

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 4/16/2016 10:21:26 AM
Subject: Clips – Saturday, April 16, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Herald-Journal: Spartanburg restaurant owners receive Order of the Palmetto

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160415/news/160419722>

Trevor Anderson

Two Spartanburg restaurateurs have received the state's highest civilian honor. Lee Ann and Allen Johnston, owners of The Butcher The Baker Management Co. and Chix and Bix LLC, were recently awarded the Order of the Palmetto by Gov. Nikki Haley. The Johnstons' companies operate eight Fuddruckers restaurants in three states and six Bojangles' franchises. In a letter, Haley praised the couple for making a "positive difference" in the lives of their fellow South Carolinians. "It is obvious you have been incredibly effective leaders to those around you," Haley said in the letter. "Through your extensive involvement in civic affairs you have demonstrated a remarkable commitment to bettering the lives of the people of the Palmetto State and your contributions will have a lasting impact for years to come." The couple opened their first restaurant, the Fuddruckers in Spartanburg, in 1985. The governor's office recognized the Johnstons' participation in and gifts to Mobile Meals, March of Dimes, Paws for a Cause, YMCA Scholarship Campaign, Food Rescue Mission and the Carpenter's Table food pantry. Haley's office also cited several other awards and industry recognitions the couple has received, and noted that their company has provided hundreds of jobs for people in the region.

General Assembly News:

The State: Limit Viagra access? S.C. House panel to consider proposal

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article72124167.html#storylink=apmobile>

Cassie Cope

A panel of S.C. lawmakers will consider next week whether to make it more difficult for men to get Viagra and other erectile-dysfunction drugs. State Rep. Mia McLeod, D-Richland, is proposing adding hurdles for men trying to get prescriptions for those drugs. McLeod says she is trying to make a point about the male-dominated General Assembly's willingness to legislate women's health-care options, including limiting abortions. "If we are going to govern ... some of it, I just think we need to govern all of it," McLeod said. McLeod's proposal would require men to obtain a notarized affidavit from at least one sexual partner that states the patient has experienced symptoms of erectile dysfunction during the past 90 days. Patients also would have to see a sex therapist, have a cardiac stress test and be notified of Viagra's risks before they could get a prescription. The leader of Republicans who control the S.C. House says the bill is a waste of time and is unrelated to pro-life legislation.

Greenville News: Cervical cancer vaccine bill passes Legislature

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/04/15/cervical-cancer-vaccine-bill-passes-legislature/83077338/>

Tim Smith

After years of pushing by cancer fighters, a bill to educate students and parents about the benefits of a cervical cancer vaccine that could save lives has finally passed the South Carolina Legislature. The final vote came a year after two Upstate senators, Sen. Lee Bright, a Spartanburg County Republican, and Sen. Mike Fair, a Greenville Republican, blocked the legislation over concerns and questions about what language would be used in a brochure and about possible side effects of the vaccine. In recent weeks, however, the senators relented after some changes to the bill, including a provision that no state money for the education program would be paid to any abortion providers. This week the House concurred with the changes, sending the bill to the Gov. Nikki Haley's desk and an expected signature.

Greenville News: What \$415 million on South Carolina's roads means

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/04/15/what-415-million-south-carolinas-roads-means/83089726/>

Tim Smith

If state lawmakers end up agreeing to spend \$415 million this year on roads, the biggest chunk of it will go onto the state's crumbling primary system, highway officials said Friday, but the amount is not expected to put a dent in the state's overall infrastructure needs. Until recently lawmakers had talked in terms of funding the state Department of Transportation with hundreds of millions of dollars in additional revenue each year. In fact, a chart prepared for lawmakers earlier this year showing what would be accomplished at different funding levels was based on receiving the funding each year for at least a decade. But with the House and Senate at odds over a roads bill this year, lawmakers are focusing on what can be done in the budget for the year beginning in July. The House has proposed spending \$415 million, while the Senate, through its roads bill, has proposed \$400 million. DOT on Friday released to The Greenville News its plan on how it would spend the \$415 million, some of which was designated by the House for certain uses, such as flood recovery...

Times and Democrat: House right to cry foul on roads plan

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/house-right-to-cry-foul-on-roads-plan/article_f2e56586-154c-5baf-a6ab-d0601af252c0.html

Jenny Spears

The S.C. House should stand its ground in the debate over road repairs, even though the governor and Senate leaders are saying representatives' 113-6 vote to alter the plan sent to them by the upper chamber spells the death of the legislation for another year. The S.C. House last year approved a roads bill that appeared to be a reasonable start to meeting the pressing needs of the state's road system. It brought in new, dedicated money for repairs via a 10-cent-a-gallon gas tax increase, made cuts in income taxes that Gov. Nikki Haley said would be necessary to gain her approval of a gas tax increase and made changes in the governance of the S.C. Department of Transportation. The bill failed to gain approval in the Senate, notably through the efforts of Beaufort County Republican Sen. Tom Davis. Backed by some of the chamber's most conservative members, Davis used Senate rules to stall the legislation, contending the gas tax increase is not needed and no new money should go to SCDOT without major reform at the agency.

Wilson-Pascoe Dispute:

Associated Press: SC high court rules prosecutors' dispute can be made public

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=tlIpLqP3

Meg Kinnard

South Carolina's high court has shed light on documents in a dispute between Attorney General Alan Wilson and a special prosecutor he appointed to oversee a legislative corruption investigation. Unsealed late Thursday were papers that Wilson had filed in response to Solicitor David Pascoe. The documents include Wilson's legal defense for his decision to dismiss Pascoe, saying the prosecutor doesn't have authority to challenge the chief of the state grand jury in court and also reiterating previous comments that the attorney general recused himself, not his entire office, from the probe.

The State: Pascoe: Wilson tried to delay, obstruct, discredit State House probe

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article72034022.html>

John Monk

One of the most contentious legal firestorms in recent state history got hotter Friday when special prosecutor David Pascoe filed a reply to Attorney General Alan Wilson in the S.C. Supreme Court in the ongoing battle over the fate of an investigation into public corruption in the Legislature. Pascoe filed his 19-page reply, which included pages of additional exhibits, shortly before noon Friday. "His office has continued to jeopardize the integrity of this investigation by attempting to turn a criminal investigation into a political game," Pascoe wrote, alleging that Wilson has taken "extraordinary action ... to frustrate the underlying investigation." That kind of resistance from the attorney general's office has stymied his investigation into public corruption and "illustrates the Attorney General's continued interference in this matter," Pascoe wrote. The Supreme Court now will decide when and if to hold a public hearing on that matter. Or, the high court could choose to issue an opinion without a public hearing.

Post and Courier: Pascoe accuses Attorney General's Office of ignoring and then interfering in probe

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160415/PC1603/160419559>

Schuyler Kropf and Tony Bartelme

A flurry of legal allegations filed at the S.C. Supreme Court on Friday accuse the Attorney General's Office of ignoring — and then interfering — in the Statehouse corruption probe. The harshest language came from fired special prosecutor David Pascoe, who said Attorney General Alan Wilson's office showed multiple instances of tampering in the investigation, even after Wilson sought to "firewall" himself over a potential conflict of interest tied to an unidentified lawmaker. Among Pascoe's allegations: A ranking Wilson office official spoke with a lawmaker's defense attorney about the supposed weakness of the case. Pascoe also accused Wilson of turning the investigation "into a political game" after he, as the special prosecutor, was blocked from taking the case to a grand jury. Pascoe, 1st Circuit solicitor and a Dorchester County Democrat, singled out what he called Wilson's inappropriate news conference in March where he called Pascoe "tainted" and accused him of mismanaging the probe. The news conference violated the "integrity of this investigation by attacking" Pascoe "both personally and professionally," Pascoe said in Friday's filing.

Savannah River Site News:

Aiken Standard: Savannah River Site CAB meeting highlights progress of several projects

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160413/AIK0101/160419621>

Thomas Gardiner

The Savannah River Site, or SRS, Citizens Advisory Board heard presentations on feral hogs, ash removal and closing industrial wastewater tanks during monthly meetings this week. According to Avery Hammett, environmental scientist with the U.S. Department of Energy at SRS, fencing and barriers have been installed to protect facilities from damage done by feral hogs. She also said another phase in a tree planting operation has been completed, adding the young trees in the project

were badly damaged in the 2014 ice storm, but this recent effort has gotten the project back on track. Hammett said more than 10,000 trees have been planted. According to Hammett, ash removal from ash pit 488-2D has been completed. Brian Hennessey, Federal Facility Agreement Project manager at SRS, said ash removal also is planned for 488-1D, the largest of the pits at SRS. The pits are repositories for coal ash from coal burned to create energy for the site between the 1950s and 2012. Another project milestone will be reached soon as the site will complete closure of another of the industrial wastewater tanks. Hennessey said grouting of Tank 12, which is currently in process, will bring the total number of tanks closed to four in the past three years.

SC Agency News:

WACH: Despite progress, SCDOT still working on flood damaged roads, bridges

<http://wach.com/news/local/despite-progress-scdot-still-working-on-flood-damaged-roads>

Matthew Stevens

South Carolina Department of Transportation Secretary Christy Hall has released her monthly report where the state's roads and bridges stand after October's flooding. Sec. Hall is proud to announce that March 11 crews were able to open US 176 in Newberry County three weeks early. SC DOT are still working to repair 25 bridges, but 21 of those have already been assigned to contractors. Earlier this week, three bridges on Bluff Road in Richland County were closed after an inspection. SCDOT officials believe that October's floods and more flooding in December washed away portions of the stream beds. Additional damages have been sustained since the historic flooding to roadways, pipes, culverts and bridges. "While we are disappointed that our infrastructure continues to suffer from the historic flood and impact the local communities, we are pleased that our inspections discovered these issues before the motoring public was placed at risk," said Hall. Currently, 23 roads remained closed in the state from the floods and the repair damage is projected at \$137 million, with \$49 million coming out of the state's pocket.

SC Political News:

Morning News: Florence seniors get advice on preparing for disaster; McMaster attends event

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_559d11b2-0372-11e6-b1cc-3f168a82e369.html

Joshua Lloyd

South Carolina Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster was in Florence on Friday morning to meet with dozens of area senior citizens and talk about being prepared for if and when disaster strikes. The Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging partnered with local emergency and first responders for an informational session at Walgreen's on Irby Street. "The message we're bringing to these seniors and their families is that we have people who are trained to help us in emergencies but most of don't know how utilize that and who to call," McMaster said. "We're urging these seniors to think ahead and be prepared in case of an emergency." McMaster said items like prescriptions, important paperwork and relative contact information are often neglected when seniors prepare a disaster kit.

WIS: Report: Benjamin gave \$1,000 to Flowers' Richland County sheriff campaign

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31737976/report-benjamin-gave-1000-to-flowers-richland-county-sheriff-campaign>

Jeremy Turnage

The one man challenging current Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott appears to have received a hefty donation from an important Midlands politician. According to State Ethics Commission donation filings, former SLED agent and South Carolina football player James Flowers has received a \$1,000

donation from Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin. Flowers confirmed the donation was from Benjamin, but said he had not received a formal endorsement from the now two-term Columbia mayor. Flowers says, however, that it would be a big endorsement and a big honor. Benjamin said Friday that Flowers has been a personal friend of his for 20 years, adding Flowers was in his wedding party.

"This was a personal decision, not a political one," Benjamin said.

Opinion/Editorial:

Morning News: EDITORIAL: Shame on state lawmakers for fumbling plan to fix our roads

http://www.scnow.com/opinion/editorials/article_364fd7a4-0377-11e6-a801-f736eb041215.html

Thumbs down to our state government for failing AGAIN to agree on a plan to fix our crumbling roads. We were disappointed that the General Assembly didn't pass a road plan in 2015. The House had a plan, but we didn't think it was the best solution to a big problem. The Senate let time expire on its talk because of a filibuster by Tom Davis, a Republican from Beaufort. Leaders assured us that a roads plan was the highest priority in 2016. The Senate finally took action this spring, but the House made changes to the plan, and now senators and Gov. Nikki Haley are saying the bill probably dead for the year. Are you kidding us? The session is far from over. The debate should continue. Politics AGAIN seem to be getting in the way of progress. Haley wants S.C. Department of Transportation reform, to which we are not opposed. The Senate's bill would give Haley the power to appoint all members of the DOT board, with Senate approval. The House changed the bill to have approval by the House and Senate, knowing full well that the Senate would balk. So here we are, going nowhere while bad roads get worse. Big businesses and little citizens have complained loudly. Are our state leaders deaf?

South Carolina News:

WLTX: South Carolina's Jobless Rate Edges up a Bit in March

<http://www.wltx.com/news/local/south-carolinas-jobless-rate-edges-up-a-bit-in-march/135017679>

South Carolina's unemployment rate edged up slightly last month, the first increase in more than a year. The Department of Employment and Workforce said Friday that the state's jobless rate increased to 5.7 percent in March. That was up from 5.5 percent in February. It's the first increase since September 2014. The agency cited a record number of people entering the workforce for the increase. The number of people working in March increased by more than 12,000. Nearly 2 million South Carolinians are now working. Cheryl Stanton, director of South Carolina Department of Employment Workforce, says "businesses are creating opportunities here because they know that South Carolina workers are prepared and have the skills needed to do the job."

Associated Press: Top-ranked Jason Day tied for lead in RBC Heritage

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=JpBEhD4H

Pete Iacobelli

Jason Day is back at the top in a bid for his third PGA Tour title in a month. Coming off a disappointing Masters, the top-ranked Day shot a 2-under 69 on Friday at the RBC Heritage to share the second-round lead with Kevin Chappell and Charley Hoffman. Chappell and Hoffman shot 68s for the second straight day to match Day at 6-under 136. Luke Donald, tied for the first-round lead after a 66, was a stroke back along with Russell Knox and Patton Kizzire. Donald had a 71. Knox shot a 65, the best round of the week. Kizzire had a 68. Past tournament champion Matt Kuchar topped the group at 4 under after a 71.

Island Packet: Jason Day fights off potential meltdown to share RBC Heritage lead

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/article72138862.html>

Stephen Fastenau

Jason Day slipped his arms in a gray Adidas pullover and tugged it over his head, warming up after a trying day. Day likened the Masters last week to a marathon championship fight and was dreading the mental battle he expected Friday at Harbour Town Golf Links with an early tee time and poor weather predicted. But Day felt conditions were better than expected and he shook off a potential mental meltdown late in the round to grab a share of the lead at 6 under par after two rounds of the RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing. Day fired a second 2-under 69, overcoming an out-of-bounds drive on No. 5 to salvage a bogey and shelving a moment threatening to derail his round. The world's top-ranked player is 6 under for the tournament and shares the lead with Charley Hoffman and Kevin Chappell headed to the weekend. "I was standing on the green on 5, and it felt like it took the wind out of my sails a little bit," Day said. "I started feeling tired behind my eyes and saying to myself, 'Stop thinking about it, just focus on what you need to do.' After I holed the putt then it kind of went away."

The State: Rodents and rot: Military facilities are 'failing,' report finds

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/military/article72153987.html>

A quarter of the U.S. military's facilities are falling apart, the Senate Appropriations Committee says. "According to recent facility condition assessment data, one in four Defense facilities are rated as being in poor or failing condition," the committee wrote in the report that accompanies the fiscal 2017 Milcon-VA spending bill that the panel approved Thursday. Examples of the deteriorating state of U. S. military infrastructure are scattered throughout that report and a similar one, also produced this week, from the House Appropriations Committee. Both documents are rife with references to crumbling and unsafe U.S. military structures, some of which are riddled with mold and rodents. The reports come during the same week that the Pentagon reported to Congress that the military has 22 percent excess infrastructure, including a third of the overhead in the Army and Air Force.

Local News:

The State: TSA finds loaded handgun at Columbia Metropolitan Airport security checkpoint

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article72063287.html#storylink=apmobile>

Jane Moon Dial

Transportation Security Administration officials discovered a loaded firearm in a carry-on bag at Columbia Metropolitan Airport Thursday. Officials monitoring a security checkpoint found a loaded .45 caliber handgun in a passenger's carry-on bag about 1:30 p.m., according to TSA regional spokesperson Mark Howell. TSA officers identified the outline of a handgun on a X-ray machine in a backpack and pulled Matthew Cutter aside, according to the incident report. Cutter, 31, of West Columbia has a valid S.C. concealed weapons permit and told officials he carries the handgun in his backpack. He said he forgot to remove it before traveling to Houston for a religious conference, the report stated. The report stated Cutter does not have prior criminal history.

Post and Courier: Emanuel AME Church to host hundreds of people impacted by gun violence

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160415/PC16/160419555>

Jennifer Berry Hawes and Melissa Boughton

Buses from across the state will shuttle at least 300 families hurt by gun violence to an upcoming event at Emanuel AME Church, where a racist gunman is accused of killing nine worshippers last summer. The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence and the S.C. Commission for Minority Affairs are planning a prayer service, live discussion with CNN and premiere of a Katie Couric documentary

about gun violence at the event scheduled for 3:30 p.m. April 24 at the historic church on Calhoun Street. "We want to tell them that we love them and that Jesus loves them," said Louis Smith, co-president of the state's chapter of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. Organizers will hold a press conference to announce the event at 11 a.m. Wednesday in front of Emanuel AME Church along with several dozen families impacted by gun violence.

Sun News: Horry committee investigating effectiveness of violence reduction programs

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article72043777.html>

Charles D. Perry

A special panel tasked with finding solutions to Horry County's struggles with violent crime will begin working toward a set of specific goals next week. Horry County Councilman Al Allen, who appointed the subcommittee in February, last week provided a more detailed outline for the group, which will meet at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the Horry County Government and Justice Center in Conway. "I wanted to come back and to establish the subcommittee on the right track so that there won't be any questions involved," Allen said. "This is something that I take extremely seriously and also something that we here at the county take extremely seriously." Allen created the committee after Grand Strand activists pleaded with county officials to search for new approaches to battling violent crime in the area.

Associated Press: The Citadel considers exception to allow Muslim headscarf

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

Bruce Smith

An incoming freshman female student at The Citadel has asked the military college to let her wear a traditional Muslim headscarf when she begins classes in the fall, the first time such a request has been made at the school known for its buttoned-up uniforms and close-cropped haircuts. Citadel spokeswoman Kim Keelor said Friday that although a number of Muslims have attended the public college, she hasn't heard of any of them ever asking to wear a headscarf. South Carolina's military college, founded in 1842, has a policy that states the college will approve religious accommodation requests unless it "will have an adverse impact on a competing institutional interest including, but not limited to, cohesion, morale, good order and discipline, cadet welfare, safety and/or health." The policy also says "accommodation of a cadet's religious practices must be examined considering these factors and cannot be guaranteed at all times."

Post and Courier: The Citadel considers allowing cadet to wear hijab

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160415/PC16/160419551>

Paul Bowers

The Citadel has set off a heated debate as it considers making an exception to its famously strict dress code for an incoming cadet who has requested to wear a hijab, a head covering worn by some Muslim women. "The college is reviewing the request at this time," said Col. Brett Ashworth, vice president of communications and marketing for the public military college. The possible change in uniform rules has raised the ire of some Citadel cadets and alumni, some of whom expressed their opposition via social media. The Council on American-Islamic Relations will send a letter of support to The Citadel urging the school to allow the hijab, according to spokesman Ibrahim Hooper. Hooper said it is important for The Citadel to send "a message of inclusion" at a time when Muslim-Americans face increasingly hateful rhetoric.

Associated Press: Clemson students say they'll continue sit-in through weekend

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

SC State Wire

One of the organizers of a sit-in at Clemson University says protesters will stay inside the building through the weekend if school leaders don't answer their call to improve the racial climate on campus. The Independent Mail of Anderson reports (<http://bit.ly/1qMKDge>) the sit-in was in its third day Friday despite five students being issued citations Thursday for trespassing. Organizer Sherman Jones said the roughly 40 protesters will remain in the lobby of Sikes Hall if the school takes no action. Jones said protesters want direct talks with President Jim Clements to end the sit-in, which began Wednesday after a campus march to demand more diversity and improved race relations. However, Chief of Staff Max Allen said Clements was not on campus Friday and wouldn't be available.

Sun News: Another beach hazard statement issued for coastal Horry, Georgetown counties

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article71991687.html>

Elizabeth Townsend

A beach hazard statement, warning beach goers about strong wind gusts and longshore currents, has been issued Saturday by the National Weather Service in Wilmington, N.C. for coastal Horry, Georgetown, and parts of southeast North Carolina. The hazard statement is in effect through Saturday evening, weather authorities said. Winds are expected to increase to 20 to 25 mph with occasional higher gusts and as a result a longshore current will develop, according to weather service officials. A beach hazard statement was issued Friday with the same warnings for Horry, Georgetown, and Brunswick, N.C.; however, Saturday's warning highlights coastal Horry, Georgetown, New Hanover, N.C., and Pender, N.C. as hazardous areas. A longshore current is an ocean current that moves parallel to shore and can cause significant beach erosion.

Post and Courier: Real estate project at Patriots Point could top \$300 million

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160415/PC05/160419544>

Allison Prang

A \$300 million real estate project could start taking shape at Patriots Point over the next few years under a deal approved with a Charleston developer on Friday. Bennett Hospitality got the go-ahead to lease 60 acres of state-owned land at the Mount Pleasant tourist attraction. The Patriots Point Development Authority approved the 99-year deal with the company led by veteran hotel developer Michael Bennett. A conceptual plan was unveiled for part of the property, which includes the existing parking lot and gift shop near the Yorktown aircraft carrier. It shows three hotels, office buildings and an amphitheater. "We wanted another reason for locals to come out here," said Bennett. "Our idea is to create a destination, really a national destination, with hotel rooms, with office buildings, with restaurants, with music facilities." Patriots Point said the project Bennett is proposing "is estimated to top \$300 million and generate annual revenue of around \$60 million, creating 1,000 jobs." Construction is expected to take between 15 and 17 years.

Post and Courier: Fruit of the Loom expansion to serve growing retail, e-commerce sectors

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160415/PC05/160419477>

David Wren

Underwear is slowly being transformed by the Internet, and nowhere is that more evident than in Berkeley County. Fruit of the Loom, one of the nation's biggest — and oldest — underwear and intimate apparel manufacturers, cut the ribbon Friday on an expansion of its Summerville-area Palmetto Distribution Center with an eye toward boosting e-commerce sales at the 165-year-old company. "We're gearing up and getting ready to do that," Rick Medlin, Fruit of the Loom's president and CEO, said of his company's foray into web-based sales. "We're building platforms and digital capabilities, as is everybody." The 402,000-square-foot addition more than doubles the Berkeley

County center's original 350,000-square-foot space. The expansion gives the site off Interstate 26 enough capacity to ship 60 million pairs of T-shirts, boxers, briefs and other casual garments each year.

Sun News: Local officials back Chinese investors, but watching as fraud accusations unfold

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/business/article72124977.html>

Audrey Hudson

Local officials are trying to learn more about reports that the Chinese government is investigating a company linked to Founders Group International -- owner of multiple Grand Strand businesses and 22 golf courses -- but say they don't plan to curtail future courting of foreign investors. Several Chinese publications and business websites are reporting that Yiqian Funding, the parent company of Founders Group, is accused of creating shell companies and Ponzi Schemes, prompting the Chinese government to raid two company offices and freeze some assets in its investigation of fraud. A Founders Group official said the actions in China won't affect FGI properties along the Grand Strand. Horry County Council Chairman Mark Lazarus said the news is concerning, but he is waiting to get more information as to whether the Chinese investigation would have any impact on Myrtle Beach area businesses or golf courses.

National News:

Associated Press: Michigan urges toughest lead rules in US after Flint crisis

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:8f8a23eab94c4ab7844b5acd40de77a0>

David Eggert

Michigan would have the toughest lead-testing rules in the nation and require the replacement of all underground lead service pipes in the state under a sweeping plan that Gov. Rick Snyder and a team of water experts unveiled Friday in the wake of Flint's water crisis. Other proposals include requiring utilities to test all schools, day care centers, nursing homes and similar facilities — not just some people's houses — and the mandatory disclosure of lead plumbing in home sales and rental contracts. The plan was given to The Associated Press before it was presented to a committee that Snyder appointed to work on long-term fixes related to Flint's lead-tainted water crisis. It is unclear how much the proposal will cost, and the policy workgroup purposely did not take funding into account. The Republican governor said at Friday's meeting in Flint that he wants a "marker in the ground," and he expects the plan to generate legislative debate and a better accounting of cost considerations.

Associated Press: With friends like these: GOP race spurs awkward endorsements

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:f7a4f2c591444b45ac1ad8f1e20701c6>

Julie Pace

Sen. Lindsey Graham says Republican presidential hopeful Ted Cruz is "not my favorite." Ben Carson says there are "better people" than Donald Trump to serve as commander in chief. And those are the candidates Graham and Carson want to win. Presidential endorsements often create strange alliances — remember over-the-top Trump validating buttoned-up Mitt Romney four years ago? But rarely have so many partnerships of political necessity appeared to be as reluctant, awkward, even downright tortured as in the 2016 GOP race.

Associated Press: Iran calls for US to ease banking restrictions

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:63d2ac59b05448809aa4de8072d2bc73>

Iran's foreign minister on Saturday called on the United States to ease restrictions on non-American

banks doing business with the Islamic Republic, saying it would help reassure Iranians over last year's nuclear deal. "Iran will definitely put pressure on the United States to pave the way for the cooperation of non-American banks with Iran," Mohammad Javad Zarif said during a press conference with visiting EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini. "The other party, particularly the United States, is required to implement its commitments in banking cooperation," he said, referring to the historic agreement, which lifted sanctions on Iran in return for it curbing its nuclear activities. Zarif added that the "Iranian people should feel results from the nuclear deal."

World News:

Associated Press: Rescuers rush to trapped residents as Japan quakes kill 41

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:a4b555a102514ab8a9a5aec5add9cf6b>

Emily Wang and Mari Yamaguchi

Army troops and other rescuers rushed Saturday to try to reach scores of trapped residents after a pair of strong earthquakes in southwestern Japan killed at least 41 people, injured about 1,500 and left hundreds of thousands without electricity or water. Rain was forecast to pound the area overnight, threatening to further complicate the relief operation and set off more mudslides in isolated rural towns, where people were waiting to be rescued from collapsed homes. Police in Kumamoto prefecture said Saturday night that 32 people had died in the magnitude-7.3 quake and aftershocks that shook the Kumamoto region on the southwestern island of Kyushu early Saturday. Nine died in a magnitude-6.5 quake that hit the same area Thursday night. Four people were missing in Minamiaso, Japan's Kyodo news agency reported. The village near Mount Aso volcano appears to have been the hardest hit by the second earthquake.

Associated Press: Pope brings 12 Syrian refugees to Italy in lesson for Europe

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:70062440a245491cbc216320d0f45507>

Derek Gatopoulos, Nicole Winfield and Elena Becatoros

Pope Francis gave Europe a concrete lesson Saturday in how to treat refugees by bringing 12 Syrian Muslims to Italy aboard his charter plane after an emotional visit to the hard-hit Greek island of Lesbos. The Vatican said the three families, including six children, would be supported by the Holy See and cared for by Italy's Catholic Sant'Egidio Community. Sant'Egidio has worked out a program with the Italian government to grant deserving refugees humanitarian visas to live in Italy while their asylum applications are being processed. The Vatican said Francis wanted to make a "gesture of welcome" at the end of his five-hour visit to Lesbos, where he implored Europe to respond to the migrant crisis on its shores "in a way that is worthy of our common humanity." The Greek island just a few miles from the Turkish coast has seen hundreds of thousands of desperate people land on its shores in the last year, fleeing war and poverty at home.

Camlin Moore

Cell: [803-206-8236](tel:803-206-8236)

Office: [803-734-8044](tel:803-734-8044)