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Date: 7/7/2016 8:40:46 AM
Subject: SC Front Pages – Thursday, July 7, 2016

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The Post and Courier

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Thursday, July 7, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Thousands told Haley: Get rid of flag

Over 10,000 emails to governor in Emanuel's wake reveal emotions on both sides of debate

BY JENNIFER BERRY HAWES
and DOUG PAROUZ
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COLUMBIA — In the days after the Emanuel AME Church shooting, Gov. Nikki Haley was inundated

with thousands of emails from people around the country expressing everything from outrage to sympathy in beseeching her to remove the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds. "The world is watching," an Asheville, N.C., writer said.

pc Video
For a video, go to postandcourier.com/videos

Early on, only an occasional writer supported flying the flag, calling it a symbol of heritage. Others, however, offered cutting, racially charged comments. "Go ahead and take the Confederate flag down ... because that will make

White people Hate Blacks that much more," a Bowling Springs writer wrote to the governor.

He ended by warning Haley, a daughter of Indian immigrants, "You need to take all of those Blacks back to India with you."

The comments are among a string of correspondence Haley's office received last summer in the wake of the Emanuel AME Church killings and subsequent debate over the flag.

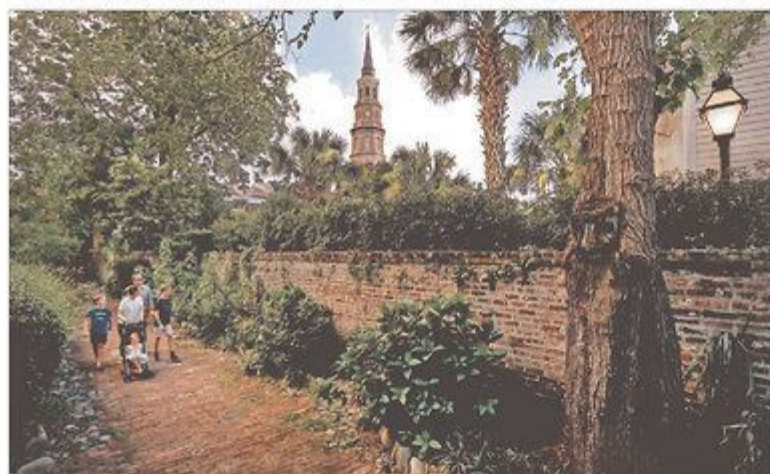
The more than 10,000 emails — some from as far away as Hawaii and Alaska — were released Wednesday after The Post and Courier and several other media outlets requested the documents through the state's Freedom of Information Act.

The emails, along with handwritten letters, were turned over in boxes at the Statehouse.

Please see **HALEY**, Page A6

Charleston really is greatest city on Earth

'Remarkably dynamic place' is world's best, says Travel + Leisure



This family seemed happy to get off the beaten path on Tuesday along Philadelphia Alley to take in their own view of Charleston, which readers of Travel + Leisure magazine voted No. 1 in the tourism periodical's World's Best City ranking.

BY WARREN L. WISE
wwise@postandcourier.com

Charleston is on top of the world. For the first time ever, readers of Travel + Leisure magazine voted the Holy City No. 1 on the planet in the tourism periodical's World's Best City ranking. It's also the first time a U.S. destina-

tion earned the honor. Readers also selected Charleston as the No. 1 city in the U.S. and Canada for the fourth consecutive year. The magazine announced the findings on its website Wednesday and on NBC's "Today Show." The recognition for one of the city's biggest industries comes slightly more than a year since Charleston was rocked by

the mass shootings at Emanuel AME Church that left nine people dead. The South was well-represented in the World's Best rankings. Nearby Savannah came in at No. 9. New Orleans ranked No. 2. No other U.S. cities made the magazine's Top 45 list.

Please see **TRAVEL**, Page A4

pc Poll
How did you respond to Travel + Leisure naming Charleston the "World's Best City"? Go to postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

Justice launches probe in La. death

Scuffle with police captured on video

BY MIKE KUNZELMAN
and MELINDA DESLATTRE
Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — In a swift move by authorities to keep tensions from boiling over, the U.S. Justice Department launched a civil rights investigation Wednesday into the video-recorded killing of a black man who was shot as he scuffled with two white police officers on the pavement outside a convenience store.

A law enforcement official said a gun was taken from 37-year-old Alton Sterling after he was killed early Tuesday in the parking lot where he regularly sold homemade music CDs from a folding table. The official was not authorized to discuss the investigation and spoke on condition of anonymity.

It was not clear from the murky cellphone footage whether Sterling had the gun in his hand or was reaching for it when he was shot. A witness said he saw police pull a gun from Sterling's pocket after the shooting.

Please see **SHOOTING**, Page A9

Awendaw mine work unearths concerns

Despite violations, bill lets Summey sell dirt for port project

BY DIANE KNICH
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Charleston County Council Chairman Elliott Summey violated state regulations which jeopardized his prospects for completing a new park in Awendaw.

But a provision tacked onto a bill by the General Assembly this year allows him to proceed with the work before getting a required mining permit from the state Department of Health and Environmental Control.

The plan for a park on Dear Road has been in the works since 2009. That's when Summey joined the majority of County Council to approve \$5.2 million in Greenbelt money for the 290-acre park. Greenbelt money comes from the county's half-cent sales tax and is meant to preserve green space.

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Obama scraps plans to cut troops in Afghanistan in half. **A7**

BUSINESS
Ports agency hopes work stoppage has little impact. **B1**

SPORTS
Warszofsky named new Stingrays coach. **C1**

Lowcountry stuck on broil through weekend

Worst to come Friday, Saturday with heat index of 108 forecast

BY DAVE MUNDAY
dmunday@postandcourier.com

So you think it's been hot lately? Well, it's going to get hotter. The heat wave that's been baking the Lowcountry since Saturday is not expected to taper off until the middle of next week.

"What we're seeing now is how it will be at least through Monday before we drop off a little bit," said Michael Emlaw with the Charleston office of the National Weather Service. "We probably won't get down to what's typical for this time of year until at least mid-week."

Please see **HEAT**, Page A6



Mark Hopkins and Rogue, an English mastiff, brave the heat for the July Fourth celebration at North Charleston's Riverfront Park on Monday. It's expected to get hotter and continue through the weekend.



Chance of storms.
High 96, Low 78.
Complete 5-day
forecast, **B10**

Bridge B9 Comics B8-9 Movies E10
Business B1 Crosswords, B8, D4 Obituaries B4
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Classifieds C1 Local A2 Television B7

Charleston Deals today

Historic Chas. Foundation
2 for 1 children's discovery tours.
See Page A2.



SPORTS ROCKY TOP STAR GRAB



CITY PEOPLE Pageant run has purpose

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

THURSDAY,
JULY 7, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM



FORMER FOX NEWS HOST FILES SEXUAL HARASSMENT SUIT AGAINST CEO **PAGE 1B**

MRR seeks court order for landfill

RON BARNETT

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Even as it continues to argue in the state Court of Appeals that it should be allowed to develop a coal-ash landfill near Liberty, MRR Pickens has asked a circuit judge to order Pickens County to allow it to move ahead with construction of a landfill on the site not designed to hold coal ash, according to court documents.

The company bases its argument on statements made during a hearing in

February, in which the county's attorney said the county doesn't object to MRR building a Class 2 landfill, which is designed only for non-hazardous materials such as construction debris.

"To date, Pickens County has failed to comply with the Court's Order by refusing to move forward on any of MRR Pickens' requests to allow it to begin construction of the landfill in conformance with the Class 2 Permit issued on Nov. 3, 2008," the motion says. "Pickens County is continuing to erect roadblocks and is significantly delaying MRR Pickens'

rights to a Development Permit."

Attorney Gary Poliakoff, who is representing the county in MRR's \$25 million lawsuit, said the company's application includes design changes that were approved by the state Department of Health and Environmental Control in 2015, after the company decided to seek a contract to dispose of more than 70,000 tons of coal ash per year there.

Coal ash contains contaminants such as arsenic, lead, mercury, selenium, cadmium, and chromium, and has been linked to increased risk of cancer, ac-

cording to the Environmental Protection Agency.

"If they're going to operate a construction and demolition landfill, that's absolutely fine with us, but we do not want them trying to put their foot in the door and blast it open to allow coal ash or other things," Poliakoff told *The Greenville News*.

"MRR, as best as we can tell, still seems adamant to push what they view as their entitlement to deposit coal ash at

See **LANDFILL**, Page 5A



Greenville Mayor Knox White announces plans to expand Fluor Field during a lunch at The Lazy Goat on Wednesday.

HEIDI HELBRUNN/STAFF

Drive unveil \$10M renovation plans

Will include seats atop its replica left-field 'Green Monster'

ERIC CONNOR

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If ever there were a season that missing the postseason would sting the least for the Greenville Drive, this would be the one.

There is a deadline looming — and the sooner the work can start, the better.

The Drive organization has plans for at least \$10 million worth of renovations to the ballpark — first reported in June

by *The Greenville News* — that will include seats atop its replica left-field "Green Monster," a new upper-deck lounge and a remake of both its entrances.

The team's owner, Craig Brown, told a group of business and community leaders during a luncheon Wednesday that he has set an "ambitious" deadline to have the work done in time to host the Gamecocks and Tigers in their early March baseball rivalry game at the field.

The Class A affiliate of the Boston Red Sox will receive a \$5 million contribution from the city of Greenville to help with renovations at the 10-year-old stadium.

The city owns the 4 acres the ballpark is built on and will ultimately take ownership of the stadium once its long-term lease agreement with the team expires.

The city's use of revenue derived

See **RENOVATIONS**, Page 4A

SC traffic deaths down slightly

TIM SMITH

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COLUMBIA — South Carolinians are dying on the state's roads at a rate slightly less than at this time last year.

According to preliminary data posted by the State Department of Public Safety, 466 people have lost their lives in road accidents as of Tuesday, compared to 475 for this time last year.

But last year's numbers were a spike upward. Traffic fatalities overall increased by 16 percent in 2015.

Deaths in Greenville County this year again lead the state but also are running slightly behind 2015, with 37 killed compared to 40 this time last year.

"It's a positive that traffic fatalities are going down but we still have plenty of work to do," said Tiffany Wright, a spokeswoman for AAA Carolinas, a highway safety group based in Charlotte.

South Carolina's traffic fatality rate annually ranks among the highest in the country.

Last month, TRIP, a national non-profit transportation research group, released a report on interstate conditions that ranked South Carolina sixth in fatalities on interstates per 100 million miles of travel in 2014.

Last year the same group ranked South Carolina's fatality rate on rural roads as second only to Connecticut. The state earned first place in the same ranking the previous year.

According to state Office of Public Safety, 11 people were killed during the July 4th holiday period, including two pedestrians and three motorcyclists. None of the motorcyclists were wearing helmets.

Of the 306 vehicle occupants who died as of Monday night, 148, or 48 percent, were not wearing seat belts.

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SPORTS Federer needs five sets to advance at Wimbledon. **Page 1D**

Morning News

THURSDAY JULY 7, 2016

The Voice of the Pee Dee

TODAY'S WEATHER

A 1-storm in spots this afternoon. High 99, low 75. DETAILS 2A

www.seeow.com

75 cents

Pee Dee delegates to support Clinton at the DNC

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is trying to make history in becoming the Democratic Party's first female nominee for president, and two Democrats from the Pee Dee will cast a delegate vote to help her do that.



Sabb



Willis

State Sen. Ronnie Sabb, a Williamsburg Democrat, is a delegate for South Carolina's 6th Congressional District and Marguerite Willis, a business attorney at Nexsen Pruet LLC and wife of former Florence Mayor Frank Willis, holds a delegate vote for the state's 7th Congressional District.

Both will attend the Democratic National Convention from July 25 to July 28 in Philadelphia to cast their vote for Clinton, who overwhelmingly won the South Carolina Democratic primary in February.

Willis worked for the Clinton campaign in 2008, played a major role in putting on a convention for her in South Carolina and had several opportunities to meet and speak to Clinton. Although she has not been as active in Clinton's campaign this election year, Willis felt compelled to become a national delegate.

"I want to be there when a woman is nominated; I want to be there to cast my vote for history being made," Willis said. "I know from personal experience that Hillary Clinton is a good woman and a good mother. She has both the heart and the mind to lead this country."

Sabb agreed and said Clinton is not only going to make history, she's undoubtedly the best person for the job right now.

"It's exciting from a historical position but in addition to that I agree with President Obama that she's the most qualified person to be president right now," Sabb said. "Lord knows this time we need a steady hand with all the turmoil that's going on in America, not someone who is wishy-washy in their decision-making."

Clinton will likely face New York business tycoon Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee, in the November general election.

Both Sabb and Willis are putting their money on Clinton becoming the next commander in chief.

Sabb said between now and November there will be sharp contrasts made between Clinton and Trump on foreign policy, as well as rhetoric.

Road to recovery



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN/MORNING NEWS

J.R. Sanderson, project manager for the S.C. Disaster Recovery Coordination Office, speaks Wednesday evening to a crowd at Francis Marion University.

State agency outlines plan for regional disaster relief

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN
Morning News
dswearingen@florencenews.com



Those who have been volunteering with flood disaster relief in South Carolina are recognized at Wednesday's town hall meeting.

FLORENCE — The South Carolina Disaster Recovery Coordination Office met Wednesday with the public to discuss disaster relief eligibility for those in Florence and the surrounding area.

The meeting came after a June decision by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to allocate approximately \$156 million in federal funding to the 22 counties in need of assistance after historic floods devastated South Carolina in early October 2015.

Lexington and Richland counties and the city of Columbia will receive approximately \$60 million of the grant. The other

See **RELIEF**, Page 4A

Pee Dee families share home-schooling experience

BY MELISSA ROLLINS
Morning News
mrollins@florencenews.com



FLORENCE — When it comes to education, there are many different options for parents. There are private, charter and public schools. Online education has become more popular and is now offered free

of Education, the National Household Education Survey, and the National Center for Education Statistics, show that the number of home-schooled students in the U.S. grew by nearly 100,000 students from 1999 to 2015. The respondents gave various reasons for wanting to home-school, the top three being



CIRQUE DU SOLEIL SHOW COMING TO GREENVILLE

ESCAPE, D1



HALEY WAS PRAISED, VILIFIED OVER FLAG STANCE

UPSTATE, C1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Thursday, July 7, 2016



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92°/73° 98°/76° 97°/73°

Complete forecast, B6

UPSTATE



State lawmakers aim to ban unsafe tires

Some state lawmakers want to restrict the sale and installation of unsafe used tires on vehicles, while others don't believe new regulations are needed in the tire industry. C1

NEWS DIGEST



Feds looking into deadly police shooting

BATON ROUGE, La. — The U.S. Justice Department opened a civil rights investigation Wednesday into the video-recorded police killing of a black man who authorities say had a gun as he wrestled with two white officers on the pavement outside a convenience store.

Alton Sterling, 37, was confronted by police and shot on Tuesday after an anonymous caller said he had threatened someone with a gun outside the store, where he was selling home-made CDs, authorities said.

In a cellphone video taken by a community activist and posted online, the two officers pinned Sterling to the ground, someone yelled, "He's got a gun! Gun!" and gunfire erupted moments later.

At a news conference Wednesday, Baton Rouge Police Chief Carl Dabadie Jr. said that Sterling was armed but that there are still questions about what happened.

"Like you, there is a lot that we do not understand. And at this point, like you, I am demanding

MIDDLE EAST

Obama slows US's Afghan withdrawal

By Josh Lederman
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama scrapped plans Wednesday to cut American forces in Afghanistan by half before leaving office, a dispiriting blow to his hopes of extricating the U.S. after 15 years of fighting. He said he'll leave 8,400 troops to address the country's "precarious" security situation.

Obama's new drawdown plan, announced alongside top military leaders, reinforced the likelihood that the U.S. will remain entangled in Afghanistan for years to come as America works to suppress a

SEE AFGHAN, A5



President Barack Obama, flanked by Defense Secretary Ash Carter, left, and Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford, makes a statement on Afghanistan on Wednesday from the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington. SUSAN WALSH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DOG PARK



Dog owners in Spartanburg say they enjoy having a place in the city to bring their dogs and socialize with others, but would like to see some amenities added. Many have brought old chairs to the park for everyone to use. PHOTOS BY JOHN BYRUM/JOHN.BYRUM@SHJ.COM

Users seek upgrades

More seating,
shaded areas



CLINTON INVESTIGATION

GOP to examine FBI decision on emails

By Erica Werner
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Irate that Hillary Clinton will not face criminal charges over her emails, House Republicans are summoning FBI Director James Comey to Capitol Hill to answer their questions.

Comey will testify Thursday before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, the panel's chairman, Jason Chaffetz of Utah, announced.



Clinton

Wednesday. The announcement came a day after Comey rebuked Clinton for "extremely careless" behavior in her handling of classified emails as secretary of state, but declared that "no charges are appropriate" in the case.

Attorney General Loretta Lynch said in a statement Wednesday evening that she was accepting Comey's recommendation and the case would be closed.

"The FBI's recommendation is surprising and confusing. The fact pattern presented by Director Comey makes clear Secretary Clinton violated the law. Individuals who intentionally skirt the law must be held accountable."

—Jason Chaffetz

"There are a lot of questions that have to be answered. And so we're going to be asking those questions," House Speaker Paul Ryan

INDEX-JOURNAL

VOL. 98, NO. 187

IJ indexjournal.com

2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2016

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

Driskill remembered for life of service

By ADAM BENSON
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County leaders this week are remembering former Democratic councilman Virgil Driskill as a man whose passion for firefighting helped influence his political drive to offer equal protection for all residents.

Driskill, 92, died Tuesday at the Self Regional Medical Center. A native of Elkton, Kentucky, Driskill moved to Greenwood in 1944 after serving in World War II and quickly

became a mainstay in his adopted community.

In January 1946, Driskill opened a wrecker service on Main Street. Advertisements for his business would appear in The Index-Journal through the 1980s.

A March 8, 1950 advertisement in the newspaper indicated Driskill's desire to serve from an early age.



VIRGIL DRISKILL

"He lends his support to worthwhile projects that advance the welfare of the area," the advertisement says underneath a hand-drawn portrait of Driskill wearing a baseball cap. "No doubt something of the pioneering spirit accounts for Mr. Driskill's appreciation of past art and culture."

Driskill, a two-term councilman who last served from 1989-91, helped found Highway 34 Fire Department off Ninety Six Highway in 1980.

Chief Tony Gambrell, who was 18 at the time, remembered Driskill

helping to rebuild the department's first tanker truck. He also parked vehicles on his lawn until volunteers raised enough money to build a facility at 1211 Ninety Six Highway in the Belar Patch area.

Franklin Cloninger, who joined Highway 34 in 2001, said Driskill was a regular presence at the department.

"He had a genuine concern for his community, and he got things done," Cloninger said.

In a lengthy April 21, 1985 article on the need for financial support to the county's fire departments,

Driskill's passion for the work was evident.

"We started with nothing and today we have a department that can tackle any fire and do a first-class job of extinguishing it. The volunteers give of their time to train, attend meetings, work on equipment and answer the call of a neighbor in distress when his house is on fire. They ask nothing in return because they are dedicated to serving their fellow man," Driskill said.

See **SERVICE**, page 4A

STATEHOUSE CONTROVERSY

Messages show Haley was praised, vilified on flag stance

By MEG KINNARD and JEFFREY COLLINS
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Thousands of people reached out to South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley after the slayings of nine black people at a historic Charleston church, condemning the violence as senseless and saddening.

Many of these messages — included among more than 10,000 pages released Wednesday by Haley's office — praise the Republican governor as courageous for calling to remove the Confederate battle flag from the Statehouse grounds.

But many others, while criticizing the violence, urged her to leave the flag alone rather than make a "knee jerk" reaction to the shootings.

The messages arrived from across the state and as far away as Texas, Washington and Hawaii. To many, Haley sent a standard response, thanking the writer for his or her message and praising South Carolina for unifying in the face of tragedy.

The documents, released in response to open records requests, reflect the divisiveness of the debate over the banner that had flown on the Statehouse grounds until Dylan Roof, the white man charged in the shootings, posed with the battle flag and talked of trying to start a race war. Just five days after the shootings at Emanuel AME Church, amid heated conversations nationwide over race relations and the legacy of Confederate symbols, Haley held an emotional news conference to say the flag should be taken down.

"The fact that people are choosing to use it as a sign of hate is something we cannot stand," Haley said then. "The fact that it causes pain to so many is enough to move it from the Capitol grounds. It is, after all, a Capitol that belongs to all of us."

Thousands gathered on July 10, 2015 to observe the honor guard lowering the flag from 30-foot pole near a Confederate soldier monument.

It has been kept since then in a climate-controlled storage unit at the Confederate Relic Room, since lawmakers have offered no money for a special display.

The document release comes just days before the one-year anniversary of its furling.

All the messages are passionate. Some are just a single sentence, praising Haley or condemning her for taking her stand. Others go on for pages, even including news articles or historical information.

There are racial epithets, too, aimed at the nine black shooting victims and at Haley, whose



Tikki Tim and Fast Eddie set up their barbecue truck, Pig In and Pig Out, early Wednesday afternoon before the 16th annual Festival of Discovery gets underway today.

Not just blowin' smoke



Barbecue trucks roll in for Festival of Discovery

By ARIEL GILREATH
agilreath@indexjournal.com

Barbecue cooks and city workers scurried across Main Street on Wednesday setting up cookers and tents one day before the official start of the Festival of Discovery and Greenwood Blues Cruise, where thousands of people will line the main drag for competition barbecue and live music all weekend.

The festival starts at 6 p.m. today, but Assistant City Manager Julie Wilkie said barbecue vendors will start selling as early as noon.

Wilkie said there are more than 80 barbecue teams competing this weekend, and about 16 vendors will have food trucks stretched along Main Street for people to buy.

"If you've been through Uptown Greenwood today, you can see that our staff is busy getting ready for the hottest event in the Southeast," Wilkie said.

Along with barbecue food trucks, food vendors and live music from the Blues Cruise will be in Uptown all weekend starting at 10 a.m. and ending at midnight Friday and Saturday.

Each barbecue team rented a space along both sides of Main Street where they will prepare the food to be entered into the

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