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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Haley says Mike Pence will fix Washington but no mention of Trump

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160715/160719623/haley-says-mike-pence-will-fix-washington-but-no-mention-of-trump>

Gavin Jackson

Gov. Nikki Haley applauded presumptive GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump's selection of Indiana Gov. Mike Pence as his running mate. "Mike Pence is a friend, but more than that, he is a strong conservative reformer who has delivered results for the people of Indiana," Haley said in a statement Friday. "Washington is broken, but we don't have to look any further than leaders like Mike Pence for the solutions to fix it." Haley did not mention Trump in her statement or in the email from her office. Rather, the note said, "Governor Nikki Haley today issued the following statement regarding the selection of Gov. Mike Pence as the Republican nominee for Vice President of the United States." Haley and Trump have butted heads throughout the presidential campaign. Haley even alluded to Trump in her nationally televised response to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address in January.

The State: SC Gov. Haley praises Trump's VP pick as 'strong conservative reformer'

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article89825212.html>

Jamie Self

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley Friday praised Donald Trump's selection of Indiana Gov. Mike Pence to be his vice-presidential running mate. "Mike Pence is a friend, but more than that, he is a strong conservative reformer who has delivered results for the people of Indiana," Haley said in a statement. Haley went to Indiana last year to campaign for Pence during his re-election bid. "Washington is broken, but we don't have to look any further than leaders like Mike Pence for the solutions to fix it," Haley said. Trump confirmed on Twitter Friday that Pence was his choice, adding he would hold a press conference Saturday to discuss the pick.

USA Today: Republicans praise Pence as Trump running mate

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/onpolitics/2016/07/15/republicans-praise-pence-trump-running-mate/87128760/>

Eliza Collins

Mike Pence being on Donald Trump's ticket is making some conservatives very happy. Trump announced his vice presidential pick on Twitter Friday morning, and other Republicans and groups shared their praise...

NOTE: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley — who at one point in the primary had been tossed around as a good VP pick for many of the Republican candidates — released a statement calling Pence a "strong conservative." "Mike Pence is a friend, but more than that, he is a strong conservative reformer who has delivered results for the people of Indiana. Washington is broken, but we don't

have to look any further than leaders like Mike Pence for the solutions to fix it," she said.

WBTV: Man spends thousands on fireworks to 'bring all the races together'

http://m.wbtv.com/wbtv/db_346313/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=dlsAlp4q

Kristen Hampton

Walter Wesley White was born 29 years ago, but it's evident his soul has been around a lot longer than that. The Hickory Grove, SC native works 6 days a week at a job he's had since he graduated from high school. Every year he buys tons of fireworks to shoot off, because that's how he remembers celebrations from his childhood. This year, Wesley spent \$3,000 on fireworks for the Fourth of July. He did it so everybody could have a place to come together and celebrate. Wesley is very clear to reiterate that it's for everyone. "We can be better as a unit. We can be better as a team. We can change a whole lot of things," Wesley said. He has a goal and it's cut in stone. He wants people to love each other and come together. "We want the governor and the president to change things for us but we can't expect them to change things for us unless we change ourselves," Wesley said.

NOTE: Governor Nikki Haley sent him a letter in the mail thanking him for his efforts. When his mom got it from the mailbox, she took it to him at work and delivered it to him "My mom, she's smiling from ear to ear with this brown envelope. I opened it up and it said 'State of South Carolina', I had to go sit down on that one," Wesley said with a laugh. "I've got it on my phone, I read it at least 10 times a day," Wesley says, again with the grin of a kid who just met Spiderman.

WFXG: Faith-based group to rebuild 250-300 flood-damaged homes in Williamsburg, Georgetown
<http://www.wfxg.com/story/32453623/williamsburg-georgetown-leaders-to-announce-help-for-october-flood-victims>

Patrick Phillips and Harve Jacobs

Help is on the way for people whose lives were turned upside down by the historic flooding back in October. "Eight Days of Hope XII: Black River South Carolina" is a new initiative that will place thousands of volunteers in Williamsburg and Georgetown Counties from Oct. 8 through Oct. 15, roughly a year after massive flooding devastated communities across the state. "How do I go on a plane and go back to Tupelo, Mississippi and sleep in my comfortable bed in a house with a roof that protects me and my five kids when I know there's somebody in South Carolina that is waiting for a glimpse of hope," the organization's president Steve Tybor said. "Our goal is to rebuild between 250 to 300 homes," Tybor, said. The budget for the mission is \$500,000, but he said he is working to figure out how to provide assistance to the additional homes that need some type of major help, a number he says may be as high as 700.

NOTE: Kevin Shwedo, who Gov. Nikki Haley appointed to lead South Carolina recovery efforts, said it takes years to recover from disasters like this one. "The federal money is not available to the state, so the real recovery hasn't begun," Shwedo said. "If it weren't for faith-based organizations, we would not be where we are today." Shwedo said faith-based organizations like Eight Days of Hope have put the focus on the victims. "They didn't look at the money, they looked at the need," Shwedo said.

SC after Dallas Shootings:

Post and Courier: Prayer rally at Marion Square to focus on race relations

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160715/160719615/prayer-rally-at-marion-square-to-focus-on-race-relations>

Derrek Asberry

Two Charleston legislators are spearheading a prayer rally later this month that will focus on race

relations following multiple officer-involved shootings of black males. Reps. Chip Limehouse, a Republican, and Wendell Gilliard, a Democrat, said Friday the rally will be at 6:30 p.m. July 28 at Marion Square. Just before the rally, a march to Marion Square will begin at the corner of Meeting and Huger streets. Massive public outcries have arose around the country in response to the fatal police shootings of Alton Sterling in Louisiana and Philando Castile in Minnesota. Sterling was killed July 5 and Castile a day later. During a Black Lives Matter rally July 7 in Dallas, five police officers were killed by a sniper and nine more were injured. "No law officer should kiss a little girl goodbye and not return home safely," Gilliard outside of Saffron Café and Bakery on Friday where the rally was announced. "No young black man or woman should walk the street in fear."

Post and Courier: 'They're throwing bricks!' Charleston's impromptu street protest sparked tense police response

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160715/160719553/theyre-throwing-bricks-charlestons-impromptu-street-protest-sparked-tense-police-response>

Dave Munday

The first concern of officers responding to a street march Wednesday night in Charleston to protest police shootings around the nation was keeping the protesters from blocking traffic. The second concern — and the one that got an officer hit in the face with what was described as a brick — was to keep the crowd from marching up King Street to disrupt downtown merchants. Both concerns can be heard in police transmissions that were released Friday. A third concern was evident in the background. It was less than a week ago that five officers were killed and nine wounded when a sniper opened fire at a rally in Dallas. The sniper there said he was punishing officers because police had been shooting black men. The rally in Marion Square was organized to protest police shootings. After it ended, a throng of protesters decided to take their grievances to the streets. Police estimated the number at about 100.

Dylann Roof Case:

Associated Press: Order: Feds must show how church shooting affected commerce

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=juAp42EM

SC State Wire

A judge has ordered the federal government to show what the shooting of nine black parishioners at a Charleston church has to do with interstate commerce. Dylann Roof, who is white, is charged with 33 counts, including hate crimes, in the June 2015 shootings at Emanuel AME Church. Twelve of those counts allege that the crimes affected interstate commerce. The defense - which contends the use of the internet and a gun made outside South Carolina are the only possible links - wants the government to outline how those counts affected commerce. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel, in a Thursday order, told prosecutors to do so. The defense, challenging the constitutionality of the federal hate crimes law, wants the case dismissed. A hearing in the case is set for Monday.

Post and Courier: \$61K from grant will let more people watch Dylann Roof trial

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160715/160719577/61k-from-grant-will-let-more-people-watch-dylann-roof-trial>

Andrew Knapp

Charleston County plans to use \$61,000 in federal grant money to let more people watch Dylann Roof's upcoming death penalty trial. Under the plan by Clerk of Court Julie Armstrong, video footage from a courtroom that seats 75 gallery members will be fed into an overflow room that holds 150 people. The County Council's Finance Committee approved the plan Thursday. Its agenda contained

details of how the money would be spent. The funds come from the Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program at the U.S. Department of Justice. The agency's Office for Victims of Crime awarded a total \$3.6 million to help survivors, family members of those slain and authorities who handled Roof's June 2015 attack that killed nine worshippers at Charleston's Emanuel AME Church. Roof's murder trial in state court is expected to start sometime early next year. It's set to take place after his trial in federal court, where the 22-year-old from Eastover also faces execution.

Michael Slager Case:

Post and Courier: Refusing to pay legal fees, police group says Walter Scott shooting and lies not part of officer's duty

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160715/160719620/refusing-to-pay-legal-fees-police-group-says-walter-scott-shooting-and-lies-not-part-of-officers-duty>

Andrew Knapp

A police advocacy group does not want to pay former North Charleston officer Michael Slager's legal fees because shooting Walter Scott to death, planting evidence and lying were not in his job description, a court filing says. Slager had been paying the Southern States Police Benevolent Association a \$23.50 monthly fee for legal representation should he ever find himself fending off civil claims or criminal charges. After Slager shot Scott on April 4, 2015, he hired an attorney through the association. But Charleston lawyer David Aylor dropped the client three days later when video showed Slager firing as Scott tried to run away, and the association refused to fund Slager's defense any longer. Slager sued in U.S. District Court, saying the group violated an insurance contract that promised unlimited legal aid if he were involved in a shooting. The association on Thursday asked a judge for "summary judgment," an order that would end Slager's claims before trial.

Savannah River Site/MOX News:

The State: Drones over SRS nuclear site prompt discussion of no-fly zone

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article89741377.html>

Sammy Fretwell

In the wake of reported drone sightings at the Savannah River Site, federal officials are looking to tighten air space restrictions over the 300-square-mile nuclear weapons complex in western South Carolina. The Department of Energy says drones have flown over SRS at least eight times since June 19, raising concern that someone could be studying the site's security force or taking photographs. SRS, one of the key cogs in the nation's Cold War weapons production effort, has an array of nuclear facilities that contain sensitive materials and information the federal government guards closely. Drones have been spotted over every major part of SRS since the first one was seen last month, DOE spokesman Jim Giusti said. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the State Law Enforcement Division are looking into the matter.

Aiken Standard: Federal report condemns Department of Energy, Savannah River Site company for failure to protect whistleblowers

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160714/160719741/federal-report-condemns-department-of-energy-savannah-river-site-company-for-failure-to-protect-whistleblowers>

Thomas Gardiner

A newly published investigation reveals systematic failures and retaliation against contractor employees who speak up about health and safety concerns throughout the U.S. Department of Energy. In a news conference Thursday, three U.S. senators released the results of a two-year

investigation from the Government Accountability Office into whistleblower protections at Department of Energy sites. The information presented by U.S. Sens. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo.; Ed Markey, D-Mass.; and Ron Wyden, D-Ore.; was presented as a condemnation of practices throughout the Energy Department. "The report makes it clear that the DOE has utterly and completely failed to protect whistleblowers," Markey said. "Whistleblowers' currency is the truth, and they are repaid with retaliation." The legislators were joined by two former contract employees from two of the Energy Department's nuclear sites, one from the Hanford Site in Washington state and one from the Savannah River Site near Aiken.

SC Political News:

Post and Courier: S.C. 'First in the South' primary status safe — for now

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160715/160719635/sc-first-in-the-south-primary-status-safe-for-now>

Emma Dumain

South Carolina will retain its No. 3 slot in the Republican presidential primary sequence in 2020 and also first in the South, at least for the time being. During the Republican National Convention Rules Committee meeting in Cleveland late Thursday, the Palmetto State — along with Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada — withstood efforts by representatives from other states to reconfigure the order in which states cast ballots in the primary election season. The compromise reached Thursday — four days before the official kick-off of the convention — is that the Republican National Committee will sometime between now and the next general election form an advisory panel to continue the sequence conversation. S.C. GOP Chairman Matt Moore, a member of the Rules Committee, along with S.C. national committeewoman Cindy Costa considered the development a kind of victory for the state's "First in the South" status. "Today's vote is a very positive sign for South Carolina Republican presidential primaries," Moore said in a statement. "We appreciate our fellow Rules Committee delegates recognizing the importance of the grassroots-driven primary process, and that changes to that process shouldn't be made lightly."

Greenville News: Many in SC delegation plan to skip GOP convention

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/elections/2016/07/15/many-sc-delegation-plan-skip-gop-convention/87123988/>

Rep. Trey Gowdy will be spending time with his family. Rep. Jeff Duncan has a conflicting congressional obligation. Sen. Lindsey Graham will be at home in Seneca. Next week, as Republicans from across the country converge on Cleveland for the GOP convention, those Upstate lawmakers said they plan to be elsewhere. The South Carolina lawmakers are hardly alone in their decisions to skip the Republican festivities in Ohio. Many in the GOP continue to have misgivings about the party's presumptive nominee, Donald Trump, whose controversial campaign has alienated women and minority voters and whose incendiary rhetoric has put GOP incumbents on the spot. And if South Carolina's congressional delegation is particularly wary of Trump, it's no wonder. The New York real estate mogul has viciously attacked at least two of them.

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley announced last month she would attend, and Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster will be serving as a state delegate to the convention.

McClatchy DC: Resigned to Trump, half of S.C. delegation to attend GOP convention

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/election/article89816592.html>

Vera Bergengruen

Only half of South Carolina's Republican delegation in Congress is heading to Cleveland for the 2016

Republican National Convention. The four lawmakers attending all backed other candidates during the primaries, sometimes several, before slowly coming around to a lukewarm acceptance of Donald Trump as their party's nominee for president. Not attending... Also, Heading to Cleveland...

NOTE: "We have one shot in 2016 to beat Hillary Clinton - and that shot is Marco Rubio," he said in a video endorsing the Florida senator in February. When Trump became the de-facto nominee in May, Scott's campaign told McClatchy that as he had "consistently said over the past year," he would support the Republican nominee. When possible, Scott did not mention Trump's name, and like his fellow Rubio endorsers Gov. Nikki Haley and Rep. Trey Gowdy his support was not backed by much enthusiasm.

Post and Courier: S.C. has positive reaction to Mike Pence as possible vice presidential pick
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160714/160719663/sc-has-positive-reaction-to-mike-pence-as-possible-vice-presidential-pick>

Emma Dumain

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., has made no secret about his dislike for Donald Trump. Still, Graham offered rave reviews Thursday of the presumptive Republican presidential nominee's rumored pick to be vice president, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence. "I like him a lot," Graham told reporters on Capitol Hill. "He's a real smart, solid choice." Asked whether he would have liked to see a vice presidential candidate who could diversify the GOP and stand up against the history-making Democratic ticket candidacy of Hillary Clinton, Graham demurred. "There are a lot of other people he could have chosen, some not — " he trailed off. "I think that he's a very good choice by Mr. Trump. I like Mike Pence." Trump was supposed to reveal his pick on Friday, but a terrorist attack in Nice, France, prompted him to turn to Twitter to say that he would postpone the event out of respect for the dozens dead. There is much speculation that Pence was chosen to bolster Trump's conservative credentials. Former U.S. Rep. Gresham Barrett, R-S.C., said there is little question Pence would be a plus to the ticket.

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley knows Pence from their membership in the Republican Governors Association. Asked for comment on word of Trump's supposed pick, Haley declined to weigh-in until the formal announcement.

The State: What does SC think of Trump's VP pick?

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article89712317.html>

Bristow Marchant

S.C. political leaders largely have positive reactions Thursday to reports that Republican Donald Trump will name Indiana Gov. Mike Pence as his vice-presidential running mate. Multiple news outlets reported the presumptive GOP presidential nominee had selected Pence, a former congressman, as his vice presidential choice. Pence is a reassuring choice after some of Trump's unorthodox statements on the campaign trail, congressional Republicans said.

McClatchy DC: Clyburn, House Democrats vow to continue gun control fight after 7-week recess
<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/congress/article89751887.html>

Vera Bergengruen

Continuing the role he has played since last month's 26-hour gun control sit-in, Rep. Jim Clyburn acted as a master of ceremonies at an evening rally with House Democrats and families of gun violence victims in front of the U.S. Capitol on Thursday. After greeting the sign-waving crowd of gun control advocates, the South Carolina Democrat asked for a moment of silence for the victims of Thursday's attacks in Nice, France. He spent the rest of the event introducing the speakers,

guiding them to the podium and directing the crowd. When the sun set and it became too dark for the speakers to read, he stood behind them and used his cellphone flashlight to illuminate their notes. "It's easier to get a gun in America than a voting card," shouted Rev. William Barber, who leads North Carolina's branch of the NAACP. "That's immoral. That's insane." He referred to the shooting in Clyburn's hometown of Charleston, saying the nine victims who were killed at Emanuel AME Church "deserved more than a flag to come down. They deserved more gun laws to come up."

Post and Courier: Locals impacted by gun violence appear at two D.C. events

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160714/160719641/locals-impacted-by-gun-violence-appear-at-two-dc-events>

Emma Dumain and Jennifer Berry Hawes

Loved ones impacted by two of Charleston's most high-profile, racially charged episodes of gun violence appeared at separate events in the nation's capitol Thursday, one with the president and another with lawmakers. Jennifer Pinckney, widow of the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, stepped to microphones Thursday evening with her two young daughters to address a crowd of gun-control activists assembled on the National Mall. "Clementa Pinckney, where are you?" she began. "Because of what happened that evening, a father, a husband ... is not by our side." U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., emceed a "speak out" that Pinckney attended on the steps of the Capitol to support gun-control legislation. Many who spoke at the event called for closing the so-called "Charleston loophole," which allowed accused Emanuel AME killer Dylann Roof to purchase the gun he used to kill Pinckney's husband, Emanuel's pastor, and eight other worshippers last June.

Associated Press: Black lawmakers recall police stops after senator's speech

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

Mary Clare Jalonick

South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott, the lone black Republican in the Senate, candidly described being stopped by police, even Capitol Hill cops, because of the color of his skin. It's an experience all too familiar to many of his African-American colleagues in Congress. A day after Scott's personal recounting on the Senate floor, several lawmakers said Thursday that they have had similar experiences, whether it's being pulled over for no reason while driving in their hometowns or being challenged by police. Their white colleagues, they think, would never be treated the same way. Scott described being pulled over seven times within a year and also being stopped by a U.S. Capitol Police officer who said he recognized the pin he was wearing that identifies him as a senator - but didn't recognize Scott.

Associated Press: Cellphone app to promote black history in South Carolina

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

Seanna Adcox

A cellphone app could soon lead drivers to a plantation site near Lake City, the birthplace of jazz trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie in Cheraw, and Rosenwald schools across the state. A state commission is developing the app in hopes of encouraging drivers to explore African-American historic sites in rural South Carolina. The idea is to "get people off of I-95 and I-77 ... and into the rural communities," said Jannie Harriot, vice chairman of the state's African-American Heritage Commission. The app should be ready in January, just ahead of Black History Month. Hundreds of sites will be searchable by county or subject, including churches, schools and cemeteries, she said. The commission annually publishes a book of historic sites of African-American significance.

NOTE: Legislators gave the Department of Archives and History \$100,000 for the project, overriding Gov. Nikki Haley's veto. Sen. Vincent Sheheen, who pushed to include the agency's request in the

budget, said Friday that South Carolina has a "really rich history of African-American culture" that's under-recognized. "We should promote it and be proud of it and tell the story," said Sheheen, D-Camden.

The State: SC Congressman calls for immigration limits, deportations after Nice

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article89803087.html>

Bristow Marchant

In the aftermath of Thursday's terrorist attack in France that left around 100 people dead or injured, one SC congressman took to Twitter to offer his suggestions for what should be done next.

Congressman Jeff Duncan, R-Laurens, tweeted that after the Nice, France, attack, America needs to halt plans to resettle thousands of refugees from the war in Syria, and "indefinitely suspend all forms of immigration" from "hotbeds of terrorism," a similar proposal to GOP candidate Donald Trump's calls to limit immigration that some fear would allow terrorists to covertly enter the United States. For those already here, Duncan proposes President Barack Obama "immediately deport any non-citizens listed on a terror-watch list." The congressman's tweets were critical of the Obama administration's handling of terrorist issues to this point.

SC Elections:

Post and Courier: Leatherman spends more than \$1 million in Senate race

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160715/160719555/leatherman-spends-more-than-1-million-in-senate-race>

Gavin Jackson

S.C. Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman won his Republican Party primary in mid-June, but state financial disclosures show it came with the heftiest price tag of any state Senate race, possibly in history. Leatherman, R-Florence, spent more than \$1.1 million this cycle to defeat two Republican challengers — while also taking on Gov. Nikki Haley — in the June 14 primary, campaign records show. His spending equaled 65 percent of what House incumbent lawmakers spent this cycle — or roughly the total spent by the next four highest spending Senate candidates. As the top-tier target of the pro-Gov. Nikki Haley political advocacy group A Great Day SC and other groups, Leatherman also took out a \$750,000 loan for his Senate seat defense — an amount unheard of for a Statehouse race. But recent State Ethics Commission filings show Leatherman was buoyed by enough contributions from medical, legal and business professionals — among other donors — that he didn't need to touch the loan. "We used it to make it to make sure our area kept the senator they wanted," Leatherman said of the money spent in defense of his seat. "The governor raised money to go against me. The S.C. Club for Growth came in, and Americans for Prosperity came in. And my people said 'we don't want outside groups like them coming in trying to buy a Senate seat.' "

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Rare sea turtles pass 50-year recovery milestone in Georgia

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=EApVbt8b

SC State Wire

Rare loggerhead sea turtles reached a conservation milestone on the coast of Georgia in the midst of a strong nesting season on southern Atlantic beaches. Georgia wildlife officials announced this week that more than 2,890 loggerhead nests have been counted this summer along the state's 100-mile coast. Not only is that a new record for Georgia - smashing last year's record count by more than 550

nests - but it also surpasses the state's long-term recovery goal for the species. A target set years ago called for Georgia to reach 2,800 nests by the year 2028 - 50 years after the federal government listed loggerhead sea turtles as a threatened species. With nesting expected to continue for several weeks, Georgia could easily top 3,000 nests this year, said Mark Dodd, the biologist who oversees the sea turtle recovery program for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

NOTE: Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina are all reporting robust nest numbers since the season for loggerheads began May 1. The giant turtles, which can grow to weigh up to 300 pounds, typically lay eggs through the end of August. As of Friday, South Carolina was close to its record of 5,193 loggerhead nests set in 2013, said Michelle Pate, coordinator of the state's sea turtle program. North Carolina was a little more than 200 nests shy of its record number - 1,304, also from 2013, according to Matthew Godfrey, sea turtle coordinator for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

NOTE: Both states still have a ways to go to reach their respective recovery goals: 9,000 nests for South Carolina and 2,000 for North Carolina.

Charlotte Observer: U.S. National Whitewater Center acknowledges filter flaw following death of Ohio teenager

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/local/article89811797.html>

Fred Clasen-Kelly

When an Ohio teenager died from a brain-eating amoeba last month after visiting the U.S. National Whitewater Center, officials assured the public that the park's disinfection system was "99.99" percent effective against the organism. But the Whitewater Center now acknowledges that algae in the water created conditions that bred organic matter and undercut the disinfectant system's ability to minimize threats from waterborne illnesses, including the amoeba. In written responses this week to questions from the Observer, park spokesman Eric Osterhus said authorities are asking water quality experts how to contain algae that built up in the water channels. Algae is "generally not unsafe, but it does create an environment that allows the organisms to grow and avoid the disinfection systems currently in place," Osterhus said. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said that the park's filtration and disinfection systems were inadequate to neutralize the *Naegleria fowleri* amoeba that infected and killed 18-year-old Laura Seitz, who had rafted at the center.

Local News:

The Herald: York woman reports scam, threats from ISIS

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/crime/article89799672.html>

Teddy Kulmala

A York woman said she received a scam call from a man telling her she won a contest, who then claimed to be part of ISIS and threatened to kill her, according to police. The harassing calls began July 8 but were reported Wednesday, according to a York Police report. The 34-year-old victim said she received a call from someone telling her she had won the Reader's Digest contest but needed to send a \$199 registration fee. She told the caller she had not entered a contest and knew it was a scam, at which point the caller began to argue with her. The woman said she hung up, but the man called 14 more times that day, police said. On the fourth unanswered call, the suspect left a voicemail message claiming to be part of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria and threatening to kill the woman and her family. He also made "additional threats," the report states. The suspect called again the next day, but the victim did not answer the first call, the report states. When she answered the second call, the suspect said he was "ISIS" calling, at which point the woman hung up and blocked the number.

Post and Courier: Lawyer files restraining order against Charleston County coroner after her inquest
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160715/160719566/lawyer-files-restraining-order-against-charleston-county-coroner-after-her-inquest>

Andrew Knapp

Lawyer says he must show “irreparable harm” to get a restraining order against the county coroner. “Nothing can be more harmful than to be arrested for a crime you didn’t commit,” says Mark Peper, attorney for suspects in inquest. It’s unknown when the judge will decide whether to grant the restraining order against coroner. It could happen tonight or this weekend.

Associated Press: Beaufort deputies investigate if remains are Florida man's

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Ja5uPPWN

SC State Wire

Authorities are investigating whether skeletal remains found on Hunting Island near Hilton Head Island are those of a Florida man missing since last month. Beaufort County sheriff's deputies tell local media outlets that a fisherman setting traps found the remains Wednesday in the marsh. Deputies say 27-year-old Connor Pace of Gainesville, Florida, has been missing since June 21 after he checked into a Hilton Head Island hotel. Authorities say a pair of blue shorts similar to those Pace bought the day he disappeared were found near the remains. Pathologists at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston will examine the remains in hopes of making a positive identification Friday.

Island Packet: Work to identify Hunting Island remains continues

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/crime/article89835597.html>

Caitlin Turner

Work to identify the skeletal remains found off Hunting Island continued Friday as law enforcement awaited the results of a forensic examination. Results of the examination by forensic pathologists, scheduled for Friday at the Medical University of South Carolina, have not been released, the Beaufort County Coroner’s Office said. While Coroner Ed Allen said he expected preliminary results of the examination sometime Friday, he said his office had not heard from MUSC as of 3:15 p.m. The remains were spotted in marsh grass off Russ Point Boat Landing by a fisherman setting traps around 4 p.m. Wednesday, according to a Beaufort County Sheriff’s Office news release.

Associated Press: 3 boaters rescued off the South Carolina coast

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ED95X0Ju

SC State Wire

Three boaters are safe after they were rescued by the Coast Guard when their vessel capsized off the Isle of Palms. The Coast Guard reports the incident happened late Thursday morning when the 25-foot vessel reported it was taking on water about six miles from the island. A Coast Guard helicopter and a 45-foot rescue boat were sent to the scene. The three people were found in the water near the overturned boat. The rescue boat brought the three back to the Isle of Palms. The boaters did not require emergency treatment. Their names were not released.

The State: Reported sex offenses on pace to increase at USC

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/education/article89860887.html>

Avery G. Wilks

At least 57 University of South Carolina students had reported sexual assaults, relationship violence, sexual harassment or other similar offenses to school officials this year as of July 7. At that pace, students will report roughly 40 more such offenses than last year, according to data from the school’s

sexual advocacy office. But the increase does not necessarily mean more assaults are occurring, USC officials say. Instead, they say it shows the school's campaign to raise awareness of sex offenses and the support available to victims has taken hold among students. "We are doing a lot more to raise awareness around sexual assault, dating and domestic violence and stalking," said Rebecca Caldwell, director of Strategic Health Initiatives at USC's Student Health Services.

The State: Richland 2 superintendent gets 2.5% raise after 'commendable' review, announces plan to retire

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/education/article89763652.html>

Rachael Lowe

Richland 2 superintendent Debbie Hamm's job performance earned a 'commendable' rating from the Richland 2 Board of Trustees Thursday night. At the same time, the board was informed that Hamm, who has worked for Richland 2 for nearly 40 years, planned to retire at the end of the 2016-17 school year. "Dr. Hamm received an overall commendable evaluation based on her outstanding work in her Four Squares of focus – Learning, Character, Community and Joy," board chairman James Manning said in a news release. Last year, after concluding her first year at the helm, Hamm was credited by then board chairman Calvin Jackson with helping to stabilize the 27,000-student school district.

Morning News: Latta Police Chief collects 1,546 signatures for sheriff candidate petition

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_3501bbe2-4aa3-11e6-9888-cf8d1d5ae829.html

Latta Police Chief Crystal Moore collected 1,546 signatures and submitted her petition on Friday, July 15, to become a candidate in the race for Dillon County Sheriff. After announcing her intention to run for the sheriff's seat on June 22, Moore has been out collecting signatures every afternoon after work. Moore was only required to collect 980 signatures for the petition, but said the support she received was overwhelming. "Just a bunch of family, friends, and good volunteers," Moore said. "When you got people out there helping you and everyone wanting to sign, you don't turn them down."

The State: Shaw renames new entrance to honor Tuskegee pilots

<http://www.thestate.com/news/state/south-carolina/article89735397.html>

A road on Shaw Air Force Base was named for two Sumter natives who flew with the famed Tuskegee Airmen in World War II at a ceremony on the base Thursday morning. The road, now officially "Ashley-Bowman Boulevard," begins at the Sumter Gate on U.S. 378 and St. Paul's Church Road and continues on the base to Dryden Way. The road was named in memory of Lt. Col. Willie Lee Ashley and 1st Sgt. Leroy Bowman, who both grew up in Sumter and later flew in World War II. A memorial for the Tuskegee Airmen, including a static display of a fighter aircraft, will be erected on the City of Sumter's Shaw Park, located nearby during a future upgrade to the park now in the planning stages.

National News:

Associated Press: It's Pence: Trump announces his VP choice on Twitter

<http://bigstory.ap.org/aa0f535bf0a6443d8a04e65004a20779>

Julie Pace and Jill Colvin

Donald Trump has chosen Indiana Gov. Mike Pence as his running mate, adding political experience and conservative bona fides to his Republican presidential ticket. Trump announced his decision on Twitter Friday morning, capping a frenzied 24 hours of speculation about his choice. A news conference was set for Saturday in New York for the two men who will take on Hillary Clinton and her Democratic running mate in November. Trump offered the vice presidential spot to Pence Thursday,

and the governor boarded a plane for New York in anticipation of a Friday announcement, according to a Republican with knowledge of the process. But shortly after Pence arrived, Trump abruptly said he was postponing an announcement because of the deadly attack in Nice, France, that left more than 80 people dead. The delay sparked speculation that the notoriously unpredictable Trump might make a last minute change. But the businessman put those questions to rest Friday when he tweeted that he was "pleased" to announce Pence as his No. 2.

Associated Press: GOP delegates love Pence _ even those who don't like Trump

<http://bigstory.ap.org/e0adf537a89343aeb38248e101579205>

Stephen Ohlemacher

Delegates to the Republican National Convention embraced Donald Trump's choice for vice president Friday — even those who have yet to warm up to Trump. Some delegates hope the choice of Indiana Gov. Mike Pence will help unite Republicans and fire up the party base to support Trump. Not everyone is on board. But at the very least, Trump has all but assured that next week's convention vote for vice president will go smoothly. "It's surprisingly — and you can print this — a pretty smart choice," said state Rep. Justin Everett, a Colorado delegate. "It's a strategic pick and I appreciate it but I didn't just fall off the turnip truck. ... It's window-dressing."

Associated Press: Secret chapter of 9/11 inquiry released after 13-year wait

<http://bigstory.ap.org/006c6ad9e9ad4374b9c60015cef6e828>

Deb Reichmann

Newly declassified pages from a congressional report into 9/11 released Friday have reignited speculation that some of the hijackers had links to Saudis, including government officials — allegations that were never substantiated by later U.S. investigations into the terrorist attacks. Congress released the last chapter of the congressional inquiry that has been kept under wraps for more than 13 years, stored in a secure room in the basement of the Capitol. Lawmakers and relatives of victims of the attacks, who believe that Saudi links to the attackers were not thoroughly investigated, campaigned for years to get the pages released. The lightly redacted document names individuals who helped the hijackers get apartments, open bank accounts and connect with local mosques. Fifteen of the 19 hijackers were Saudi nationals and several were not fluent in English and had little experience living in the West.

Associated Press: Justice Dept. reviewing police response to nightclub rampage

<http://bigstory.ap.org/8639d12c5450444da79d70ad7fea95bd>

The Justice Department said Friday that it will review the Orlando Police Department's response to the attack last month at a gay nightclub. The city police department faced questions after the June 12 shooting at the Pulse nightclub, in which a gunman who pledged allegiance to the Islamic State killed 49 people, about whether it had waited too long after the rampage began to send in a SWAT team. The Justice Department will examine the police department's preparedness and response, as well as strategies and tactics it used during the massacre. The review will be led by the Justice Department's Community Oriented Policing Services office, which offers technical assistance to departments who have experienced high-profile events and emergencies.

World News:

Associated Press: Turkish military in attempted coup, prime minister says

<http://bigstory.ap.org/c33756424b73481db0655f4c3aed480f>

A group within Turkey's military has engaged in what appeared to be an attempted coup, the prime

minister said, with military jets flying over the capital and reports of vehicles blocking two major bridges in Istanbul. Prime Minister Binali Yildirim told private NTV television: "it is correct that there was an attempt," when asked if there was a coup. Yildirim didn't provide details, but said Turkey would never allow any "initiative that would interrupt democracy." "We are focusing on the possibility of an attempt (coup)," Yildirim said. "There was an illegal act by a group within the military that was acting out of the chain of military command. Our people should know that we will not allow any activity that would harm democracy."

Associated Press: 84 dead, 202 hurt as truck hits Bastille Day crowd in Nice

<http://bigstory.ap.org/dd2eb90cafaa4ab1914ee24d506c9666>

Phillipe Sotto, Colleen Barry and Lori Hinnant

As new details emerged Friday about the Tunisian man who drove a truck through crowds celebrating Bastille Day in Nice, killing 84 people and wounding 202 others, French leaders extended a state of emergency imposed after the Nov. 13 Paris attacks and vowed to deploy thousands of police reservists on the streets. French officials called it an undeniable act of terror, but no group claimed responsibility and it wasn't clear if the 31-year-old delivery driver blamed for the carnage had extremist ties. The country is still reeling from the Nov. 13 attacks, which killed 130 people at the Bataclan concert hall, Paris restaurants and cafes, and the national stadium, and a separate January 2015 in Paris attack that targeted journalists at the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo and Jews at a kosher supermarket. Both attacks were claimed by the Islamic State group, and French President Francois Hollande was booed in Nice on Friday by people who blamed government authorities for failing to enforce sufficient security measures.

Associated Press: Truck attack shows that French are not safe anywhere

<http://bigstory.ap.org/13416c12012c449ca89b27b4ee43b32d>

John Leicester

By ramming his truck into a Bastille Day celebration of liberte and fraternite, the driver delivered a murderous message for France: No matter who you are or what you're doing, you are not safe anywhere. Not in a Paris cafe, not at a soccer match, and now, not even watching fireworks with your children on the seaside promenade of Nice. And he used an especially ordinary weapon — a delivery truck like the millions on the streets every day throughout the world. It is not yet known whether it was a politically motivated attack. But whether or not the driver had ties to extremists, the killing shows that such attacks can happen anywhere. "The nature of these inspired attacks ... has broadened the target zone to encompass all public and private spaces," according to an analysis Friday from The Soufan Group, an organization of security consultants. "Just as terror alerts advising the public to be on the lookout for 'something' are ineffective and possibly counterproductive, efforts to harden cities against these attacks and assaults are problematic because the venue and method of attacks are limitless."

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