

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Haley calls Democrats' gun sit-in unruly

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160625/160629630/haley-calls-democrats-gun-sit-in-unruly->

Gov. Nikki Haley said she respected the passion behind the sit-in staged by U.S. House Democrats this week but called it an attention-seeking spectacle. Democrats in Congress spent 25 ½ hours on the House floor Wednesday and Thursday to protest a lack of action by Republicans on gun safety legislation. Haley said it was bad for Americans to see a the chamber get unruly. "That chamber is meant to have formal activity," she said. "To pass bills. To do the right thing. We don't have protests in chambers. Not on the state level. Not on the federal level." While Haley agreed that people should be as "passionate as they want to be," using that passion to bypass House rules to bring up gun safety legislation is not the way to go about it. "If we started dictating legislation based on protests in our chambers, it would be total chaos," she said Thursday. "That's what almost happened yesterday."

The State: The Buzz: SC's Gov. Haley catches some post-primary shade

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article86015377.html>

Jamie Self

Gov. Haley was hit last week with some blow back for her efforts in the June 14 S.C. GOP primary. The first shots came from Republican S.C. Comptroller Gen. Richard Eckstrom at a Wednesday meeting of the S.C. Fiscal Accountability Authority, which met to approve proposals by the state's retirement system. Haley banged her gavel and called the meeting to order, declaring, "It's another great day in South Carolina," her go-to catchphrase that she customarily uses to start meetings and press conferences. Eckstrom cut in, saying, "Governor, if I may," and then proceeded to suggest Haley stop using that introduction. It "creates the impression or could create the impression of some inappropriate melding of politics and the public business that we come here to conduct," he said. Haley's catchphrase ceased to be only a saying when a political group run by her adviser, formed to do Haley's bidding, took the name and targeted Republican state senators in the GOP primaries. **NOTE:** Leatherman also walked out of the Haley-chaired meeting, without offering any explanation, after about an hour and 20 minutes. A Senate aide said he had another meeting to attend. But his exit did not go over well. After the first vote without Leatherman failed in a 2-2 tie, Haley blamed it on the Senate leader's absence.

SC Political News:

The State: SC GOP is changing, says state's first openly gay legislator

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article85960412.html>

Cassie Cope

The S.C. Republican Party is changing, growing more inclusive, says Greenville attorney Jason

Elliott. Elliott says he knows first hand. Next January, Elliott will become South Carolina's first openly gay lawmaker, representing a portion of Greenville in the S.C. House that includes conservative Bob Jones University. "You hear that we're a big tent," Elliott, a former aide to then-U.S. Sen. Jim DeMint, said of the GOP. "Well, we demonstrated that." In the June 14 GOP primary, Elliott unseated sitting state Rep. Wendy Nanney, best known as the author of the state's new law restricting abortions at 20 weeks of pregnancy. Elliott beat the Bob Jones graduate in a 16-percentage-point landslide. Elliott says voters in Greenville's House District 22 know he is gay but his sexual orientation did not play a role in the race.

Associated Press: Officials work to prevent repeat of dueling hate rallies

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kgyeLXX6

Seanna Adcox

Lawmakers in South Carolina want to regulate events at the state Capitol in an effort to avoid the chaos of last July, when opposing hate groups held overlapping rallies and overwhelmed a massive police presence. Since a bill requiring people to obtain a permit for large gatherings on Statehouse grounds failed in April amid First Amendment concerns, a legislative panel is pursuing crowd control through regulations. Drafted rules, similar to those for the U.S. Capitol, have been submitted to the Statehouse Committee for review. They include requiring a permit for gatherings of more than 19 people, requiring an application to be submitted at least 10 days ahead of the planned event, and barring permits for simultaneous events in the same area.

The State: The Buzz: SC Sen. Wes Hayes – the exit interview

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article86015852.html>

Jamie Self

January will be a time of longing for state Sen. Wes Hayes, who – for the first time in three decades – will not be returning to the S.C. State House for a new legislative session. But the Rock Hill Republican has some thoughts on how best to move the state forward after his 31 years under the dome, which he shared with The Buzz when we called for an exit interview.

The State: The Buzz: Trump's campaign cash slump holds true in SC, too

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article86015957.html>

Jamie Self

South Carolina is a red state. But, when it comes to donating money to the presumptive presidential nominees, the GOP's candidate is in the losing corner. At least, in this election cycle. Through the end of May, more than 1,360 South Carolinians had given a total of more than \$1 million to Hillary Clinton, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee. That outpaces the performance of President Barack Obama four years ago. Obama had raised \$748,000 from S.C. residents through the end of May 2012 toward the \$2.7 million total he brought in from the Palmetto State. Donald Trump is trailing far behind, having raised just \$70,294 from about 150 Palmetto State supporters as of the end of May. That trails, by far, the S.C. fund-raising performance of former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, the 2012 GOP presidential nominee. As of May 2012, Romney had raised nearly \$1 million in South Carolina. By the end of the race, Romney had pulled down \$6.7 million from S.C. residents.

SC Elections:

Post and Courier : Runoff elections set for Tuesday

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160625/160629657/runoff-elections-set-for-tuesday>

Schuyler Kropf

Charleston area voters have four runoff elections set for Tuesday, all of which will settle Republican contests. In Dorchester County, voters will choose the GOP coroner's race between Paul Brothers and Mike Giglio. In Charleston, Republicans have a Senate District 41 race runoff between Roy Maybank and Sandy Senn. The seat covers James Island and other parts of Charleston into West Ashley and Dorchester County. Republican voters also will make a pick in the House District 110 primary runoff between William Cogswell and Russell Guerard. The district covers downtown Charleston and Mount Pleasant. Republicans living in the northern part of the county can also vote in the Senate District 34 GOP runoff between Reese Boyd and Stephen Goldfinch.

Aiken Standard: Ruthven, Blackwell to face one another Tuesday in District 81 runoff

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160625/160629674/ruthven-blackwell-to-face-one-another-tuesday-in-district-81-runoff->

Christina Cleveland

The runoff for the S.C. House of Representatives District 81 race will be held Tuesday. Candidates in the runoff are KT Ruthven and Bart Blackwell. Ruthven is a Realtor and former Aiken GOP chairman. Blackwell is a local businessman and member of the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors and was the chairman of the board in 2015. The runoff is being held because none of the candidates running for the seat being vacated by Rep. Don Wells received the majority of the votes needed to win the June 14 primary, forcing the race to go to a runoff between the top two.

Opinion/Editorial:

Post and Courier: After S.C.'s Battle of the Titans

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160626/160629531/after-scs-battle-of-the-titans>

Editorial

Gov. Nikki Haley's efforts to unseat her adversaries in the state Senate contributed to a surprising loss by one long-time incumbent. But it wasn't state Sen. Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence. Sen. Leatherman was the governor's high profile target, but even her popularity among Republican voters couldn't derail his campaign for a 10th term. The 85-year-old senator is still strong in his Florence district, which he won with 54 percent of the vote, against two challengers. The governor complained about pork-barrel spending in his district, but apparently the county's voters are more than happy for Sen. Leatherman to continue his work. He has used his considerable influence on behalf of road projects, higher education and economic development in his district.

Post and Courier: Haley's folly: Trying to oust Leatherman

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160626/160629554/haleys-folly-trying-to-oust-leatherman>

Editorial

Who knows what Gov. Nikki Haley was thinking when she picked a political knife fight with Hugh Leatherman, the most powerful elected male in our state — on his home grounds? As most political veterans had predicted, the governor failed in a thunderclap of personal enmity. Leatherman handily whipped her hand-picked and well-funded candidate in the Republican primary. And then at his election celebration, he declared that the governor is "not just a lame duck — she's a dead duck." That's not the rhetorical threshold for better personal relationships at the very top of South Carolina's governance. It's like the governor poked an old horse in the eye to turn him away. It didn't work — and here comes the kick.

Aiken Standard: Editorial: Public has right to read campaign finance reports

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160625/160629722/editorial-public-has-right-to-read-campaign-finance-reports>

Editorial

Aiken County voters on Tuesday will return to the polls once again to determine who will represent District 81 in the S.C. House of Representatives. KT Ruthven and Bart Blackwell finished first and second, respectively, in a four-person race two weeks ago. Neither received the required majority vote, thus prompting the need for a runoff. The Aiken Standard does not endorse candidates, but we wholeheartedly endorse the belief that everyone should make their voices heard at the polls. A paltry 9 percent of County voters turned out for the June primary. We truly hope turnout numbers will be notably higher this Tuesday. Until then, we want to inform voters about an often overlooked, yet highly critical component of running for public office: campaign finance.

Post and Courier: Ethics law still lacks genuine accountability

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160626/160629544/ethics-law-still-lacks-genuine-accountability>

Editorial

In 2012, the S.C. Policy Council began calling for the abolition of the Legislature's power to police its own members' ethics violations. Currently, of course, House and Senate ethics committees have the power to adjudicate members' ethics cases, keep the information secret until a determination of probable cause is made, and issue non-public "advisory opinions" to members on questionable ethical practices — as if these committees were empowered to issue judicial interpretations of the law. In the intervening four years, multiple bills have been introduced to reform the system, but these bills have almost invariably attempted to rearrange the current system — not to eliminate the ethics committees altogether and place state lawmakers under the same criminal law as everyone else.

The State: The benefit of the doubt, cubed

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scoppe/article85785967.html>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

It's all a fable, this idea that some amazing something in South Carolina's DNA caused us to react not with rioting and animosity but with kumbaya calm when we saw videotape of North Charleston Police Officer Michael Slager gunning down Walter Scott as the unarmed man with a busted taillight ran away. The reality is that North Charleston didn't become another Ferguson or Baltimore not because would-be protesters were different but because the official reaction was different: Mr. Slager was fired, charged with a crime and arrested. We should never feel good when an unarmed person of any race is killed by a police officer whose life is not endangered. But what transformed such killings into a movement was what for too many years in too many places had always happened next: nothing. No charges. No discipline. Often not even a real investigation. We can pass clear deadly force rules and require police to wear body cams. We can do a better job of training police, to help them recognize their biases and to help us weed out rogue officers. And we need to do all that. But laws alone don't change the culture. And our culture needs some work.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Coastal Carolina beats TCU 7-5, to face Arizona in finals

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=3wTLXMco

Eric Olson

It's 1,300 miles from Conway, South Carolina, to Omaha, and it might as well have been a million

miles between the two when Gary Gilmore took over the Coastal Carolina baseball program in 1996. Now, here he and the Chanticleers are, getting ready to play Arizona in a best-of-three series for the national championship starting Monday night - in their first trip to the College World Series. Coastal Carolina earned its spot in the finals with a 7-5 victory over TCU on Saturday night.

The State: Miss Clemson is crowned Miss South Carolina

<http://www.thestate.com/living/article86048407.html>

Miss Clemson Rachel Wyatt of Piedmont was crowned Miss South Carolina Saturday night in Columbia after a week of preliminary rounds at The Township. The 21-year-old Piedmont resident attends Clemson University. She performed a jazz dance in the talent competition Saturday night. Wyatt, was also Miss SC Teen and Miss America's Outstanding Teen 2013. She will compete in the Miss America Pageant September 11, 2016 in Atlantic City. Miss Clemson Teen Makayla Stark of Inman was crowned Friday night as Miss SC Teen.

Associated Press: MOMS program helps pregnant women get off drugs, alcohol

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=yWLwhA4s

Glen Luke Flanagan

MOMS stands for Maternal Outreach Management Services. It launched in 2011, and helps women throughout South Carolina - as well as some from bordering areas. It's nearing its 200th healthy baby, according to counselor Cynthia Franklin. Across the state, South Carolina is seeing an upswing in inpatient deliveries for mothers who have used alcohol or drugs during pregnancy. That's according to data from the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office spanning from 2009 to 2015. During the same period, the state has had a consistent increase of newborns diagnosed with neonatal abstinence syndrome - but Richland and Lexington counties have had a decrease. MOMS is run by the Lexington/Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council. Folks at LRADAC say the program is part of the reason Richland and Lexington counties are bucking the statewide trend.

Local News:

Associated Press: Mistrial declared in kidnapping case of teen missing 2 years

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ISABCx2I

SC State Wire

A judge has declared a mistrial in the trial of a man charged with kidnapping a teen who has not been seen in 30 months. Media outlets report the Horry County jury deliberated about nine hours over two days before the judge ruled they were deadlocked Friday afternoon. Jurors told reporters 10 voted guilty and two not guilty. Sidney Moorner was initially charged with murder, but prosecutors dropped that charge while keeping a kidnapping count in the December 2013 disappearance of then 19-year-old Heather Elvis. Prosecutors say Moorner was having an affair with Elvis called her right before she was last seen. They also said his truck was driving near the boat ramp where Elvis' car was found.

Sun News: What's to gain by merging the Horry police and sheriff agencies

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article85773022.html>

Audrey Hudson

It's up to local voters whether the Horry County Police Department and Sheriff's Office should merge, but unless some council members give the go-ahead Monday, residents won't get a say in the matter during the November election. Horry County council members are divided on whether they will allow the question to be placed on the ballot, but even if they give the initial go-ahead Monday, their limited summer meeting schedule could kill the issue by missing the ballot deadline. Councilmen Jody

Prince, Paul Prince and Tyler Servant support putting the question to the voters, while Bill Howard, Harold Worley and chairman Mark Lazarus are opposed. Al Allen and Gary Loftus are leaning no, while Johnny Vaught and Jimmy Washington are undecided. Cam Crawford could not be reached last week.

Associated Press: SC troopers uses emojis to deliver drunken driving message

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=W6VMm68w

SC State Wire

South Carolina is starting a campaign against drinking and driving based on a trooper's tweets using the little graphic icons called emojis on his smartphone. The Highway Patrol already has 130 billboards up and will include Sgt. Bob Beres' message at convenience stores and high school football tickets. The emojis show an alcoholic drink, the plus sign and a car with an equal sign leading to a police car. The message is drinking and driving equals arrest. "We want zero fatalities in South Carolina. Emojis have become a big hit and we didn't expect it," Beres told the Anderson Independent-Mail (<http://bit.ly/28SBw6g>). Beres says emojis are a simple way to communicate. His mom is Hungarian, speaks little English, but understands. A fellow trooper agrees.

Independent Mail: Upstate law enforcement agencies among those getting grants for body cameras

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/upstate-law-enforcement-agencies-among-those-getting-grants-for-body-cameras-36081e1d-8cd5-16ad-e053-384397771.html>

Mike Ellis

Fifteen law enforcement agencies in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties will soon get a piece of millions of dollars in state funding for police body cameras, maintenance and video storage. Many law enforcement officers in the state will be required to wear body cameras by the end of the year, making it the first state to require such rules, which are tied to "full funding" of body camera programs. The state's Public Safety Coordinating Council is distributing the \$5.8 million throughout the 168 agencies that applied for funding. That includes four solicitors' offices, Ports Authority police, and public safety at four airports and 16 colleges alongside sheriff's offices and police departments.

The State: SC's 'speed trap:' Turbeville committing highway robbery, suit alleges

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article86010642.html>

Jeff Wilkinson

For years, motorists traveling down busy U.S. 378 to Myrtle Beach from the Midlands have heard this advice: Don't speed through Turbeville. Now, a class-action suit has been filed, seeking to force the tiny Clarendon County town to nullify its "town safety" ordinance. That ordinance allows Turbeville to write traffic tickets with higher fines than state traffic tickets and keep the money from the citations. The suit also demands the town return millions of dollars to the tens of thousands of drivers who have received municipal tickets since the local ordinance was passed in 2003. Town financial statements included in the civil suit, filed in state court, show the hamlet of 804 has raked in about \$1 million a year in traffic fines for 13 years, writing more tickets than cities that are 20 times bigger.

Post and Courier: Search called off late Saturday for 3 escaped inmates from Dorchester County jail

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160626/160629523/search-called-off-late-saturday-for-3-escaped-inmates-from-dorchester-county-jail>

Caitlin Byrd and Derrek Asberry

An eight-hour manhunt for three inmates who escaped from a Dorchester County jail early Friday was called off Saturday night due to the darkness and rough terrain. As of Saturday night, the suspects were still at large and police said they were hoping for a sighting of the three. Earlier Saturday, police

said the inmates were contained in an area that stretched from the back of the Hamlets to Charleston Southern University and Interstate 26. Officials were unsure if the inmates are still in that area at the conclusion of the search Saturday night. Police said they would continue monitoring the area lightly, but that there were no plans to resume a full-fledged search on Sunday. "We've exhausted our resources and have done everything we can do right now," said Berkeley County Maj. Jeremy Baker.

Morning News: Florence County Detention Center inmate dies

http://www.scnw.com/news/article_e7f6be0c-3ae8-11e6-aa7c-bfe0de50863d.html

An inmate who was being held at the Florence County Detention Center died Saturday. Florence County Coroner Keith von Lutcken identified the inmate as Gerald Bush. He was 51. An autopsy will be performed this morning at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. Bush was taken to a hospital about at 1 a.m. Saturday because of an unspecified medical emergency and later was pronounced dead, according to the Florence County Sheriff's Office. The sheriff's office said it has asked the State Law Enforcement Division to conduct an independent investigation.

National News:

Associated Press: Obama OKs federal aid for West Virginia; at least 24 dead

<http://bigstory.ap.org/b9fa7dc230e3441fbe77dc5252dc33da>

Janathan Mattise

Offering his condolences, President Barack Obama approved federal aid for the West Virginia communities devastated by floods that have killed at least 24 people and rendered many more homeless. Obama's signature Saturday on the federal disaster declaration lets residents in three counties get aid for temporary housing and home repairs, receive low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and qualify for other assistance for individuals and business owners. Federal money to help the state and local governments is also available on a cost-sharing basis. Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin's administration still believes there are people missing in Greenbrier County, and the death toll there rose by one Saturday, said Tomblin chief of staff Chris Stadelman. The other two counties in the declaration are Kanawha and Nicholas.

World News:

Associated Press: Labour Party revolts against leader over EU vote result

<http://bigstory.ap.org/7344417d18174f199ab37cf2f486a6d4>

Gregory Katz

Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn is facing an open revolt as political turmoil continues to grip Britain after the country voted to leave the European Union. The main opposition party was in turmoil Sunday with two members of the shadow cabinet leaving their posts in a direct challenge to Corbyn. Corbyn first fired shadow foreign secretary Hilary Benn after Benn told Corbyn he had lost confidence in Corbyn's ability to lead the party. "There is no confidence that we will be able to win a general election as long as Jeremy remains the leader," Benn told the BBC's flagship breakfast show. "He's a good and decent man, but he is not a leader. And that's a problem."