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Subject: Morning Clips – Thursday, May 12, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Plumbing parts company creating 77 jobs in Cherokee County
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=yFycxXUL
SC State Wire

A Missouri company that makes plumbing fixtures will create 77 new jobs in Cherokee County. Gov. Nikki Haley's office said Sioux Chief Manufacturing is moving into a closed plant just east of Chesnee in Spartanburg County. Sioux Manufacturing will move its corporate headquarters and its engineering, manufacturing and warehouse distribution operations to the site.

WACH: Lawmakers prepared to override a farm bill veto
<http://wach.com/news/local/lawmakers-prepared-to-override-a-farm-bill-veto>
Tara Petitt

A veto from the governor could be less than 24 hours away. Governor Nikki Haley made it clear earlier this week that she will not sign a bill that would give farmers forty million dollars to help recover from last year's devastating flood. Lawmakers who spoke with WACH Fox News say they believe they can get the bill through without the Governor's approval. The funding plan passed with overwhelming support from both the House and the Senate, but Governor Haley has stated that it would be wrong to bail out the farmers when the state can't bail out small businesses and homeowners.

WCIV: Local farmers upset with Gov. Haley's plan to veto \$40M farm aid bill
<http://abcnews4.com/news/local/local-farmers-upset-with-gov-haleys-plan-to-veto-40m-farm-aid-bill>
Ashley Blackstone

South Carolina farmers are upset with the governor's plan to veto a bill that would help them recover from last year's devastating floods. Fields lost 75 percent of his crop in last October's historic flooding. He lost \$150,000-\$200,000. "One of the worst I've seen," said Fields. "It was very upsetting." "I will not support any bailout of any industry over any other industry that suffered from this thousand year flood," said Gov. Nikki Haley on Saturday. On Wednesday, Fields sent a message to Haley: "Please release the money to the farmers. Help the farmers out. We really do need it. We've got to eat .we need the money."

The Herald (Opinion): Haley shouldn't veto relief bill for farmers
<http://www.heraldonline.com/opinion/editorials/article77012702.html>
The Herald Editorial Board

Gov. Nikki Haley doesn't object when the state offers special tax incentives to attract new business and industry to the state. So it's hard to understand why she wants to veto state efforts to lend a helping hand to farmers after they suffered \$330 million in losses because of a massive flood. South Carolina farmers say 2015 ranks among the worst years ever for them. The S.C. Department of Agriculture reported that the state's entire cotton, soybean and peanut crops were destroyed by an October flood that covered much of the state. Then, with the wet weather continuing into 2016, many farmers were unable to plant a full crop in the spring because of standing water.

Times and Democrat: Farmers need help, business group says
http://thetandd.com/farmers-need-help-business-group-says/article_51ffcea8-1ad2-54fe-ac6f-070eb0151fdd.html

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley should not use lack of state help for small businesses as a reason to veto flood assistance for the state's farmers, the South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce says. S.C. lawmakers have passed a bill that would allow farmers in disaster-declared counties to apply for grants up to \$100,000 each to help them recover from last year's floods. Haley has said that she plans to veto the bill, saying it is unfair to aid farmers when similar aid is not available for other small businesses impacted by the floods. "The governor should not use small businesses as an excuse not to help our farmers recover from last year's floods," said Frank Knapp Jr., president and CEO of the Columbia-based Small Business Chamber of Commerce.

The State (Opinion): Too bad we don't actually have the law Haley says we have

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scoppe/article77021632.html>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

FOR ALL THE good she has done on several issues, Gov. Haley retains two deeply troubling flaws: her disregard for the rule of law and her disinterest in the truth. During a visit to a Columbia prison, Gov. Haley assured an inmate that police officers aren't "out to get you." Because of the state's new body camera law, she said, "every one of those officers has to wear a body camera, and the reason is, that way it's fair to them and it's fair to you. So if something happens, we can see it." That sounds like a great law. But it's not the law the governor signed, as The Associated Press' Seanna Adcox pointed out — and bless her for recognizing that one of the most important things a reporter can do is to tell us what the facts actually are rather than simply regurgitating what public figures say the facts are.

General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: Gun reform rally around the Statehouse

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160512/PC1603/160519806>

Cynthia Roldan

It'll be a busy day at the Statehouse with hundreds of proponents of gun reform expected to rally on the capitol grounds. The Hands Around The Statehouse Rally will take place at 11 a.m. Hundreds of gun reform advocates are expected to link and hold hands around the capitol building. Organizers of the event, Project Unity USA, are calling for legislators to extend gun-buying waiting periods, among other reforms. Yet, the General Assembly is in its final stretch of the 2016 Legislative session. With fewer than four weeks remaining in the session, lawmakers are concentrating on bills that have already passed at least one chamber, because the odds of those proposals becoming law by June 2 are higher. No gun restrictive bills have advanced beyond the introduction phase. Conversely, few that expand access to firearms have gained traction as well.

Associated Press: People link arms around Statehouse to protest gun violence

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kMpnuHw1

SC State Wire

People who want lawmakers to pass laws to help stop gun violence plan to link arms around the South Carolina Statehouse. The Hands Around the Statehouse Rally will start with speeches at 11 a.m. Thursday and end with supporters linking arms around the capitol building at noon. Survivors of gun violence will join lawmakers as well as religious and community leaders to ask the General Assembly to pass bills that they say will help the state stop gun violence.

Post and Courier: Charleston senator vows to block expansion of access to firearms until background check bills are heard

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160511/PC1603/160519882>

Cynthia Roldan

State Sen. Marlon Kimpson vowed Wednesday to block every bill that seeks to expand access to firearms in South Carolina, placing a procedural hold on a proposal that would prevent the state from enforcing any sort of federal gun law that took effect this year. The Charleston Democrat said he planned to place "obstacles in the way of every gun reform bill that comes in the General Assembly" on expanding gun rights until senior lawmakers schedule a hearing on the multiple pieces of legislation filed to strengthen background checks.

Associated Press: Senators reject giving special status to anti-abortion bill

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=jyiG9HDd

SC State Wire

South Carolina senators have rejected an attempt to debate legislation aimed at banning abortion. A motion Wednesday to put the so-called "personhood" measure on special debate status failed after a senator who opposes abortion argued it would actually damage the cause. The measure would ask voters if the state constitution should say that citizens' legal rights begin at conception. Sponsoring GOP Sen. Lee Bright said constituents deserve a floor debate.

The State: Effort to say life starts at conception suffers setback

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article77053897.html#storylink=apmobile>

Cassie Cope

A proposal to define life as beginning at conception was dealt a blow Wednesday as S.C. senators refused to give the bill priority for debate. As the legislative session nears its June end, that refusal could doom the proposal, which would have asked voters to amend the S.C. Constitution to give rights to "born and preborn persons beginning at conception."

Post and Courier: Bill providing opioid antidote without prescription cruising through S.C. Legislature

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160511/PC1603/160519841>

Maya T. Prabhu

A bill that would allow pharmacists to dispense and administer a drug without a prescription that could reverse the effects of an opioid-related drug overdose is quickly making its way through the Legislature. "These are all life-saving measures," said the bill's sponsor Rep. Chip Huggins, R-Columbia. "We have what I'm calling an epidemic with overdoses in general." The bill expands on legislation the lawmaker ushered through last year that allowed a standing prescription for the drug to be purchased in South Carolina.

Post and Courier: 'Tucker Hipps' bill slows in Senate

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160511/PC1603/160519850>

Gavin Jackson

South Carolina senators want to expand the scope of a House-approved bill requiring public colleges to post online any information about infractions committed by fraternities and sororities. Members of the Senate Education Committee took no action Wednesday on the "Tucker Hipps Transparency Act" named after the Clemson University student and fraternity pledge found dead in Lake Hartwell after an early morning run in 2014. The House unanimously approved the bill two months ago but senators, several of whom were in fraternities, said the bill singles out one group of students while other organizations, band for example, would be exempt.

Post and Courier: Ban on Sharia law defense in S.C. courts dies at the Statehouse

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160511/PC1603/160519878>

Maya T. Prabhu

A bill that would have made the Muslim world's Sharia law an illegal defense in South Carolina courts was narrowly defeated in the state Senate on Wednesday, killing it for the year. The measure, sponsored by Charleston Republican Rep. Chip Limehouse, would have prevented an attorney from arguing that the laws of a client's home country allow for certain actions in South Carolina.

Greenville News: Senate OKs K-9 bill that increases penalties for injuring police dogs

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/05/12/senate-oks-k-9-bill-increases-penalties-injuring-police-dogs/84245156/>

Tim Smith

The Senate has given key approval of a bill to increase penalties for those convicted of hurting police dogs. Hyco's Law, named after an Upstate police dog killed in the line of duty last year, would allow judges to give stiffer fines and prison sentences but judges could also suspend sentences. The bill is similar to a House bill

that stalled in committee last month after some members thought the penalties in that bill were too tough.

Independent Mail: S.C. Senate approves bill increasing penalties for killing police dogs

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/sc-senate-approves-bill-increasing-penalties-for-killing-police-dogs-3298ab08-2977-7379-e053-0100007-379060321.html>

Kirk Brown

A bill increasing the criminal penalties for killing a police dog was approved Wednesday by the South Carolina Senate, but still awaits final passage. According to the legislation, a person convicted of maliciously harming or killing a police dog could be fined \$10,000 and imprisoned for 10 years. The sentence also could include 500 hours of community service and restitution covering the full cost of replacing the animal. Under current law, the same offense is punishable by a maximum fine of \$5,000 and up to five years in prison.

Independent Mail: Sides spar over Pollution Control Act changes

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/sides-spar-over-pollution-control-act-changes-32987537-4299-0a5f-e053-0100007f4dce-379066581.html>

Mike Eads

A South Carolina Senate bill passed last year to amend the state's Pollution Control Act has suddenly gotten attention from the House leadership before this year's legislative session winds down. State Rep. Anne Thayer (R-Anderson) said GOP leadership want to get S.B. 229 to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk this session. The bill would amend the aforementioned act to keep private individuals or groups from suing corporate polluters. "It seems like it's a priority for the Speaker," said Thayer, referring to House Speaker Jay Lucas (R-Hartsville).

Walter Scott Case:

Associated Press: In rare move, feds indict former officer in fatal shooting

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

Bruce Smith and Meg Kinnard

Two things stand out about this week's indictment of a white former South Carolina police officer on federal civil rights charges in the death of unarmed black motorist Walter Scott: Such charges from the feds against an officer are relatively rare, and they send a message. Michael Slager, 34, already faces state murder charges in Scott's death. "I think the Justice Department is tired of sitting on the sidelines and they think this is one they can definitely win and send a message to police departments around the country," attorney Chris Stewart told The Associated Press. A former federal prosecutor offered a similar take.

Associated Press: Slain man's family, lawyer praise charges against ex-officer

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=qc91XEXZ

Bruce Smith and Meg Kinnard

As federal charges were filed against a white former South Carolina police officer who already faced a state murder charge in the shooting death of unarmed black motorist Walter Scott, Scott's lawyer and family praised the federal prosecutors for pressing the case. "I think the Justice Department is tired of sitting on the sidelines and they think this is one they can definitely win and send a message to police departments around the country," attorney Chris Stewart told The Associated Press. A federal indictment unsealed Wednesday charges Michael Slager, 34, with depriving Scott of his civil rights.

Post and Courier: Walter Scott family attorney: Federal charges against Michael Slager could be a 'turning point in history'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160511/PC16/160519884>

Andrew Knapp

Former North Charleston officer Michael Slager was indicted this week on a federal civil rights charge in Walter Scott's death, a rare measure in police shootings that gives authorities another route to reach a conviction. Scott's loved ones and their attorneys on Wednesday also called it a watershed moment for a nationwide push in recent years to shed light on questionable uses of force by police officers.

Savannah River Site News:

Aiken Standard: Environmental Advisory Board discusses SRS impact and environmental future

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160511/AIK0101/160519833>

Thomas Gardiner

The Environmental Management, or EM, Advisory Board meeting Wednesday focused on Savannah River Site's progress in waste management this year and looked to the future plans to handle nuclear materials and prevent contamination of the local and global ecosystem. Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management Dr. Monica Regalbutto said the missions at SRS will continue for years to come. "Some sites have a 25-year timeline and some go out to 50 years. SRS is a 50-year site," she said.

SC Political News:

Post and Courier: South Carolina GOP conservatives prepare to meet with Trump in coming weeks

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160511/PC1603/160519835>

Emma Dumain

U.S. Reps. Mark Sanford, Mick Mulvaney and Jeff Duncan didn't endorse Donald Trump in the height of primary season, and none are particularly sure how they feel about him. But the three conservative South Carolina Republicans could soon find themselves in close quarters with the presumptive Republican presidential nominee. The lawmakers are members of the House Freedom Caucus, the 40-member contingent established last year to push party leadership farther to the right. Having successfully driven out former House Speaker John Boehner and credited with halting momentum on a variety of bills that didn't pass conservative muster, the HFC is now seeking to assert its influence in the presidential campaign by requesting a meeting with Trump.

Greenville News: Sen. Lindsey Graham lectures Trump, Clinton on debt

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/05/12/sen-lindsey-graham-lectures-trump-clinton-debt/84244096/>

Mary Orndorff Toryan

Having already promised not to vote for either Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump in the November election, Sen. Lindsey Graham made a politically neutral offer on Wednesday to help the ultimate winner reduce the national debt. The South Carolina Republican's message of fiscal reform as a national security imperative failed to connect with voters when he himself was a presidential candidate. But Graham said he still believes both political parties must make sacrifices to erase the \$19 trillion debt with new tax revenue and changes to Medicare and Social Security.

The State: EXCLUSIVE: Some Richland voters mistakenly denied Republican absentee ballots

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article77070717.html#storylink=apmobile>

Sarah Ellis

More than 200 voters in Richland County mistakenly were told by the beleaguered county elections office that they could not vote absentee in the June Republican primary for state House District 71. Thousands of voters across the county requested absentee ballots for the June 14 primary. Most of them correctly received letters from the Richland County Voter Registration and Elections office telling them there is no Republican primary for them to vote in, elections director Samuel Selph said. But 203 voters in House District 71, who are eligible to vote in the county's sole Republican primary, received those letters by mistake, Selph said.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Colorado Planned Parenthood shooter mentally incompetent

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=n4z00a16

SC State Wire

A man who acknowledged killing three people at a Colorado Planned Parenthood clinic is mentally incompetent to continue with his criminal case, a judge ruled Wednesday, stalling the proceedings and

potentially setting the stage for a mental health defense.

Note: The psychologists who interviewed Dear recently released court documents showing Dear idolized Paul Hill, an abortion foe who killed a Florida doctor more than two decades ago. Dear also told investigators he put glue in the locks at an abortion clinic when he lived in South Carolina, a common protest technique among activists trying to shut down such facilities.

Note: He spent most of his life in North and South Carolina before moving recently to an isolated community in Colorado's mountains, where he lived in a trailer with no electricity.

Associated Press: Enrollment in state-funded preschool inched up in 2014-15

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=fEY3Qtx4

Karen Matthews

The number of 3- and 4-year-olds in state-funded classrooms rose slightly during the 2014-15 school year to almost 1.4 million, according to a national preschool report released Thursday. The report from the National Institute for Early Education Research found a wide range in per-pupil spending and quality of programs, with New Jersey spending \$12,149 for each child enrolled in pre-K compared with \$2,304 in Florida and \$1,981 in South Carolina.

Associated Press: South Carolina Air Guard flies exercise over center of state

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=uDZI5o59

SC State Wire

The South Carolina Air National Guard's F-16 fighter jets are flying an air defense exercise over the central sectors of the state. Guard spokesman Senior Master Sgt. Ed Snyder says Thursday's exercise is scheduled to run from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. in the region surrounding McEntire Joint National Guard Base.

Local News:

The State: Officers cleared in shooting of Texas murder suspect in Columbia

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article77052492.html#storylink=apmobile>

Glen Luke Flanagan

An inquiry by the Richland County Sheriff's Department and the local prosecutor has cleared local, state and federal officers involved in the January shooting of a Texas murder suspect. An autopsy showed that James was killed by a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head, authorities said.

Greenville News: Schizophrenic Greenville man sentenced in teacher's death

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/05/11/darrin-terrell-eskew-guilty-plea/84222316/>

Romando Dixon

Judge Letitia Verdin on Wednesday sentenced 23-year-old Eskew to 31 years in prison in connection with Patton's gruesome death at a Quality Inn and Suites. He pleaded guilty but mentally ill to the charge of murder as Patton's friends and family watched the plea hearing. "This is a misfortune of the result of a bad choice with no take backs," Evans said. "It's a loss of great magnitude for our family. Physically, we are forced to move on. Emotionally, we are perpetually stuck on March 3, 2014."

Greenville News: New on-call Simpsonville assistant judge appointed

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/golden-strip/2016/05/11/new--call-simpsonville-assistant-judge-appointed/84223510/>

Scott Keeler

The recent retirement of assistant judge Leslie Sharff has left Simpsonville with a void to fill. City officials are looking to fill a couple of needs by splitting apart the assistant judge position Sharff held into different capacities. City Administrator David Dyrhaug explained during Tuesday's City Council meeting that the most pressing need was to find someone who could be on call for nights and weekends. City Council dealt with the more pressing issue Tuesday. Council voted unanimously to appoint Barbara Ferguson as assistant judge for the purpose of being on-call nights and weekends on a rotating basis.

Post and Courier: North Charleston ceremony honors fallen officers

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160511/PC16/160519846>

The Tri-County Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony paid tribute Wednesday to all officers who have died in the line of duty, including 64 in the tri-county area. It was held at the Felix C. Davis Community Center at Park Circle in North Charleston. The ceremony included guest speakers, the reading of the names of fallen officers, a rifle salute, a flag-folding ceremony and playing of taps. North Charleston Police Chief Eddie Driggers sang "Amazing Grace."

Aiken Standard: County Council budget questions involve body cameras, inmate labor

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160511/AIK0101/160519831>

Christina Cleveland

Decisions on how to fill the loss of labor due to the closing of a level-1A minimum security facility in Aiken along with supporting funding for body cameras emerged at Aiken County Council's first work session for the fiscal year 2017 budget. During the work session Tuesday night, council members asked questions to the County's financial advisers about the budget proposal that balances general fund revenue and expenditures at around \$61.1 million.

Sun News: Horry County police, sheriff merger mulled

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article76963057.html>

Audrey Hudson

Horry County council members are examining the pros and cons of merging the county police department with the sheriff's office. Deputy County Attorney Wes Covington was instructed during the council's Public Safety Committee meeting on Wednesday to study the issue and present his findings to the panel at its meeting next month. Covington told the council that a merger ballot question would have to be approved by the council, and then put to Horry County residents for a vote during an election.

Sun News: Horry County eyes \$667,000 for new mobile command center

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article77039617.html>

Audrey Hudson

Horry County is looking to spend up to \$667,000 for a new mobile command center used by law enforcement to replace an older model that was acquired 16 years ago. County officials say they won't know the exact price tag until bids are received Thursday. Financing for the command unit would come from several county funds, including \$300,000 from the general fund, \$200,000 from the body camera fund, \$50,000 from the Juniper Bay fire station project, \$60,000 from the emergency 911 fund and a \$57,000 grant.

Greenville News: Rudolph Gordon expansion brings manufacturing emphasis

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/education/2016/05/11/rudolph-gordon-expansion-brings-manufacturing-emphasis/84236434/>

Nathaniel Cary

Greenville County Schools plans to develop a cluster of programs with an advanced manufacturing emphasis at several schools in the Golden Strip – the first of which will be a \$36.76 million addition to Rudolph Gordon Elementary School, which will turn the school into a K-8 grade program. Similar to Fisher Middle School, Rudolph Gordon's addition is designed with a projects-based learning environment. It will include two major labs, which will be filled with equipment similar to what would be found in advanced manufacturing businesses in the area, district officials said.

The State: Richland leaders will 'vigorously defend' pair of penny tax lawsuits

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article77046567.html#storylink=apmobile>

Sarah Ellis

Richland County leaders on Wednesday said they will "vigorously defend" a pair of penny tax-related lawsuits filed by two people and a government watchdog group. Richland County resident Rusty DePass and the S.C. Public Interest Foundation have filed a suit seeking to halt any further spending of penny money until the county complies fully with the law, The State newspaper reported last week. Another suit filed last month by

the foundation and activist Ned Sloan alleges the county violated the state open records law over a request for penny tax-related records.

The Herald: Rock Hill school board seeks input on religious study release policy

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/education/article77026467.html>

Jennifer Becknell

As Rock Hill school board members wrestle with a proposal to allow release-time religious study, they are seeking input from parents and School Improvement Council members. During a Monday night workshop in which board members voiced deeply divided views on the proposal, the board decided to conduct an email survey of parents. They also wanted to reach out to School Improvement Council members for input.

The State: New fee proposed to help fix Lexington County roads

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article77080832.html#storylink=apmobile>

Tim Flach

An additional fee on all new homes, stores, offices and industry was proposed Wednesday to improve Lexington County roads. Making incoming development pay extra is a way to raise money to make roads safer and less congested, County Councilman Ned Tolar of West Columbia said.

The Herald: Pothole trucks eliminate road-repair backlog, Rock Hill says

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article77013387.html>

Bristow Marchant

Two workers and a truck have, in seven months, been able to eliminate Rock Hill's backlog on pothole repair, the city's public works director said. "We had over 250 potholes out there that hadn't been touched" when the city put its dedicated pothole trucks on the road last October, Terrence Nealy said. "Now those have all been repaired." The truck – of which the city owns two, each operated by a two-man repair crew – is designed to respond quickly to pothole calls, without the larger crews and equipment that would have blocked traffic before. Since their launch, the trucks have been so successful, Nealy says, the crews no longer have an outstanding list of potholes waiting.

The State: Sonoco leaves recycling void for Richland, Lexington schools

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article77061392.html#storylink=apmobile>

Roddie Burris

Sonoco Recycling has stopped hauling recyclable materials from South Carolina school districts for free, forcing the districts to make new plans. In Richland County, where Sonoco hauled schools' recyclable refuse for free up until March, those new plans will most likely include an added cost in the upcoming school year. But the three school districts are working on a mutual plan to lessen the cost for all three. In Lexington County, where schools already pay a monthly charge for recycling pick-ups, hauling costs may increase for the next school year.

Post and Courier: Poultry exports, a growing sector for Charleston's port, subject of U.S.-China trade complaint

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160511/PC05/160519838>

David Wren

Poultry exports from the Port of Charleston are hardly chicken scratch, accounting for 38 percent of all refrigerated cargo leaving the facility's container terminals. On Tuesday, the Obama administration filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization over what U.S. officials call illegal tariffs that are hampering poultry trade. China established the tariffs in 2010, saying America was dumping cheap, government-subsidized poultry onto its market. U.S. poultry — including the popular chicken feet that Chinese consumers crave as a snack — slowed to a trickle after the high tariffs were established, with annual sales plunging nearly 90 percent from their pre-tariff high of \$800 million.

Post and Courier: ThyssenKrupp establishing distribution center in North Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160511/PC05/160519852>

David Wren

A North American division of European conglomerate ThyssenKrupp AG will create 32 jobs at a \$1.4 million distribution center it is opening in North Charleston, the state Commerce Department said Wednesday. The project, which will start with about 39,000 square feet of warehouse space, will operate within a Foreign Trade Zone at 9004-I Sightline Drive in Palmetto Commerce Park's Crosspoint development off of Ladson Road.

Herald-Journal: Trucking company relocating offices to Spartanburg County

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160511/articles/160519902>

Chris Lavender

Trucking company J. Grady Randolph Inc. plans to bring 100 jobs to Greer in July. The company has outgrown its facility in Greenville and is currently constructing a 12,000-square-foot building at 3085 Highway 101 near Sharon Church Road. Grady Randolph CEO Mark Randolph said the new building will feature 6,000 square feet of office space and a four-door bay garage for trucks.

Morning News: Long-awaited Darlington Walmart draws large crowd for grand opening

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_cc8ab892-17cc-11e6-bf1b-effba930f431.html

Joe Perry

Letha Martin was a little excited about the Wednesday grand opening of the new Walmart. "I got here at 4:30 this morning," she said with a smile just before the celebration kicked off at 7:30 a.m. "First one here. This is a good turnout – we're very blessed." Following the presentation of the colors, the chorus and band played the national anthem. Mayor Gloria Hines first thanked God before proclaiming it as "a great day for Darlington." "I feel like we got a new toy in town," she said. "We are excited to have our very first Walmart that we can call our own."

National News:

Associated Press: Trial begins for officer charged in Freddie Gray case

<http://bigstory.ap.org/6ca5ee96331d420097ef1bba16926e54>

Juliet Linderman

The second trial in the Freddie Gray case gets underway Thursday, and it will be different than the one that ended last year with a hung jury. This trial is before a judge, and it has a better chance of ending with a verdict. It is also likely to signal what may happen with the officers who face similar charges.

Associated Press: Pistol used in Trayvon Martin shooting to be auctioned

<http://bigstory.ap.org/e8f22f2835834e768c81567b1d7720fd>

Former Florida neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman is auctioning off the pistol he used in the fatal shooting of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed black teenager. In an interview with Orlando, Florida, TV station WOFL, Zimmerman said he had just gotten the pistol back from the U.S. Justice Department, which took it after he was acquitted in Martin's 2012 shooting death. "And I thought it's time to move past the firearm," Zimmerman told the station. "And if I sell it and it sells, I move past it. Otherwise, it's going in a safe for my grandkids and never to be used or seen again."

Associated Press: Trump, Ryan, and the search for common ground

<http://bigstory.ap.org/de2984ae94eb4ff09289e29be39bbfc7>

Erica Werner

Donald Trump and House Speaker Paul Ryan are sitting down face-to-face for the first time, a week after Ryan stunned Republicans by refusing to back the mercurial billionaire for president. The much-anticipated meeting Thursday morning will play out as polls suggest Republican voters are getting behind Trump, who effectively clinched the nomination last week. GOP lawmakers are increasingly calling for the party to end its embarrassing bout of infighting and unite to beat likely Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton in November, and many want to see Ryan get on board. Before the meeting, Ryan insisted party unity was his goal, too.

Associated Press: US missile defense site opens in Romania, Russia sees threat

<http://bigstory.ap.org/059c532cd36a433a860f932148a56b55>

Alison Mutler

A U.S missile defense site in Romania aimed at protecting Europe from ballistic missile threats became operational Thursday, angering Russia, which opposes having the advanced military system in its former area of influence. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg tried to reassure Russia as he spoke at a ceremony attended by U.S., NATO and Romanian officials at the Soviet-built base, located 180 kilometers (110 miles) southwest of Bucharest.

Associated Press: When Zika hits, a push for birth control and abortion?

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/445d41dfa2064df5b5819258cf95ac92/when-zika-hits-push-birth-control-and-abortion>

Mike Stobbe

There's little doubt: Zika is coming to the continental United States, bringing frightening birth defects — and, most likely, newly urgent discussions about abortion and contraception. Fearful they might bear children who suffer from brain-damaging birth defects caused by Zika, more women are expected to look for ways to prevent or end pregnancies. But the highest risk of Zika spreading is in Southern states where long-lasting birth control and abortions are harder to procure, and where a mosquito that transmits the virus already is plentiful.

World News:

Associated Press: Brazil's Senate impeaches president Rousseff; trial ahead

<http://bigstory.ap.org/924024d8b7164ac68351d4e61927d99d>

Jenny Barchfield and Mauricio Savarese

Brazil's Senate voted Thursday to impeach President Dilma Rousseff after a months-long fight that laid bare the country's fury over corruption and economic decay, hurling Latin America's largest country into political turmoil just months before it hosts the Summer Olympics. Rousseff's enraged backers called the move a coup d'etat and threatened wide-scale protests and strikes. Her foes, meanwhile, insisted that she had broken the law, and that the country's deep political, social and economic woes could only be tackled without her.

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