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To:
Date: 7/8/2016 8:31:49 AM
Subject: Morning Clips – Friday, July 8, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: One thing missing from governor's crisis emails post-Emanuel: Haley's voice
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160707/160709584/one-thing-missing-from-governors-crisis-emails-post-emanuel-haleys-voice>

Maya T. Prabhu

A voice that is almost completely absent from the 10,000 emails and correspondence sent to Gov. Nikki Haley in the aftermath of last year's Emanuel AME Church shooting and subsequent Confederate flag debate is the governor's herself. Records show Haley declined to leave any sort of electronic public footprint post-Emanuel. Instead, she used what appeared to be one of at least two pre-written template responses to reply to emails from those voicing strong opinions on the shooting that killed nine black parishioners on June 17, 2015, and the Legislature's pending removal of the Confederate battle flag from Statehouse grounds. "Thank you for taking the time to contact us," Haley wrote in one emailed response. "Inspired by the victims' families and the reopening of Emanuel A.M. E. Church, I felt compelled to make a statement about moving the flag from the Statehouse grounds." Several writers expressed gratitude for receiving an email from the governor during an obviously busy time, while others shared frustrations at what appeared to be a canned response.

NOTE: "While the governor does sometimes use her state email address to communicate with staff and other state officials, she finds it more productive to speak directly with them, in person when possible, and when not, via phone," Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams said.

NOTE: When asked about the apparent lack of e-communication across local, state and the federal government, the governor's office said Haley held conversations in person or on the phone about Emanuel and the flag question.

NOTE: Haley's off-the-grid habit isn't unique, and she isn't the only South Carolina politician who appears to consciously avoid email. U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., for example, said last year that he had never sent an email. He said he prefers to receive texts and, if they are important, he'll pick up the phone to respond.

WYFF4: Emails to Gov. Nikki Haley during Confederate flag debate released
<http://www.wyff4.com/news/emails-to-gov-nikki-haley-during-confederate-flag-debate-released/40406394>

Tim Waller

When Gov. Nikki Haley pushed for the removal of the Confederate Flag from the State House grounds in the days after the Charleston church massacre, she received thousands of emails and letters from people across the country. Through a Freedom of Information Act request, The Associated Press obtained 10,000 pages of emails to the governor expressing both support and opposition to her stance on removal of the flag. "You boycott my flag, I boycott you," one person wrote. "What will you give up next when they ask. Our Bibles? Our guns? Our children?" another asked. Others praised Haley's leadership in the aftermath of the church shootings. "You made me very proud. Thank you," one email said. Another congratulated Haley for her "gutsy" move, adding: "You make me so proud as an American, as a fellow Republican, and as a United Methodist, too." "Thank you for standing up and calling for the removal of the Confederate flag. Not because I believe it stands for hate (it might, but that is irrelevant) but because the flag does not represent the United

States of America," one man wrote.

Associated Press: Haley order addresses what she calls hidden budget earmarks

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=EIQa40ZB

Seanna Adcox

Gov. Nikki Haley is hoping to force South Carolina legislators to be more forthright about budget earmarks. The Republican governor issued an executive order Thursday aimed at stemming so-called "pass-throughs." That's when legislators send money to an agency without its request, to be spent on local projects. Her order requires Cabinet agencies to verify such projects benefit the public and fit the agency's mission before funding them. It also requires an annual report detailing those earmarks. Haley said last month while issuing her budget vetoes that pass-throughs are "really starting to become a problem." For example, this year's budget allocated \$6.4 million to the Department of Parks Recreation and Tourism for unspecified "revitalizations." Legislators overrode Haley's line-item veto. The order covers the 16 agencies that report to Haley.

Dylann Roof Case:

Associated Press: Church shooting attorney calls state prosecutor 'reckless'

<http://bigstory.ap.org/d20939f879cf43d19df2afae235704ba>

Meg Kinnard

An attorney for the man facing dual death-penalty trials in the shootings of nine churchgoers in South Carolina says a state prosecutor's desire to go to trial before federal authorities is "reckless and shortsighted." Public defender Ashley Pennington also said that if Solicitor Scarlett Wilson wants justice, she should accept Dylann Roof's offer to plead guilty to murder in exchange for a life sentence. "If the Solicitor were truly concerned with certainty and finality, she would be satisfied with an agreed-upon federal trial schedule, rather than seeking a speeded-up and unworkable new trial schedule in the State Court," Pennington wrote in a state court filing on Wednesday. "Or she could immediately achieve both certainty and finality by accepting the defendant's longstanding offer to plead guilty as charged to all counts in state court, and accept a sentence of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole," he wrote. The arguments mirror statements in Roof's federal hate crimes case, where his defenders also want prosecutors to drop the death penalty and accept a guilty plea.

Associated Press: The Latest: July 13 hearing set for church shooting suspect

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=C9rjTfPD

SC State Wire

The white man charged with fatally shooting nine black people at a South Carolina church is expected in court next week. Solicitor Scarlett Wilson says a hearing in the state case against 22-year-old Dylann Roof has been scheduled for July 13 in Charleston. Roof faces charges including nine counts of murder in state court, and Wilson is seeking the death penalty. Federal prosecutors are also seeking death on the 33 charges they're pursuing against Roof, including hate crimes and obstruction of religion. Roof's federal trial is slated to begin in November, although Wilson has said her case should go first. The state trial is currently scheduled for January.

Post and Courier: Despite Dylann Roof conflict, U.S. attorney says feds, state want same: justice

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160707/160709605/despite-dylann-roof-conflict-us-attorney-says-feds-state-want-same-justice>

Andrew Knapp

Despite courtroom conflicts between the state and federal authorities seeking Dylann Roof's execution, South Carolina's top federal prosecutor said this week that they all want the same thing: justice. Acting U.S. Attorney Beth Drake penned a letter to survivors and loved ones of those slain in last year's mass shooting at Emanuel AME Church. It was her first public comment on the case since taking over for Bill Nettles, who resigned last month. Drake and the U.S. Department of Justice have

been at apparent odds with 9th Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson, who lambasted the federal government and court system for seeking to try Roof first. The federal death penalty trial is set for Nov. 7, while the state's capital proceeding is slated to start Jan. 17.

SC Political News:

The State: SC lawmaker-attorney hired to represent family of Alton Sterling

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article88260932.html>

Avery G. Wilks

The S.C. lawmaker and attorney who represented Walter Scott's family now has been hired by the family of a Louisiana man shot and killed early Tuesday by Baton Rouge police officers. Democratic state Rep. Justin Bamberg, D-Bamberg, is representing the family of Alton Sterling, a black man whose death at the hands of white police officers was caught on camera and made national headlines this week. Bamberg told The State that Sterling's son, 15-year-old Cameron Sterling, and his son's mother, Quinyetta Sterling, expect to file lawsuits against the city of Baton Rouge, the Baton Rouge Police Department and the officers involved. "This was a completely unjustified shooting," said Bamberg, who traveled to Baton Rouge on Wednesday. "It is an incident that should have never gotten to this point." The U.S. Justice Department has launched a civil-rights investigation into Sterling's death. Police have said Sterling was armed as he struggled on the ground with two officers outside a convenience store.

Post and Courier: S.C. lawyer: Baton Rouge shooting 'reminds me' of Walter Scott

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160707/160709587/sc-lawyer-baton-rouge-shooting-reminds-me-of-walter-scott>

Gavin Jackson

South Carolina state Rep. Justin Bamberg — who represented the family of Walter Scott, the unarmed black man shot and killed by a white North Charleston police officer — is now representing the family of another black man killed after an altercation with police, this time in Baton Rouge, La. Bamberg, whose law firm is based in Orangeburg, along with Atlanta-based attorney L. Chris Stewart, addressed the media Thursday on behalf of Alton Sterling's family in Louisiana's capital city. The U.S. Department of Justice is investigating the video-recorded killing of Sterling, who police say had a gun as he wrestled with two white officers outside a convenience store. "DOJ jumped in ASAP and I think it does send a very strong message, but I think a lot of it does go back to Walter (Scott) and everything we dealt with in Charleston," Bamberg said about federal authorities who investigated shortly after the Scott shooting. "The Walter Scott case, again, is the prototype for how officer-involved incidents need to be handled."

Associated Press: Scott family attorney to represent family in Louisiana death

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=JtLXpP54

SC State Wire

The South Carolina lawyer for the family of a black man who was killed while running away from an officer is now representing the family of a black man killed during a confrontation with police in Louisiana. News outlets report that state Rep. Justin Bamberg is part of a legal team representing the family of Alton Sterling. The 37-year-old Baton Rouge, Louisiana, man was killed Tuesday after he scuffled with two white police officers outside a convenience store. Bamberg says the shooting reminds him of the death of Walter Scott, an unarmed black motorist killed by a white North Charleston officer last year. Bamberg represents Scott's family and says that, as they did with Scott's

shooting, he's pleased that the U.S. Justice Department is investigating Sterling's death. Michael Slager, the officer charged with shooting Scott, faces state and federal charges.

Morning News: Florence City Councilmember-elect Moore: Young black males ready to start a gun revolution with police

http://www.scnw.com/news/article_199a8046-4481-11e6-ac1a-33f507971d1d.html

Joshua Lloyd

Florence City Councilmember-elect Pat Gibson-Hye Moore said Thursday during a press conference that she's heard from colleagues in New York, Philadelphia and Washington D.C. that young black males who feel marginalized by law enforcement are ready to begin shooting officers at random. Moore said she's appalled that black men and women are being needlessly killed at the hand of police officers, but responding with gun violence is never the right answer. "Violence will only create more problems and more death," Moore said. "Instead we need to, peacefully, across this country demand more convictions on police officers who use their badge as legal death weapons. We need to demand Congress to take action." Moore said she felt compelled to start the conversation in Florence in light of the recent outrage and protests sparked by the police shootings of Alton Sterling outside a gas station in Baton Rouge and Philando Castile during a traffic stop just outside of Minneapolis, Minnesota. She said Florence has its problems, but the police force in Florence is a good one and the citizens know how to come together to work through hardship.

Post and Courier: Jim Clyburn, in emotional speech, says 'black lives do matter'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160707/160709567/jim-clyburn-in-emotional-speech-says-black-lives-do-matter>

Emma Dumain

U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn delivered emotional and personal remarks Thursday during a Congressional Black Caucus press conference where officials confronted the two most recent national shootings and their connection to a run of fatal encounters between young black men at the hands of law enforcement. "Black lives do matter," said the South Carolina Democrat, punctuating each word. "And we here in the Congress must mature enough, grow up enough to have the kinds of adult discussions about the issues that plague us in this country in a way that will allow us to find the common ground that's necessary to resolve them." As the third most senior House Democrat and the highest-ranking black lawmaker on Capitol Hill, Clyburn didn't need to explicitly connect last year's North Charleston officer-involved shooting of Walter Scott to this week's shootings of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, La., and Philando Castile in St. Paul, Minn.

Post and Courier: Clyburn 'tentatively' scheduled to make key slot speech at Democratic Convention

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160707/160709593/clyburn-tentatively-scheduled-to-make-key-slot-speech-at-democratic-convention>

Emma Dumain

U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn might have a plum speaking slot at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia later this month. The South Carolina lawmaker — the third ranking House Democrat and most senior black lawmaker in Congress — told The Post and Courier on Thursday he's been told he's on the schedule to deliver remarks on the last night of the convention. That's the same night that Hillary Clinton is expected to officially become the first woman to accept the presidential nomination on a major party ticket. "My staff has informed me that I am tentatively listed as a Thursday night speaker," Clyburn said. Clyburn's speech could also occur during prime time, when millions of viewers around the country are tuning into the nationally-televised pageantry.

Post and Courier: S.C. Republicans have audience with Donald Trump on Capitol Hill

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160707/160709607/sc-republicans-have-audience-with-donald-trump-on-capitol-hill>

Emma Dumain

The GOP's presumptive presidential nominee, Donald Trump, visited Capitol Hill on Thursday to hold court with congressional Republicans — including U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford and several others from South Carolina. It was Trump's first visit to Washington, D.C., since securing the nomination. None of the Republicans from the South Carolina delegation who attended the two sessions were Trump supporters during the primary. A few of them, including Sanford, R-S.C., continue to harbor reservations. Sanford told reporters on his way out of House Republicans' meeting he continues to be concerned about Trump's often inflammatory "tenor and tone," but said it was important the party leader made time to address lawmakers and take questions. "It's necessary to check the box," Sanford said. "At some point, the nominee needs to get to know the Republican Conference because, if in fact he wins, this is the team that's going to make his agenda happen, or we'd be responsible for its failures."

McClatchy DC: Trump meeting with Congress gets mixed review from S.C. delegation

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/election/article88248882.html>

Vera Bergengruen

A meeting with Donald Trump on Thursday did little to change the minds of most of South Carolina's Republican lawmakers in Washington, who continue to waver over how warmly to embrace their party's presumptive presidential nominee.

NOTE: "It was interesting; I didn't hear anything I hadn't heard before. Glad I came, and there were some interesting questions from my colleagues," Rep. Jeff Duncan, R-S.C., said as he exited the closed-door meeting on Capitol Hill where Trump received about 200 Republicans from the House of Representatives.

NOTE: Rep. Mark Sanford, R-S.C., who has expressed reservations about Trump in the past, said his concerns "are probably still there" after the meeting.

NOTE: Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., described Trump's separate meeting with Republican senators as "cordial" and "meaty" on policy and said he thought it had been effective in swaying some senators to be less skeptical of Trump's candidacy.

NOTE: South Carolina's other senator, Republican Lindsey Graham, has said he will not be voting for Trump, and he did not attend Thursday's meeting. Neither did Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C.

NOTE: Rep. Tom Rice, R-S.C., said the bombastic businessman — who even by his own standards has had a controversy-filled week, between [doubling down on a tweet](#) that was widely denounced as anti-Semitic and the comments about Saddam — had tried to allay lawmakers' fears "with some success."

WIS: SC Republican delegates hope for unity around Trump at national convention

<http://www.wistv.com/story/32397439/sc-republican-delegates-hope-for-unity-around-trump-at-national-convention>

Charles Molineaux

With less than two weeks before the 2016 Republican National Convention in Cleveland, South Carolina Republican Delegates resolved unity around likely nominee Donald Trump and enthusiasm over the day's widely speculated running mate, former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich. Delegates gathered at the Hickory Tavern in Columbia's Vista neighborhood Thursday evening to plan logistics and housekeeping for the Convention, which begins July 18. Some acknowledged that Trump was not their first choice but declared the party will come together behind him and while Trump had not yet chosen a running mate, Gingrich had appeared with Trump at a series of campaign events, prompting speculation the former speaker could be a favorite on Trump's short list. The idea thrilled delegate Sally Atwater. "I would love to see that," she exclaimed. "I think it's wonderful. He knows more about government than anybody in the United States of America."

McClatchy DC: S.C. Republicans react to FBI: 'The rules are different for the Clintons'

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/election/article87895907.html>

Vera Bergengruen

South Carolinians lashed out at Hillary Clinton on Tuesday after FBI Director James Comey announced that he did not recommend filing charges inst her for using a private email server while she was secretary of state, although he scolded Clinton and her staff for being “extremely careless.” “It has become clear that the rules are different for the Clintons than they are for every day Americans, and that must stop,” Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., tweeted on Tuesday after Comey took the unusual step of making a public statement on the matter before the Justice Department had made its final decision. The email controversy has been a persistent shadow over Clinton’s presidential campaign. “Secretary Clinton’s purposeful decision to set up a private email server put our national security at stake,” Scott said in a statement. “Now more than ever, I believe a special prosecutor is needed in order to assure the American people that politics are not overriding the truth in this case.”

Island Packet: SC senator proposes legislation to revoke Hilary Clinton’s security clearance

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/state/south-carolina/article88188897.html>

Mandy Matney

A South Carolina senator is working with other Republicans on legislation that would revoke Hillary Clinton’s security clearance. U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, along with U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner and U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, introduced legislation Thursday that would revoke Clinton’s security clearance, as well as the security clearance of her colleagues who worked with her during her time as Secretary of State. The legislation is known as the TRUST (Taking Responsibility Using Secured Technologies) Act, introduced after the conclusion of the FBI’s investigation into Secretary Clinton’s use of a personal e-mail system in her capacity as Secretary of State. “The bottom line is Secretary Clinton created her own email system, used it to send classified documents, and was most likely hacked by foreign operatives,” Scott said. “This exhibits a serious lack of judgment, and must have consequences.

McClatchy DC: FBI director: Clinton was careless, but she didn’t lie to the bureau

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/congress/article88176792.html>

Marisa Taylor and Tim Johnson

FBI Director James Comey handed Hillary Clinton’s political foes new ammunition Thursday on her mishandling of classified material, even as he defended his conclusion that the Democratic presidential candidate didn’t violate the law. Under intense questioning from Republicans in a nearly five-hour hearing, Comey said he had not been swayed by political considerations when he recommended Clinton should not be prosecuted for setting up a private email server when she was secretary of state. Comey, however, acknowledged that several of Clinton’s public statements about the arrangement weren’t accurate, including her assertion under oath to Congress that she had neither sent nor received any items marked classified.

NOTE: “That is not true,” Comey said in a rapid-fire exchange with Republican Rep. Trey Gowdy of South Carolina. “There were a small number of portion markings.”

Herald-Journal: US Rep. Trey Gowdy disputes reasons for not charging Hillary Clinton

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160707/articles/160709790>

Zach Fox

Having a two-tier justice system in which the well-known avoid punishment while ordinary people are held accountable endangers the country, according to U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy. That was one of the conclusions the South Carolina congressman said he drew after questioning FBI Director James Comey Thursday afternoon. Comey appeared before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee to discuss the recently announced decision not to file charges against former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton over her and aides’ handling of classified information sent in personal emails. “We won’t make it as a Republic if the people believe there are two justice systems — one for people

that aren't well-known and one for people who are well-known," he said in a phone interview Thursday night. "If a police officer or county councilman messes up, you should approach that case the same as if John Q. Public messes up." Gowdy questioned Comey on his interpretation that a lack of specific criminal intent was the primary reason not to charge Clinton. "I think Director Comey is putting an additional element in the statute that many of us don't believe exists, and that is the element of specific intent," he said. "But my last series of questions today was, 'let's assume you're right, you still have intent. It's proven through circumstantial evidence like it is in courts across the country.' (But) it wasn't going to change his mind."

SC Agency News:

The State: DHEC lifts Saluda River swimming advisory

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article88173852.html>

Sammy Fretwell

The state Department of Health and Environmental Control has lifted a swimming advisory for the Saluda River at Saluda Shoals Park in Columbia, according to a news release from the agency. "We have been performing daily sampling along the section of river that was impacted by improperly treated wastewater, along with the effluent being discharged from the facility, and found that bacteria levels have returned to consistently satisfactory levels," David Baize, chief of DHEC's Bureau of Water, said in the news release. On June 21, DHEC detected bacteria levels higher than normal being discharged from the Carolina Water Service Friarsgate Plant into the Saluda River near Saluda Shoals.

Savannah River Site/MOX News :

Aiken Standard: SRS security contractor Centerra gets high marks in performance rating

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160707/160709592/srs-security-contractor-centerra-gets-high-marks-in-performance-rating>

Centerra-SRS, security contractor at the U.S. Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, earned a performance rating of 95 of a possible 100 for the most recent evaluation period, Oct. 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016. "Centerra-SRS personnel demonstrated an exceptional level of performance this period, meeting or exceeding most of the performance goals and objectives and supporting the Site's security posture at various SRS operating facilities," Jack Craig, Savannah River Site manager, wrote in the award letter. Mark Bolton, Centerra's senior vice president and general manager at SRS, thanked employees for their commitment and attention to detail that continued to ensure safe, secure operations at the site.

Opinion/Editorial:

Aiken Standard : Editorial: Farm Aid not a handout but a hand up

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160708/160709594/editorial-farm-aid-not-a-handout-but-a-hand-up>
Editorial

The S.C. Department of Agriculture is trying to do what Nikki Haley would not – give state farmers a helping hand. The crops and land devastated by the storms and flooding of October 2015 knocked the state's farmers to the ground. Haley, in her remarks after the 1,000-year flood ravaged South Carolina, said farmers would not be treated any differently than other state businesses. The problem with this thought process is farming is a different business than say, a hardware or sporting goods store. The farmers aren't looking for any handouts. That is not in their mindset. Farmers understand work. Farmers wrote the book on hard work, and it is on their backs that this country was built. They feed us, and it should mean something. South Carolina's farmers are merely looking for a hand up,

and they're about to get it. Beginning July 1, farmers who suffered crop loss due to last year's flooding could apply for South Carolina Farm Aid grants from the S.C. Department of Agriculture, or SCDA. The S.C. General Assembly approved \$40 million in state aid to help farms in flood-ravaged communities. Farmers can receive grants covering 20 percent of their crop loss up to \$100,000.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: SC drought committee meets 9 months after massive floods

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

SC State Wire

Just nine months after last fall's devastating floods in South Carolina, officials are now talking drought. The state's Drought Response Committee meets by conference call Friday and is expected discuss moving at least a few counties in the northwestern part of the state to an incipient drought, which is the lowest level. Officials say dry weather has been spreading into the state from the west. The U.S. Drought Monitor map has parts of at least 11 counties in a moderate drought and most of Abbeville and Oconee counties in a severe drought. Farmers say the dry weather is starting to take a toll on crops like corn, especially if they're not irrigated.

Local News:

WIS: Columbia police see progress in improving community relations

<http://www.wistv.com/story/32398801/columbia-police-see-progress-in-improving-community-relations>

Jack Kuenzie

Outrage continues to grow and investigations move forward into the latest round of deadly encounters involving police officers and the public. It is a problem some law enforcement agencies have tried to address long before this week's events in Louisiana and Minnesota. One of those agencies is the Columbia Police Department. City and police leaders here in Columbia thought some time ago there were ways to prevent routine situations from turning deadly, and they have had success with their strategy. Leaders in Columbia launched their proactive strategy shortly before Christmas in 2014. This was just a few months after civil unrest in Ferguson, Missouri and other cities over violent clashes between police and citizens. "We're going to push for additional training. Additional training, mandatory and ongoing training requirements for all sworn officers including cultural sensitivity training, continuing strong community policing, training in peaceful conflict resolution, de-escalation techniques," explained Mayor Steve Benjamin

Sun News: Man escapes North Myrtle Beach jail for an hour and a half

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article88307732.html>

Chloe Johnson

A suspect arrested in connection to multiple burglaries in the Windy Hill Area briefly escaped North Myrtle Beach Jail Thursday before being recaptured. Atticus McNeill Barber was taken from his cell to the jail's dispatching area today after he complained of a medical issue, according to a release from North Myrtle Beach Spokesman Patrick Dowling. Barber's attendant went to a different room to call for medical services. At the same time, a construction worker who was working on the jail exited, opening a door leading to an exterior gated area. Barber went outside, where the exterior gates were open as an officer dropped off a new detainee. Barber was able to leave the area on foot, fleeing around 11:15 a.m. He was eventually re-captured at 12:46 p.m. in the area of Anne Street.

The State: Gun advertisements at Columbia airport upsets some travelers

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article88326042.html>

Cynthia Roldan

A year after poet Nikky Finney wondered who South Carolina's people would be after the removal of the State House's Confederate battle flag, an advertising campaign at Columbia Metropolitan Airport gave her an answer that brought her to tears. Finney, a Columbia resident, was returning from West Virginia on Sunday, when she spotted a billboard-sized ad for FN Manufacturing's retail store in the concourse area at Columbia Metropolitan Airport. The ad shows eight firearms and in black, bold letters touts, "Yeah, we carry." "I'm still," said Finney of her reaction. "I don't look away from it, because I am so appalled at the obscenity of what I'm seeing. I can't believe somebody would put that on the wall that is welcoming travelers, visitors in South Carolina." Both airport and FN Manufacturing officials dismissed questions about the sensitivity of the ad campaign, and instead highlighted FN as having been part of South Carolina for more than 30 years. "The airport's advertising program provides an opportunity for community partners and local businesses such as FN to tell their stories," according to a statement released by the airport. "We are proud to support our local businesses by giving them this opportunity through our advertising program."

Associated Press: Woman dies after conviction in former mayor's death

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=zB8Y02G9

SC State Wire

A woman convicted on accessory charges in the death of a former South Carolina mayor has died in prison. York Police Chief Andy Robinson told The Herald of Rock Hill (<http://bit.ly/29pcJIG>) that Julia Phillips, 72, died Wednesday. Robinson did not know how she died. Phillips was sentenced to life in prison 2013 on an accessory to murder charge in the death of 79-year-old former York Mayor Melvin Roberts. Phillips was convicted after prosecutors said she made up a phony story of being attacked when Roberts was killed in 2010. Prosecutors say Phillips was Roberts' former girlfriend and developed a scheme to kill him to try to secure her financial future when Roberts was about to break up with her.

The Herald: 'I hope she died a painful death' – Convicted killer of former York mayor dies in prison

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article88129397.html>

Andrew Dys

Julia Phillips, the convicted killer of former York Mayor Melvin Roberts in a crime that remains at least partially unsolved, died late Wednesday, York police and prison officials said. She died in a hospital, while the man she was convicted of killing – the boyfriend who paid for her lifestyle for a decade – died gasping for breath on the driveway of his home as icy rain covered his body. It remains unclear if any chance to catch whomever worked with Phillips in the killing that police and prosecutors say involved at least one other person and possibly more, died with Phillips. Phillips, 72, was believed to have been the oldest female killer in South Carolina's prison system. After a weeklong trial in 2013, throughout which she maintained her innocence, Phillips was convicted of accessory to murder and sentenced to prison for life. "Our father died a far more painful death than she did," David Roberts said. Ronnie Roberts said he felt no sorrow for Phillips after being told by prison officials of the death of the woman convicted in connection with the murder of his father. "I hope she died a painful death," he said. "I said when Julia was convicted she would rot in jail and then burn in hell. She is dead. She is not in jail any more. "That means she is burning right now ... Last night was her first night in hell."

Associated Press: SC man dies from heat in home without air conditioning

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=fvgqUv3l

SC State Wire

The Richland County coroner says a 31-year-old man living in a home without air conditioning in Columbia has died from the heat. Coroner Gary Watts said in a news release that Jamal Graham was

taken to the emergency room Tuesday and died a day later from exposure to the heat. It's been an unseasonably hot summer in Columbia. The city has had highs of 100 degrees or more for five straight days. The nights haven't cooled down. Weather data shows the temperature has dipped below 75 degrees for just 13 hours in the past 10 days in Columbia.

Associated Press: Report reveals use of public funds for personal spending

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=T9q7znHm

SC State Wire

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division has conducted an investigation regarding the use of public funds for personal expenditures in the city of Liberty. The Greenville News (<http://grnol.co/29xqC6F>) reports that the agency began the investigation in June 2015 after city's external auditor, Drake Curry, had discovered missing money while conducting the city's yearly audit. The report, which was obtained under the state Freedom of Information Act, found that several public employees used city-issued credit cards on personal expenditures. Mayor Eric Boughman, for instance, used his city credit card routinely, but paid the city back each month to clear the balance. Boughman says there were no rules regarding the card's use at the time. He says he has since enacted policy forbidding the use of city credit cards on personal spending.

The State: Energy company trying to condemn land from reticent property owners

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article88332132.html>

Sammy Fretwell

A major energy corporation is trying to condemn private property near Columbia for a natural gas pipeline that would cross through rural communities between the Congaree and Wateree rivers. In federal court filings last month, Dominion Carolina Gas Transmission asked for permission to take about 10 tracts that it has been unable to obtain for the 28-mile, \$36-million natural gas pipeline project in Richland County. While the company says it had no choice in going to court, property owners are upset with Dominion's action. Some have contacted lawyers and are considering whether to challenge the energy company as it seeks federal court approval to obtain use of their property. Some don't want the intrusion of a pipeline. Others aren't satisfied with the price the company has offered to pay.

National News:

Associated Press: Police: 5 officers dead, 6 hurt in Dallas protest shooting

<http://bigstory.ap.org/df32a96a0e1d4cd1ab2cb5d2fd536dcb>

Terry Wallace

Snipers opened fire on police officers in the heart of Dallas, killing five officers and injuring six others during protests over two recent fatal police shootings of black men, police said, in a week that bore dark echoes of the tumultuous civil rights era. Three people are in custody and a fourth suspect was exchanging gunfire with authorities in a parking garage downtown, Dallas Police Chief David Brown said early Friday morning. The suspect is not cooperating and has told negotiators he intends to hurt more law enforcement officials, the chief said. The gunfire broke out around 8:45 p.m. Thursday while hundreds of people were gathered to protest fatal police shootings this week in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and suburban St. Paul, Minnesota. Brown told reporters the snipers fired "ambush style" upon the officers. Mayor Mike Rawlings said one member of the public was wounded in the gunfire.

Associated Press: The Latest: Dallas mayor says suspect in standoff has died

<http://bigstory.ap.org/fe19fddb6c7f4a4c84c3497693d02476>

Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings says the suspect involved in an overnight standoff with police died after officers used explosives to "blast him out." Rawlings said Friday that he was not sure how the suspect died or what weapons were found on him. He says police have swept the area where the

standoff took place and found no explosives. Snipers opened fire on police officers in the heart of Dallas Thursday evening, killing five officers and injuring six others during protests over two recent fatal police shootings of black men.

Associated Press: Obama says America is horrified over Dallas attack

<http://bigstory.ap.org/b6744f30e1e340ad82e18e5d948e2e39>

Kathleen Hennessey

President Barack Obama said Friday that America is "horrified" by what appears to be a planned sniper shooting targeting police officers in Dallas, and he said there is no justification for the violence. In a brief statement to reporters, Obama said the investigation into the shooting continues but "what we do know is there has been a vicious, calculated and despicable attack on law enforcement." Obama called the shooters motives "twisted" and vowed that "justice will be done." "There's no possible justification for these kinds of attacks or any violence against law enforcement," Obama said, noting that he had spoken with Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings and offered his support and condolences.

Associated Press: Governor: Black driver wouldn't be dead if he were white

<http://bigstory.ap.org/562cdce866054f859377de493e5195cb>

Steve Karnowski and Kyle Potter

A suburban police officer who killed a black motorist likely wouldn't have fired if the driver had been white, Minnesota's governor declared, jumping into a suddenly reignited national debate over how law enforcement treats people of color. Philando Castile's girlfriend streamed the gruesome aftermath of his shooting in a St. Paul suburb this week live on Facebook. The school cafeteria supervisor had been shot "for no apparent reason" while reaching for his wallet after telling the officer he had a gun and a permit to carry it, she says in the video. "Would this have happened if those passengers would have been white? I don't think it would have," Gov. Mark Dayton said to a crowd that gathered outside his residence all day and night Thursday. Hours after Dayton's remarks, gunmen shot and killed five police officers and wounded six more amid protests in Dallas over Castile's killing and a second fatal police shooting of a black man.

Associated Press: Black gun owners worried about treatment after shooting

<http://bigstory.ap.org/8e2c1e4bdb0f4de6bed23748b84d5c0f>

Jesse J. Holland

One man told an officer during a Minnesota traffic stop that he was a licensed gun owner, and that he was reaching for his wallet, a witness said. The other was on the ground with police officers on top of him in Louisiana when someone shouted "He has a gun!" Police in each circumstance thought the black man carrying a gun was dangerous and immediately shot him dead. Activists say black gun owners are often treated differently than white gun owners to a sometimes fatal degree. The perception of an armed black person has not changed much since the days of slave rebellions, said the Rev. Kenn Blanchard, a former firearms instructor who runs BlackManWithAGun.com. "If you have a firearm or you scare the wrong people, you're going to get shot. You're going to get killed. The perception of the scary black man still exists. The threat of the slave going rogue, it's still there. The bad gangbanger," Blanchard said.

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