration will factor in this important information in its final decision" whether to allow the testing, said Dustin Cranor, Oceana communications director, while acknowledging that the comment period on the decision has closed. NOTE: A coalition of governors, including Gov. Nikki Haley, worked largely behind the scenes with industry lobbyists to urge federal officials in the Obama administration to open the Southeast coast to the work. It's also supported by a number of legislators in South Carolina.

SC Agency News:

Associated Press : Family sues prison officials in inmate's 2015 death

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4SPvA8V4

SC State Wire

The family of an inmate who died of an untreated kidney infection last year at Bishopville's Lee Correctional Institution is suing state prison officials. The Greenville News reports (<http://grnol.co/2bMWh4j>) that Victor Rogers' family filed a federal lawsuit Monday against the South Carolina Department of Corrections saying at least 12 people connected with the prison knew Rogers was in extreme pain but didn't provide or request medical care for him before his March 17, 2015, death. The lawsuit says Rogers was too weak to walk for at least seven days before being found dead in his cell. An autopsy revealed he died from sepsis, resulting from the infection. There are 17 defendants, including agency director Bryan Stirling and the warden of Lee Correctional Institution. Corrections Department spokeswoman Stephanie Givens said the agency does not comment on pending lawsuits. Rogers was sentenced in 2013 to seven years in prison on a second-degree burglary conviction. In the lawsuit, Rogers was described as a "healthy, but profoundly mentally ill young man" when he entered the prison system.

Greenville News: Greenville family files lawsuit in prisoner's death

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/08/23/greenville-family-files-lawsuit-prisoners-death/89194568/>

Romando Dixson

A federal lawsuit against the South Carolina Department of Corrections alleges an inmate died of an untreated kidney infection that made him too weak to walk for at least seven days before he died. Victor Rogers, 27, died in March 2015 as an inmate at Lee Correctional Institution in Bishopville. The lawsuit alleges at least 12 individuals connected with the prison knew Rogers was experiencing "extreme physical pain but took no action to provide or request medical care" for him. The complaint named 17 defendants, including the director of the Department of Corrections, the warden of Lee Correctional, prison officers and medical staff. Department of Corrections officials do not comment on pending litigation, spokeswoman Stephanie Givens said Tuesday. The lawsuit, filed Monday on behalf of Rogers' family, alleges "illegal and unconstitutional actions" by the Department of Corrections led to Rogers' death. "Their illegal actions consist of their deliberate indifference to the obvious, serious medical needs of Victor Rogers while he was in their custody and care, and when they owed him a duty of care," the suit said.

Michael Slagger Case:

Associated Press: Settlement being worked out in police legal fee dispute

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Lp9UQDNx

Bruce Smith

A dispute over legal fees for a white former South Carolina police officer charged in the shooting death of an unarmed black motorist is being settled out of court. Former North Charleston officer Michael Slager sued the Southern States Police Benevolent Association last year, saying the group failed to provide legal representation he paid for under an insurance policy. The association initially said it would not pay because the April, 2015, shooting of Walter Scott as he fled from a traffic stop was outside Slager's duties as a police officer. That shooting of Scott was captured on a dramatic cellphone video by a bystander and reignited the national debate over how blacks are treated by white police officers. In federal court documents filed Tuesday, Slager's attorney Bland Richter asks

that the case be put on hold for 30 days while a settlement is finalized "through which the parties have resolved Michael Slager's claims for benefits for an undisclosed sum of money to the parties' satisfaction.

Opinion/Editorial:

Post and Courier : Fiscal board fumbles again

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160824/160829721/fiscal-board-fumbles-again>

Editorial

The Commission on Higher Education made a solid case against a funding plan for a \$31.8 million stadium expansion at Coastal Carolina University, but the State Fiscal Accountability Authority wasn't buying it. By a 3-2 margin on Tuesday, the fiscal board brushed aside the CHE's objections and gave the university a pass on its project. Even so, it was encouraging to see the commission take a stand against a capital project that careful analysis had shown to fall short of the funding needed to proceed. It was the first time in recent memory that the CHE had attempted to pull the plug on a capital project. Following the fiscal board's vote on Tuesday, Gov. Nikki Haley castigated the two chairmen of the legislative budget committees and Comptroller Richard Eckstrom for failing to follow the CHE's recommendations. Treasurer Curtis Loftis joined Mrs. Haley, who as governor is chair of the fiscal board (formerly the Budget and Control Board), in supporting the CHE. "You have just given every university the ability to say 'CHE doesn't matter' and 'we'll just circumvent it, we'll get our lobbyist to it, the Legislature will approve it' and then it will happen," Gov. Haley said. "I don't know how you'll ever be able to say you're conservative, accountable or in any way setting standards for higher education." Certainly, the CHE set the standard of fiscal accountability that the state should expect for each of its 33 colleges and universities.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press : Gaston changes little in strength in Atlantic

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=uoT1NHU4

SC State Wire

Tropical Storm Gaston is changing little in strength as it moves in the Atlantic. The storm's maximum sustained winds Wednesday are near 70 mph (110 kph). The U.S. National Hurricane Center says although Gaston could become a hurricane later in the day, some weakening is forecast on Thursday. Gaston is centered about 1,020 miles (1,645 kilometers) west of the Cabo Verde Islands and is moving west-northwest near 16 mph (26 kph). The storm is not currently a threat to land.

Post and Courier : National Park Service celebrates 100 years; South Carolina boasts nine locations

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160824/160829696/national-park-service-celebrates-100-years-south-carolina-boasts-nine-locations>

Melissa Boughton

The National Park Service is ready to party, and you're invited. Celebrations are underway across the country to commemorate the agency's 100th birthday Thursday. Fun for the whole family is on the agenda, but the Park Service is also getting serious about the next century. "The centennial will celebrate the achievements of the past 100 years, but it is really about the future," the Parks' website states. "It's about kicking off a second century of stewardship for America's national parks and for communities across the nation." President Woodrow Wilson signed into law the National Park System Organic Act on Aug. 25, 1916. Since then, the Park Service's mission has remained constant — to preserve and protect natural and cultural resources within the United States for visitors' enjoyment.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Mural honoring Emanuel victims vandalized

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160824/160829672/mural-honoring-emanuel-victims-vandalized>

Caitlin Byrd

Graffiti tags were never part of the vision artist Tripp Barnes had for his mural honoring the nine victims of the Emanuel AME Church shooting. And yet, on Sunday, there they were: A series of graffiti tags spray painted on the western edge of the mural at the Redux Contemporary Art Center. "What I don't understand is why they would deface a mural that was a tribute to the nine victims who died in this church," Barnes said Wednesday. Redux shared pictures of the graffiti-tagged mural on its Facebook page Tuesday. The spray-painted tags are not in a prominent part of the mural, but are on the mural nonetheless. Redux Executive Director Stacy Huggins said she caught the two men in the act of vandalizing the mural Sunday afternoon. She said she learned about the incident when an artist at the gallery called her.

Associated Press: Nearly 1 year after woman's death, coroner rules it homicide

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

SC State Wire

A South Carolina coroner says a woman with cerebral palsy who was found dead in her home last year had been strangled. Spartanburg County Coroner Rusty Clevenger said Tuesday he has ruled that Brittany Foster's death a homicide after getting the pathologist's autopsy results Aug. 3. Authorities had called it an "unattended death." Police reports said Foster's caregiver found her on the living room floor last Aug. 28 and there were no signs of a struggle. The caregiver told officers Foster used a wheelchair because of cerebral palsy. But a coroner's investigator noticed swelling and redness in Foster's eyes, and a mark under her chin. Duncan Police Chief Carl Long says his office is investigating. He says he's still awaiting DNA results sent to the State Law Enforcement Division.

Associated Press: Man stabbed to death in downtown Charleston

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=XT1LDIB5

SC State Wire

Police are investigating after a man was stabbed to death at a home in downtown Charleston. Police spokesman Charles Francis tells local news outlets that police were called to the home about 10 p.m. Tuesday. The victim died a short time later at the Medical University of South Carolina Hospital. The Charleston County Coroner's Office has identified the victim as 39-year-old Marc Johnson. Police took a woman into custody and questioned her in connection with the case but she was later released. No charges have been filed.

Greenville News: Warrants: Ex-probation officer had sex with parolee, lied to judge

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/08/24/warrants-ex-probation-officer-had-sex-parolee-lied-judge/89273534/>

Anan Lee

A former probation officer accused of having a sexual relationship with a parolee was arrested Wednesday on misconduct charges, state investigators said. Heather Simpson Griffith, 30, of Greenwood, was charged with obstructing justice, first-degree sexual misconduct with an inmate or offender and misconduct in office, according to warrants issued by the State Law Enforcement Division. Griffith was employed with the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services when she engaged in sexual relations with an offender under her supervision between July

8, 2015 and March 14, 2016, warrants allege. Warrants allege Griffith schemed with the offender to have his probation terminated early by presenting false testimony and documentation to a circuit court judge. The offender, Christopher Ryan Merck, 33, of Easley, was also arrested in the case and charged with blackmail and obstructing justice.

The State : Two sisters arrested after pepper spray incident on school bus

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article97576292.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

Two teenage sisters were arrested and charged after an incident involving pepper spray on a Northeast Richland County school bus Tuesday morning, officials said. The sisters were on a school bus headed to Westwood High School when an argument with two other teens – a brother and sister – started around 8:30 a.m. at Hardscrabble and Sloan Roads, according to the Richland County Sheriff's Department. One of the sisters is 15 years old and the other is 16 years old. The 15-year-old reportedly pulled out a canister of pepper spray and sprayed it at the boy. He had to exit the bus after he was sprayed, the release said. Around this time, the girls physically attacked the male victim's sister, officials said. After the incident, 21 students were taken to an area hospitals for observation as a precaution. There were no reports of injuries during the incident. Sheriff Leon Lott called the situation "unfortunate" because the disturbance affected so many headed to school ready to learn. The 16-year-old was charged with third-degree assault and interfering with the operation of a school bus. The 15-year-old was charged with third-degree assault, interfering with the operation of a school bus and carrying a weapon on school property.

Associated Press : New student enrollment at SC State up 40 percent

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=T8mHnNCD

SC State Wire

The number of new students enrolled at South Carolina State University in Orangeburg increased about 40 percent this semester and the school has a problem it hasn't had in several years - just where to house all its students. The Times and Democrat of Orangeburg reports (<http://bit.ly/2c6jYZS>) that President James Clark told the board of trustees Tuesday the school has used all available dormitory space and is housing students off campus. He says two small dorms that in recent years were used as office space are now being cleaned and painted and will provide another 56 rooms. The state's only public historically black university enrolled almost 3,000 students this fall.

The State : Cash-strapped S.C. State avoids more cuts with enrollment jump

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/education/article97566457.html>

Avery G. Wilks

S.C. State University has met its enrollment goal for this school year, a feat the school's new president says will stave off additional budget cuts. The state's only historically black public college has 2,963 students enrolled at its Orangeburg campus, beating its 2,900-student goal for this fall. The school's 2016-17 budget was based on reaching that goal, Missing that goal likely would have caused more cuts at the school, trying to rebound from crippling financial problems. "We're running on a very, very tight budget," school president James Clark said. "We're making significant cuts. We have significant furloughs in place already, and that was assuming we met the budget." The school added 833 new students this fall – a nearly 40-percent increase from last fall's incoming class – to surpass last year's enrollment of 2,950. Clark attributed the increase to S.C. State's removal from academic probation in June, positive media coverage of the school's ongoing turnaround from financial turmoil and better customer service to help students work through barriers to enrolling. "The accreditation, the positive press can generate demand," Clark said. "But if you're not customer-

centric, if you're not customer focused, then folks get upset and go away. They have other choices. There are other institutions they can go to."

Associated Press: Incredible Shrinking Beaufort County? County getting smaller

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

SC State Wire

Beaufort County is shrinking. The Island Packet of Hilton Head reports (<http://bit.ly/2bVdfjW>) not only are beaches along the Atlantic eroding but a new survey shows 16 acres in the county really belong to neighboring Jasper County. South Carolina's Geodetic Survey team has spent a year sorting through historical documents and researching buried landmarks to clarify where the county line is. Most of the 16 acres belonging to Jasper County are along state Highway 170 and are in a highway department right of way. Officials say there are no significant impacts from the border change. Such impacts could occur if people living in one county suddenly find themselves living in another. Beaufort County Council has agreed to let Jasper County annex the land after the survey data is certified.

The State: Lexington County extends buyout offer to more flood-prone homes

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article97608732.html>

Tim Flach

Neighborhood leaders are happy that Lexington County is expanding its plan to acquire and demolish more homes in flood-prone areas. "This is what we were hoping for," Art Guerry, president of the Whitehall Homeowners Association in St. Andrews, said Wednesday. The change comes after residents in Whitehall and other neighborhoods in the Irmo-St. Andrews areas damaged by floods last fall pressed county officials for buyouts instead of aid for repairs. That led officials to announce on Tuesday that they had doubled their initial buyout from 30 to 65 homes, and increased the allotment from federal disaster aid for that from \$6 million to \$10 million. That's one of every six homes in the county damaged by floods after record rain in October, primarily in the Chaledon, Coldstream, Pine Glen and Whitehall neighborhoods.

The State: Groups go to court to stop work on International Drive

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article97521692.html>

Sammy Fretwell

Clearing for a new highway through prime bear country has begun in the Myrtle Beach area, but environmentalists moved quickly Tuesday to halt the work that they say needlessly imperils black bears and their habitat. Two of the state's most prominent conservation groups challenged the project in court, asking an administrative law judge to prevent work on the road until a legal appeal can be heard. The S.C. Coastal Conservation League and the S.C. Wildlife Federation contend that the road would be built with little regard for the landscape and black bears that live in the area. Both groups are involved in a bitter fight with Horry County officials, who say the road between Myrtle Beach and Conway is vital to move traffic along the Grand Strand. The dispute is of statewide interest because Myrtle Beach has some of the most clogged roads in South Carolina, but the area just west of town also is a haven for black bears.

Post and Courier: Charleston considering lowering the temperature for pulling carriage horses from streets

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160824/160829679/charleston-considering-lowering-the-temperature-for-pulling-carriage-horses-from-streets>

Diane Knich

Members of a new committee examining the rules for Charleston's carriage horses disagreed how

hot is too hot for the animals to remain on the street. Dan Riccio, the city's director of livability and tourism and chairman of the committee, said Wednesday the group first will discuss heat-related issues, then it could review the weight of loads the animals are allowed to pull. The city currently requires the five carriage companies downtown to shut down their tours when the temperature reaches 98 degrees or the heat index reaches 125 degrees. Savannah also requires horses to stop working when the thermometer hits 98 degrees — the highest level in the country — but it shuts down its carriages when the heat index hits 110. The index factors in relative humidity. Ron Morales, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, said a heat index of 125 is extremely hot for humans, adding, "You wouldn't be comfortable standing outside for one minute." Excessive heat warnings are issued when the index reaches 115 degrees.

Post and Courier: Boeing's North Charleston leader: Aerospace at a crossroads as presidential election looms

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160824/160829674/boeings-north-charleston-leader-aerospace-at-a-crossroads-as-presidential-election-looms>

David Wren

Joan Robinson-Berry, the new head of Boeing Co.'s operations in North Charleston, told aerospace business leaders during a conference here Wednesday that the industry is at a crossroads as the nation gets ready to choose its next president. With the November election looming, Robinson-Berry said "it's our job to really understand the impact" decisions on such issues as foreign trade, the nation's defense budget, shifting global partnerships and the Export-Import bank will have on the future of aerospace. The presidential election is something "we're all thinking about probably more than we want to," she said. Robinson-Berry did not openly endorse either Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump, but described attributes of a candidate that will "ensure that we don't step backwards in what we've accomplished over the last 100 years." "More than ever, we need to have that leadership attribute I call emotional resilience — to be calm, to be focused and to have a clear heart in some of these decisions," Robinson-Berry said during a keynote speech. "We have to be aware of the shifting global economy, including oil prices and the changes in airline policy and global trade and the Ex-Im Bank, how important that is to our industry and, of course, trade.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: As Trump tries minority outreach, many blacks unconvinced

<http://bigstory.ap.org/b36f75becfe4461cb0d69ebacc673086>

Bill Barrow and Errin Haines Whack

Black Republicans cheer Donald Trump for a newfound outreach to African-Americans, but say the GOP presidential nominee must take his message beyond arenas filled with white supporters and venture into the inner cities. Many rank-and-file black voters, meanwhile, dismiss the overtures as another racially charged pitch from a campaign aimed exclusively at whites, from Trump's emphasis on "law and order" to his withering critiques of President Barack Obama, the nation's first black chief executive. It was Trump in 2011 who fiercely challenged Obama's U.S. birth. "Any minority who would vote for him is crazy, ought to have their head examined," said Ike Jenkins, an 81-year-old retired business owner in the predominantly black suburb of East Cleveland. Foluke Bennett, a 43-year-old from Philadelphia, went further, labeling the GOP standard-bearer's remarks as "racist," pointing, among other things, to his referencing African-Americans as "the blacks."

Associated Press: Before debates, Clinton aims to keep Trump expectations high

<http://bigstory.ap.org/5242ea5375f44871a2baa688ec19e70d>

Julie Pace and Ken Thomas

By virtue of her long political resume, Hillary Clinton will enter her highly anticipated fall debates with Donald Trump facing the same kind of heightened expectations that often saddle an incumbent president. Trump, as the political newcomer, will be more of a wild card with a lower bar to clear. A month before the first faceoff, Clinton allies are working to prevent that dynamic from turning into an advantage for the Republican nominee. Boosting debate expectations for her opponent requires a tricky balancing act for Clinton. At the same time she is encouraging Americans to take seriously Trump's controversial policy proposals, including a temporary ban on Muslim immigration and building a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, she's painting him as unprepared and temperamentally unfit for the presidency. "I think on the one hand it's a serious chance for Americans to tune in," Clinton said Monday on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live" show. "But you've got to be prepared for, like, wacky stuff that comes at you and I am drawing on my experience in elementary school. You know, the guy who pulled your ponytail."

World News:

Associated Press : Italy earthquake kills at least 120, reduces towns to rubble

<http://bigstory.ap.org/6b2b273724a64cc7841da02437c74ff0>

Paolo Santalucia, Frances D'Emilio and Nicole Winfield

Rescue crews using bulldozers and their bare hands raced to dig out survivors from a strong earthquake that reduced three central Italian towns to rubble Wednesday. The death toll stood at 120, but the number of dead and missing was uncertain given the thousands of vacationers in the area for summer's final days. Residents awakened before dawn by the temblor emerged from their crumbled homes to find what they described as apocalyptic scenes "like Dante's Inferno," with entire blocks of buildings turned into piles of sand and rock, thick dust choking the air and a putrid smell of gas. "The town isn't here anymore," said Sergio Pirozzi, the mayor of the hardest-hit town, Amatrice. "I believe the toll will rise." The magnitude 6.2 quake struck at 3:36 a.m. and was felt across a broad swath of central Italy, including Rome, where residents woke to a long swaying followed by aftershocks. The temblor shook the Lazio region and Umbria and Le Marche on the Adriatic coast, a highly seismic area that has witnessed major quakes in the past.

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Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044