

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
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Subject: Morning Clips – Friday, April 29, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier (Editorial): Haley makes persuasive case

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160429/PC1002/160429340>

Gov. Haley told the subcommittee Thursday: "You could pay the state of South Carolina to host these terrorists, and we wouldn't take them. For any amount of money." The governor also pointed out that our state, including our community, is a popular tourist destination. She asked: "Who's going to come vacation in a state that is now known to have these terrorists? It would make Charleston one of the most high-profile terrorist targets in the world." As for President Barack Obama's pitch that closing Gitmo and moving terror detainees to the U.S. would save lots of money for federal taxpayers, Gov. Haley offered this alternative: "I come from a state where we balance our budget — I promise we can help you find the \$85 million elsewhere to cut." Gov. Haley fairly stressed, too, that South Carolina — and Charleston — saw more than enough of the face of hate with last June's mass murder at Charleston's Mother Emanuel AME Church.

Washington Free Beacon: Haley: Terrorists Don't Need a Jail to Hate Us, They Do That On Their Own

<http://freebeacon.com/national-security/haley-terrorists-jail-hate/>

Jenna Lifhits

In a hearing on Guantanamo Bay transfers to the U.S. Thursday, Gov. Nikki Haley (R., S.C.) said that closing the detention facility would not eliminate anti-U.S. terrorist propaganda because terrorists will hate the U.S. with or without Guantanamo Bay. "Moving detention operations from a secure facility outside of the continental United States and into Charleston will not stop the propaganda," Haley said, referring to the Obama administration's argument that Guantanamo Bay is used as a terrorist recruitment tool. "This line of thinking is giving the terrorists too much credit, and too much validity," Haley said before the House Homeland Security Committee. "Terrorists do not need a jail to hate us. They hate us on their own."

Voice of America: Governor Haley: No Guantanamo Detainees Wanted in South Carolina

<http://www.voanews.com/content/governor-nikki-haley-south-carolina-guantanamo-detainees/3307397.html>

Cindy Saine

Perry invited South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, who has been outspoken about not wanting detainees transferred to a naval brig near Charleston. She told the panel that Defense Department officials visited the navel brig, but have not kept her informed about their plans. Haley brought up last June's massacre at a Charleston, South Carolina, church Bible study by suspected killer Dylann Roof. Roof allegedly killed nine people in the historic Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church as they prayed with him. Haley told the committee: "Last summer, the people of Charleston stared hate directly in the eye. We know true hate, and we know what fear it can bring. We don't need to see it again, nor do we wish it on any other state. Keep the terrorists where they are, where they belong. Do not bring them to my home."

Politico: 31 times Trump got roasted

<http://www.politico.com/story/2016/04/trump-jokes-222530>

Nick Gass

Flash forward five years and Trump now has the Republican nomination within his grasp. And while he's said he'll be skipping this year's Washington-meets-Hollywood bash, Trump is expected again to be skewered, sliced and roasted.

With that in mind, here are 31 of the most incisive jokes from that night in 2011 and in the years that followed, on the campaign trail and off, all of them using Trump as a way to generate laughs at his expense: Note: 14. "Donald has attacked every person of color – except John Boehner. And he has demonstrated that he has a very difficult time when he has to deal with bright women of authority, like Megyn Kelly and Governor Nikki Haley. Can't you picture it? Can't you picture his reaction watching Hillary take the oath of office? It's going to be worth the price of admission." - March 5, 2016, at the Gridiron Dinner.

General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Palmetto Politics: April squabbles bring May budget talks

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160429/160429330/palmetto-politics-april-squabbles-bring-may-budget-talks>

Gavin Jackson

The table is set for the South Carolina Legislature's final month of the 2016 session--any bills that may become laws have crossed over to the opposite chamber this week and Senate budget deliberations will start Tuesday. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, told senators Thursday he expects deliberations on the \$7.5 billion budget to take one week instead of the typical two weeks. "My intent is to finish the appropriation bill next week, so you may want to come with a clean shirt," Leatherman said. "I hope Friday or before we finish the budget."

Note: Once the budget is approved by the Senate it returns to the House, which usually amends it leading to a conference committee. There several senators and representatives hash out a compromise on the budget and send it for approval from both chambers. It's ratified and sent to Gov. Nikki Haley. She has five days, Sunday excluded, to veto parts of the budget and return it to the House. In order to override any vetoes by the governor a two-thirds vote of present and voting members is required in both bodies.

WSPA: SC Legislature crossover deadline: What's dead and what's alive

<http://wspa.com/2016/04/28/sc-legislature-crossover-deadline-whats-dead-and-whats-alive/>

Robert Kittle

Thursday was the crossover deadline at the South Carolina Statehouse, when a bill had to have passed either the House or Senate and crossed over to the other body to have a realistic chance of becoming law this year. The deadline is actually May 1, but since that's on a Sunday this year and lawmakers don't meet on Fridays or Saturdays, Thursday was this year's deadline. A bill that doesn't make the deadline isn't completely dead, but it would require a two-thirds vote just to bring it up, which is unlikely. The biggest issue of the year, fixing state roads and bridges, is still alive. Ethics reform is also still alive, after the Senate passed two bills Wednesday. A bill to require refugees to register with the state is still alive, and so is a bill that would ban abortions after 19 weeks. Also alive is a bill to have the state borrow up to \$200 million to repair crumbling school buildings. Another bill that's dead would have changed the state's disturbing schools law.

The State: S.C. Senate to unveil portrait of Clementa Pinckney next month

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article74521737.html#storylink=apmobile>

Cassie Cope

The S.C. Senate said Thursday that the official portrait of slain state Sen. Clementa Pinckney, killed in Charleston's Emanuel AME Church massacre last summer, will be unveiled May 25. A ceremony will be held at 4 p.m. in the Senate chamber to remember the politician-pastor, gunned down with eight of his parishioners. "This portrait will be a lasting tribute to the life of Senator Pinckney, appropriately reflecting his service to our citizens and his church," said state Sen. Gerald Malloy, D-Darlington. "But, more importantly, it will be a constant lesson of the power of grace in the face of tragedy."

Post and Courier: Outlook for smelter dims as bill to save Mount Holly plant dies

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160428/PC05/160429374>

David Wren

A state Senate bill that would have let Century Aluminum buy all of its electricity on the open market failed to

get past a subcommittee hearing Thursday, dimming the possibility of a last-minute deal to save the company's Mount Holly smelter and its 300 jobs. "I never want to definitively say something is dead, because as long as we're in session there's always a possibility," said state Sen. Larry Grooms, R-Charleston, one of the bill's sponsors. "But I don't see a reasonable possibility at this point." Grooms said the legislative lifeline, introduced earlier this month, got a late start in the session and was gaining support but ran out of time.

LGBT Laws:

Associated Press: Horry County Schools changes bathroom policy

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ccocNH7z

SC State Wire

Horry County Schools has agreed to let a transgender student use the boys' bathroom after he was suspended for using the "wrong" bathroom. Media outlets report that the Transgender Law Center sent an email April 21 to Horry County Superintendent Rick Maxey threatening legal action if a transgender high schooler wasn't allowed to use the bathroom consistent with his gender identity. The email said Horry County Schools had until Wednesday to respond.

Sun News: Transgender Socastee student allowed to use boys' bathroom after suspension

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/education/article74512707.html>

Claire Byun

Horry County Schools has agreed to let a transgender student use the boys' bathroom after he was suspended in January, according to a release from a legal agency who threatened to sue the district. The Transgender Law Center – which works to change laws and policies “so that all people can live safely, authentically, and free from discrimination regardless of their gender identity or expression” – sent an email to Horry County Superintendent Rick Maxey last Thursday threatening legal action if a transgender high schooler was not allowed to use the bathroom consistent with his gender identity. The student, identified as “R,” was banned from the boys' room in October 2015, according to the letter from the center's staff attorney Alison Pennington.

Post and Courier: North Carolina, we've got a Bright idea for you

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160429/PC16/160429362>

Brian Hicks

Just a few years ago, no one would have dared dream we might one day be considered the sane Carolina. After all, we're the ones who started the war, had a governor go missing and nominated a U.S. Senate candidate with a rap sheet. But we endured. We got used to it. Well, now we have a chance to turn it around. For a month now, North Carolina has been making a fool of itself because the nuts that took over the Statehouse in Raleigh concocted some bathroom legislation to stir up the anti-civil rights crowd. Now, it's a shame to take advantage of someone else's misfortune, but we have to face facts: the crazier they look, the better South Carolina seems in comparison. So we need to seize this opportunity to overcome some unfortunate, long-standing stereotypes. We can do it in one swift act that will cut down on our craziness while ratcheting up the lunacy in North Carolina. It's really pretty simple.

Washington Post: 'Bathroom bills' focus on the trans community but could affect another group more

https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/bathroom-bills-focus-on-the-trans-community-but-could-affect-another-group-more/2016/04/24/c5026920-0a26-11e6-bfa1-4efa856caf2a_story.html

Steven Petrow

The political storm around HB2, North Carolina's sweeping “bathroom bill,” has focused on its implications for transgender individuals, but much less has been written about what it means for the “gender nonconforming.” By that I mean those women and men, girls and boys whose appearance doesn't fit neatly into traditional male and female boxes — or restrooms. To be blunt: It has been cruel. As you can tell, my sympathies lie with those who are judged and discriminated against on the basis of their appearance. I know just how hurtful these kinds of comments are.

SC Political News:

McClatchy DC: Confederate flag will fly at The Citadel, for now

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/national/article74504082.html>

Vera Bergengruen

The Confederate battle flag will continue to fly at The Citadel for the time being, after the rejection of a defense budget amendment in the early morning hours on Thursday. During the marathon 16-hour markup of the annual defense budget bill, the House Armed Services Committee rejected a measure championed by Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., that would have forced The Citadel to choose between displaying the flag and federal funding of its Reserve Officers' Training Corps program. "I am greatly disappointed that a majority of Republican members of the House Armed Services Committee have voted to keep the Confederate battle flag flying in a place of worship at The Citadel," Clyburn said in a statement after the effort failed. "Americans' tax dollars should not be directed to institutions where it is flown."

Greenville News: Issue of Confederate flag at Citadel erupts in Congress

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/04/28/issue-confederate-flag-citadel-erupts-congress/83652996/>

Tim Smith

State Republican leaders say they have no wish to change the state law aimed at protecting memorials just because the flying of the Confederate flag at a Citadel chapel has prompted debate in Congress. The issue surfaced Thursday during debate before the U.S. House Armed Services Committee as members took up the National Defense Authorization Act for 2017. U.S. Rep. Adam Smith, the panel's ranking Democrat, proposed an amendment that would prohibit funding for Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs at an institution that flies the Confederate flag, a measure aimed at The Citadel, which flies the flag at its Summerall Chapel, the gift of an alumnus.

SC Agency News:

WCSC: DHEC to test students for TB exposure at Charleston-area middle school

<http://www.live5news.com/story/31843970/dhec-to-test-students-for-tb-exposure-at-charleston-area-middle-school>

Patrick Phillips

The state's Department of Health and Environmental Control will test students at a Charleston-area middle school to determine if they have been exposed to tuberculosis. DHEC will conduct a disease investigation at C. E. Williams Middle School on Tuesday, according to DHEC spokesman Robert Yanity. Hours for the testing for affected students are 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. The test will require blood to be drawn and parents or guardians will be required to sign and return a consent form. The test is being done because a person associated with the school tested positive for the disease.

WIS: SCDOT honors workers who died on the job

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31845305/scdot-honors-workers-who-died-on-the-job>

Billie Jean Shaw

The S.C. Department of Transportation paid tribute Thursday to workers who died while on the job. The Worker's Memorial Day was at SCDOT headquarters in Columbia. Since 1979, 34 men and women have been killed when working for the Department. Three of them were workers killed over the past year, including Timothy Gibson. Gibson died while repairing roads during October's historic flood. His wife, Allison, hopes Thursday's ceremony sheds light on the dangers SCDOT workers put themselves in every day. "This is a sacrifice," Gibson said. "They have large families. They have co-workers. They're severely missed. It's a really, really sad day, but at the same time, we're really honored to be here."

WACH: SCDOT remember those who lost their lives on the job

<http://wach.com/news/local/scdot-remember-those-who-lost-their-lives-on-the-job>

Matthew Stevens

The SCDOT recognized three employees who lost their lives while on duty, Thursday. Timothy Gibson, Henry "Ray" Norris Jr. and Paul Fee were remembered at the ceremony. Gibson was working during October's historic flooding and lost his life when he was working in the Gills Creek and got swept away from rushing waters. "They have large families, they have coworkers and they are severely missed and it's a really sad day, but at the same time we are really honored to be their coworkers; here it's a really good thing," said Gibson's wife, Allison.

SC Elections:

Independent Mail: Republican challengers criticize Sheriff Skipper's leadership

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/republican-challengers-criticize-sheriff-skippers-leadership-317c93d1-13e7-5885-e053-0100007fb7b0--377524691.html>

Kirk Brown

The two Republicans challenging Anderson County Sheriff John Skipper in an upcoming election criticized his leadership during a debate Thursday night. Jeremy Pickens said too many deputies are leaving the Sheriff's Office. "We are not keeping and retaining enough deputies to have them out there proactively patrolling," said Pickens, a former South Carolina Highway Patrol trooper who is now working for the Anderson Police Department. "We have very little proactive policing in this county and we are paying for it. They are just riding around being secretaries right now." Chad McBride voiced similar concerns.

Opinion/Editorial:

Post and Courier: Don't stymie demonstrators

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160429/PC1002/160429339>

Editorial

The S.C. Senate on Thursday wisely voted down a bill that would have restricted people's ability to demonstrate at the Statehouse. Not only was it unnecessary, it could have discouraged people from speaking out on issues of importance to the state. And indeed, legislators ought to be looking for ways to encourage popular participation in government. Elected officials who really listen to the people they represent often make wiser decisions — or certainly more informed decisions. And if giving people a way to speak their minds arouses their interest, they might be more eager to vote. That's vital in a state where fewer than 60 percent of eligible people cast ballots, even in presidential elections.

Sun News: Transparency missing in handling of Horry police chief's 'retirement'

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/opinion/editorials/article74486532.html>

Editorial

Red flags go up when high profile people leave their jobs by so-called mutual agreement and that surely is so in the retirement/resignation of Horry County Police Chief Sandra Rhodes. Rhodes' announcement last week stunned most folks not in the loop of the department and Horry County government. Rhodes was the first black female to hold the county "top cop" post. She was named chief four years ago and served in a variety of positions in the department for more than 20 years. In a follow-up report, Horry County Council Chairman Mark Lazarus said he did not know Rhodes' reasons. "After 23 years, she turned in her resignation and retirement — she's ready to take retirement and seek other opportunities and we wish her well." We also wish she — and/or county administrator Eldridge — will be more forthcoming as to the reasons for Rhodes' retirement/resignation. More transparency better serves all concerned, including the public.

NFL Draft News:

Post and Courier: Clemson DE Shaq Lawson drafted by Buffalo Bills in first round

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160428/PC20/160429331>

Aaron Brenner

The pipeline from upstate South Carolina to western New York is alive and well. Former Clemson defensive end Shaq Lawson was selected by the Buffalo Bills with the No. 19 overall pick of the 2016 NFL Draft Thursday

night, the fourth straight year the Bills have tabbed a former Tiger to join their franchise. Becoming the 21st Tiger to be taken with a top-20 pick in school history, Lawson decided to forego his senior year at Clemson.

Greenville News: Clemson's Lawson becomes latest Bill

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/sports/college/clemson/2016/04/28/clemsons-lawson-becomes-latest-bill/83670862/>

Scott Keepfer

The Buffalo Bills love Clemson. Clemson defensive end Shaq Lawson became the latest Tiger to join the franchise Thursday night when he was selected No. 19 overall by the Bills in the first round of the 2016 NFL Draft. Lawson will join two other Clemson products with the Bills – wide receiver Sammy Watkins and safety Jonathan Meeks.

Independent Mail: Bills select Shaq Lawson to lead off Clemson's 2016 draft

<http://www.independentmail.com/sports/college/clemson/bills-select-shaq-lawson-to-lead-off-clemsons-2016-draft-31969a2b-15d5-5b13-e053-0100007f2e83-377530081.html>

Dan Hope

The Buffalo Bills selected former Clemson defensive end Shaq Lawson with the No. 19 overall pick in Thursday's first round of the 2016 NFL draft, making Lawson the first Tiger to be selected this year. A product of D.W. Daniel High School, Lawson recorded 47 total tackles for loss, including 20 sacks, in his three-year Clemson career.

South Carolina News:

The State: SC blacks, whites agree: Both are to blame for poor race relations; both must change

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article74378062.html>

Jamie Self

Most South Carolinians rate race relations in the state as only fair or worse. But asked who is to blame and who is responsible for improving race relations, South Carolinians — black and white — are in close agreement. Both races are equally to blame, 60 percent of whites and 61 percent of blacks say. And both races equally are responsible for changing to improve those relations, 69 percent of whites and 73 percent of blacks say. Those opinions were released Thursday in the latest Winthrop Poll.

Post and Courier: S.C. poll: Blacks, whites agree on Confederate battle flag removal, but not on all racial progress

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160428/PC1603/160429388>

Schuyler Kropf

When it comes to issues of black and white in South Carolina, most agree it was the right decision to bring the Confederate battle flag down from the Statehouse grounds following the racially motivated Emanuel AME Church shooting last year. But beyond that, there still remains a level of mistrust and finger-pointing over who is responsible for the climate today, a poll by Winthrop University released Thursday has found.

Aiken Standard: Poll: African-Americans in S.C. believe racism is most important problem facing U.S.

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160429/AIK0101/160429392>

Maayan Schechter

Racism, rather than the economy, education or government, is the most important problem facing the nation, South Carolina's black residents said in a new Winthrop poll. The poll, published Thursday, compiles how white and black residents view various issues from the removal of the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds to thoughts on Gov. Nikki Haley. The poll follows the controversial removal of the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds last year.

Associated Press: Friend of alleged Charleston church shooter entering plea

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=56CqEj4y

Meg Kinnard and Bruce Smith

A friend of the man accused of gunning down nine black parishioners during a Bible study in a South Carolina church is appearing before a judge to plead guilty to federal charges. Under a plea agreement signed by 21-year-old Joey Meek and federal prosecutors, Meek will plead guilty to lying to authorities and failing to report a crime. He appears before U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel on Friday in Charleston.

Island Packet: Spike in car crashes along S.C. roads makes for dangerous commutes

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/traffic/article74479422.html>

Wade Livingston

Last year, there were 126 reported collisions on the roughly 11-mile stretch of S.C. 46 that runs through Beaufort County, according to accident data provided by the S.C. Highway Patrol. In 2012, there were 88 accidents. In 2015, there were 110 accidents on the almost-five-mile span of S.C. 170 (between S.C. 46 to the south and U.S. 278 to the north). Three years earlier, there were just 63. From 2012 until March 25 of this year, there have been 11 fatal collisions on those roads and on S.C. 315 and U.S. 17 in Jasper County — a large portion of the Bluffton-to-Savannah commute. The peak time for accidents, according to Lance Cpl. Matthew Southern of the S.C. Highway Patrol, is from 7 to 9 a.m., and 4 to 6 p.m. — the morning and evening commute hours.

Local News:

Greenville News: Officer Jacobs honored as warrior, leader

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2016/04/28/officer-jacobs-honored-warrior-leader/83605496/>

Anna Lee

Soldier. Paratrooper. Leader. Warrior. That's how Billy Wilkins, the former chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, described officer Allen Jacobs during an award ceremony Thursday. Jacobs was the recipient of this year's Billy Wilkins Award for Excellence in Law Enforcement, presented annually to an officer who exhibits selfless service to his or her community.

Sun News: New report: Conway firefighter killed trying to jump onto truck

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article74525252.html>

The South Carolina Department of Public Safety has released its initial incident report that describes what happened the day that Conway firefighter Christopher Ray was killed. The report says the driver of the fire engine was attempting to back up at the house fire on Hickory Circle in Conway. Ray was in the road and attempted to jump onto the fire truck, slipped and got tangled in the fire house. The truck then backed over Ray in the road, the report said.

The State: Prince's drummer in Columbia's Five Points for a tribute

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article74593967.html>

Prince's longtime drummer, Columbia native John Blackwell, helped Five Points kick off its Five After Five concert series Thursday with a tribute to the musical superstar. The Five Points fountain also was dyed purple in remembrance. The musical superstar died unexpectedly last Thursday, leaving his fans shocked and sad.

Herald-Journal: Spartanburg inmates embrace GED program as chance for better life

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160428/articles/160429635>

Allison M. Roberts

Female inmates at the Spartanburg County Jail started General Educational Development classes earlier this week in hopes of finding new opportunities after their release from jail. "I think the classes are great," said Amber Wilds. "Once I committed my first crime, the type of crime I committed made it really hard to get a job. Not being able to get a job led me to resort to other ways to make money. That, in turn, made me a repeat offender. "Now, knowing I've got a high school diploma or equivalency under my belt, I'm more qualified to get jobs beyond just my criminal record." Getting inmates to think about bettering their lives so they don't return to jail is exactly what the GED program seeks to encourage, said Detention Center Director Neal Urch.

The State: Exclusive: Fort Jackson to train 2,000 more soldiers annually, add 210 jobs

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article74534892.html#storylink=apmobile>

Jeff Wilkinson

Fort Jackson will receive another training battalion in October 2017, according to post commanders, a move that would boost the post's local economic impact and increase its value to the Army in the face of expected budget cuts. The battalion — consisting of about 500 additional soldiers during each 10-week basic training cycle — will bring with it 210 jobs from drill sergeants to support personnel. It will also swell the number of soldiers trained annually at the nation's largest military training base to 46,000 in 2018 from 44,000 this year, according to Lt. Col. James Allen, the fort's director of operations.

Associated Press: Caterpillar closing 5 more plants amid low demand

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=xQ8n3bkk

SC State Wire

Caterpillar Inc. says it will close five more factories - including an Oxford, Mississippi, plant - as the Peoria, Illinois-based heavy equipment maker reacts to slowing demand for construction and mining equipment worldwide by cutting capacity. The closure was one of five announced Thursday, cutting 820 jobs overall. Over the next 18 months Caterpillar is also closing: a 325-employee electric generator packaging facility in Newberry, South Carolina, and a 75-employee generator assembly panel plant in Ridgeway, South Carolina, shifting work to company plants in Seguin, Texas; Lafayette, Indiana; and Griffin, Georgia.

The State: Caterpillar closings in Newberry, Ridgeway to cost 400 jobs

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article74499102.html#storylink=apmobile>

Caterpillar is closing its plants in Newberry and Ridgeway as part of an "aggressive and significant" restructuring announced in September, according to a statement from the company. In Newberry, an electric power generator set packaging facility will close, resulting in the loss of about 325 jobs. At Ridgeway, about 75 jobs will be lost with the closure of a generator set control panel assembly facility.

The State: Next steps will come at Richland taxpayers' expense in penny tax dispute

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article74531052.html#storylink=apmobile>

Sarah Ellis

It could cost Richland County taxpayers millions if county leaders follow the state's demands to overhaul the accounting structure of the county's transportation penny sales tax, at least one County Council member says. Meanwhile, county leaders continue to question the state Department of Revenue's authority to demand the changes it has and to withhold the county's penny tax revenue, which the revenue department said this week it now will do. And whatever the county does next will cost taxpayers money.

National News:

Associated Press: Fights follow Trump rally in Southern Cal, about 20 arrested

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:9eaf87c40a024c338e4cbee7bed56d31>

Gillian Flaccus and Amy Taxin

Raucous protesters and supporters of Donald Trump took to the streets in California leading to some 20 arrests as the Republican presidential contender brought his campaign to conservative Orange County after sweeping the Northeast GOP primaries. Dozens of protesters were mostly peaceful Thursday as Trump gave his speech inside the Pacific Amphitheatre. After the event, however, the demonstration grew rowdy late in the evening and spilled into the streets.

Associated Press: Congressional GOP beginning to accept Trump as nominee

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:a46ce2318e15416e9e39a11dba9e1c06>

Erica Werner

Congressional Republicans are beginning to accept, and even embrace, an outcome that was once unthinkable: Donald Trump as the GOP presidential nominee. In the wake of the businessman's commanding wins in five Eastern states this week, a growing number of lawmakers say that Trump is taking on an air of

inevitability. Some argue they should get behind him now instead of trying to stand in his way, as some establishment Republicans are still attempting to do by backing various "Never Trump" efforts.

Associated Press: North Korea sends another US citizen to prison

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:31900d1197d64a2cb4024a3983c528b0>

North Korea on Friday sentenced a U.S. citizen of Korean heritage to 10 years in prison after convicting him of espionage and subversion, the second American it has put behind bars this year. Kim Dong Chul had been detained in the North on suspicion of engaging in spying and stealing state secrets. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison with hard labor after a brief trial in Pyongyang. North Korea's Supreme Court found Kim guilty of crimes and espionage and subversion of under Articles 60 and 64 of the North's criminal code.

World News:

Associated Press: At the Vatican, Biden calls for global commitment to cancer

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/0666e070cd194159befbdd6d173d59f2/biden-see-pope-francis-discuss-cancer-cures-vatican>

Josh Lederman

Casting cancer as a scourge with no boundaries, Vice President Joe Biden came to the Vatican on Friday to call for a global commitment to fund cancer research rooted in appreciation for the real people's lives that doctors and researchers hold in their hands. Biden, who lost a son to cancer last year, used his appearance at a Vatican conference on regenerative medicine to urge philanthropists, corporations and governments to increase funding and information-sharing in a bid to "end cancer as we know it." He said the world is on the cusp of unprecedented breakthroughs but said the world still has not done enough.

Associated Press: After brief lull, new air raids over Syrian city of Aleppo

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:d78e3915d2304540b3753672a26c361e>

Bassem Mroue

After a brief morning lull, Syrian government warplanes launched fresh airstrikes Friday targeting rebel-held parts of Aleppo, raising fears of more casualties after days of carnage that propelled the contested northern city once again as a main battlefield in Syria's devastating civil war. The airstrikes shattered the lull that had engulfed Aleppo since dawn hours and prompted religious leaders to suspend Friday prayer sermons in the city mosques, according to activists from the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and the Local Coordination Committees.

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Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044