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To:
Date: 8/22/2016 7:33:08 AM
Subject: Morning Clips – Monday, August 22, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

WND: 'Missing child W' spotlights 'outrageous' Obama scam

<http://www.wnd.com/2016/08/missing-child-w-spotlights-outrageous-obama-scam/>

Leo Hohmann

A 12-year-old Honduran boy seeking asylum in the United States has been “lost” in the system, illustrating what immigration experts say is a widespread problem of the government failing to keep track of the large number of vulnerable children flooding across the border. The case of missing child “W” has been brought to light in a lawsuit filed in federal district court in Columbia, South Carolina, that names Gov. Nikki Haley, the S.C. Department of Social Services, Lutheran Services and World Relief among the defendants. World Relief is a division of the National Association of Evangelicals and, like the Lutherans and Catholics, is heavily involved in the resettlement of refugees and asylum seekers, getting paid handsomely to perform one of the government’s most secretive operations under the guise of humanitarianism, the suit claims. The suit was filed by Brian Bilbro, a husband, father and taxpayer who lives near Columbia. It seeks to shut down refugee resettlement in South Carolina on the grounds that it amounts to executive overreach by the state and federal governments, which are secretly placing refugees and asylum seekers into local communities – often without vetting those responsible for their care. It also claims South Carolina’s freedom of information laws are being violated by nonprofits doing the government’s work.

NOTE: Under Haley’s direction, South Carolina, ironically, signed on to join the Brownsville, Texas, case that successfully challenged Obama’s executive amnesty decrees, shielding more than 5 million illegals from deportation. Yet, Haley is on the other side of the issue when it comes to rubber-stamping refugees from the Middle East and UACs seeking asylum from Central America, said Martel. “Haley was part of the Texas case trying to do the right thing against executive overreach. But here in our own state, we see her taking the exact opposite approach and supporting executive overreach,” Martel said.

NOTE: Bilbro’s suit names as defendants the South Carolina Department of Social Services, Gov. Haley, the U.S. State Department and volunteer agencies World Relief and Lutheran Services of the Carolinas, the U.S. Department of Justice and S.C. Department of Education. President Obama was also added as a defendant along with Anne Richard, the Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Migration and Refugees.

LGBTWeekly: HRC and Equality NC endorse Roy Cooper for governor of North Carolina

<http://lgbtweekly.com/2016/08/21/hrc-and-equality-nc-endorse-roy-cooper-for-governor-of-north-carolina/>

Steve Lee

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and Equality NC have announced both organizations have endorsed Roy Cooper for Governor of North Carolina. “Roy Cooper is a stalwart advocate for LGBTQ equality and a proven leader who will work to make the Tar Heel State inclusive and welcoming for all,” said HRC President Chad Griffin. “Day after day, Pat McCrory has continued his reckless

defense of the discriminatory HB2 with disregard for the very real harm inflicted on the people, reputation and economy of North Carolina. As governor, Roy Cooper will work to repeal HB2, stand up for common decency and fight to pass statewide, LGBTQ-inclusive, non-discrimination protections. The choice this election couldn't be clearer. And we are proud to endorse Roy Cooper for Governor so that each and every LGBTQ person across North Carolina can finally live free from fear of discrimination."

NOTE: The endorsement comes one day after Donald Trump and Pat McCrory campaigned together in North Carolina and a month after news that Gov. McCrory and his allies have earmarked \$500,000 in taxpayer funding to defend HB2 in court, even though it is opposed by fair minded North Carolinians and more than 200 major business leaders and CEOs, many of which lead the state's largest employers.

NOTE: While Donald Trump has embraced Pat McCrory's discriminatory HB2, a host of Republicans around the country have declined to follow suit. Republicans like Nikki Haley, Chris Christie, Dennis Dugaard, Mark Kirk and Rob Portman have all declined to follow in the footsteps of Pat McCrory and have either spoken out or vetoed anti-transgender bills that write discrimination into state law.

GOVERNING: Food Stamp Enrollment Drops as GOP States End Federally Funded Benefits Early for Some

<http://www.governing.com/topics/health-human-services/tns-food-stamps-snap.html>

Alan Bjerga

Food-stamp enrollment in the U.S. is declining from record levels, in part because some states are ending benefits earlier than they have to. Seven states, all led by Republicans, have decided this year to end waivers for some able-bodied recipients that were made available in the 2009 federal stimulus bill -- even though the benefits are federally funded. Enrollment in what's formally known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is still nearly twice the level it was before the recession. But the most recent data, for May, showed 43.5 million people were receiving food stamps, down 9 percent from a 2012 peak and the fewest since 2010. Much of the drop comes from an improving economy, but efforts to reduce enrollments among able-bodied adults are also accelerating the decline. Under federal law, food stamp benefits are cut off after three months for adults under the age of 50 who don't have dependents unless they find work or engage in a volunteer or job-training activity. The stimulus bill permitted states to waive that provision in areas with high unemployment.

NOTE: Other states said the actual transition won't be disruptive. South Carolina had its own work requirements even while the federal waiver was in effect, Karen Wingo, a spokeswoman with the state's social services department, said in an email. A build up of its job-training programs and growth in jobs means South Carolina doesn't need the waiver, its governor, Nikki Haley, said in an April news conference announcing the move. "We are in a position where we don't want that waiver anymore," Haley said. "We see this as an opportunity to give more people work."

Greenville News : Commentary: Sanford paves the way to oppose Trump

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/contributors/2016/08/22/commentary-sanford-paves-way-oppose-trump/88995980/?from=global&sessionKey=&autologin=>

Jordan Morales

Last week, Rep. Mark Sanford of Charleston laid the ground work to follow Sen. Lindsey Graham in joining the principled ranks of "Never Trump" South Carolina congressional delegates (Sanford would make it plural, Graham is currently the only one). In an op-ed published in The New York Times, Sanford called for Mr. Trump to release his tax returns and emphasized the importance of transparency with the American people. Says Sanford, "I am a conservative Republican who, though I have no stomach for his personal style and his penchant for regularly demeaning others, intends to

support my party's nominee because of the importance of filling the existing vacancy on the Supreme Court, and others that might open in the next four years. However, my ability to continue to do so will in part be driven by whether Mr. Trump keeps his word that he will release his tax records." To be sure, Donald Trump will never release his tax returns. His lawyer, Michael Cohen removed all doubt of that in a CNN interview when he said, "I personally will not allow him to release those tax returns until the audits are over." The audit excuse is only a thinly veiled dodge since Trump will not release his tax returns for years that he is not under audit either. Why he won't release them is unknown, but it's a logical assumption that he has something to hide, much the same reason Clinton won't release her Wall Street speech transcripts.

NOTE: By Sanford rescinding his endorsement, he would follow the straight and narrow path that Graham forged when Trump first became the presumptive nominee. But not only that, the former governor would be a good example to his successor, Gov. Nikki Haley (who is surely hanging on to the Trump train by barely a thread). His and Graham's stand could make it easier for politicians like Haley and Sen. Tim Scott to follow their lead. Lacking the wherewithal to take that path on their own, at least they might follow Graham and Sanford's guiding light.

National Review: Indian Americans, Don't Let the Democratic Party Take Your Support for Granted
<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/439202/indian-americans-democrats-republicans-immigration-minorities-congressional-elections>

Hrishikesh Joshi

The Indian-American community tends to overwhelmingly favor the Democratic party. In a recent poll, 65 percent of Indian Americans viewed the Democrats favorably, whereas only 18 percent had favorable opinions of the Republicans. In the last election, the share of Indian Americans voting for President Obama was an overwhelming majority, 84 percent — more than Obama's share of Hispanics or women. Part of the reason for this trend, no doubt, is that the Democrats have been enormously successful in presenting themselves as the party of the minorities. The perception that Democrats are the pro-immigrant party is robust. Republicans, on the other hand, are seen as the anti-immigration force in American politics. If you are an immigrant from a minority background, then, you're supposed to vote Democrat. Yet it's not obvious that the Democrats have made a meaningful effort to represent the interests of the Indian community in recent history. In fact, many of the policies that the party has fought to keep in place systemically disadvantage people of Indian origin living in America.

NOTE: These particular issues aside, is there any respect in which the Democratic party is more welcoming to racial minorities, and therefore to Indian Americans? Recent electoral history seems to suggest otherwise. The two most prominent Indian-American politicians — Governor Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, and Governor Nikki Haley of South Carolina — are both Republicans. Furthermore, the Republicans fielded several minority candidates, including Jindal, in the most recent presidential primaries. The perception that Democrats are the party of the minorities may owe more to branding than to facts.

SC Political News:

Post and Courier: Tight timeline for Charleston Harbor deepening authorization
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160821/160829977/tight-timeline-for-charleston-harbor-deepening-authorization>

With Congress on summer break and a presidential election looming once legislators return to Washington, D.C., time is running out on passage of a bill that would authorize dredging Charleston Harbor to 52 feet, giving the Port of Charleston the deepest navigable waterway on the East Coast.

That doesn't mean the \$509 million project would be dead this year — there's a workaround involving South Carolina funds that could kickstart dredging while waiting on federal lawmakers to act. But Barbara Melvin, the State Ports Authority executive who's led efforts to get dredging authorized, said state legislators will push to get some floor time for the Water Resources Development Act during the busy post-Labor Day calendar. Without authorization, the federal government can't devote money to the project. "It's critical that they don't adjourn without a WRDA bill," said Melvin, the SPA's senior vice president of operations and terminals. Both the House and Senate versions of the WRDA include Charleston Harbor deepening on their lists of approved Army Corps of Engineers projects. Both versions have made it past the committee level and, while Melvin said that's helpful, "we have to pull this across the finish line."

LGBT News:

Charlotte Observer: HB2 prompts record number of faith groups to join Charlotte Pride Parade

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/local/article97033432.html>

Mark Price

Christina Woodruff of Huntersville is only 10 years old, but she learned a very grown-up lesson about bigotry this weekend at the Charlotte Pride Festival and Parade in uptown. "I was just standing there and a man told me that I was a child of the Devil," said Christina, who is parented by a same sex couple. "I wanted to punch him, but my mom stopped me. I cried instead." Conservative religious groups have long provided sideline heckling at Charlotte's annual gay pride celebration, including a group this year that tried to drown out Mayor Jennifer Roberts during the opening ceremony Saturday. But things were different this year, thanks in part to growing mainstream opposition to N.C. General Assembly's House Bill 2, a law that nullified a Charlotte nondiscrimination ordinance that extended protections to LGBT residents. Conservative Christian groups still showed up to protest, but their message was overwhelmed by a record number of faith groups that came out in opposition of HB2. Churches made up more than 10 percent of the 135 contingents in the parade this year, compared to one church that marched in the first parade back in 1994. Some even came with their choirs, driving up parade participation from 2,500 last year to 3,300 this year. Crowds watching the parade were five and six deep in the blocks north of Trade and Tryon streets.

SC After Recent Violence:

The State: They're watching you, but who's watching them? Body cams raise issues

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article97034827.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

It's an age-old question with a modern twist: Who watches the watchmen? Nowadays, many police agencies are turning to body-worn cameras – but the new technology comes with its own problems. When must officers record? Is the newfangled technology turning these tools into an eye of Big Brother? What about privacy? Such questions are addressed by a scorecard put out earlier this month by two human rights groups as suggested practices for using the devices and for sharing policies and videos shot by the cameras. S.C. law enforcement agencies are required by state law to buy the cameras as they can afford to and to develop policies for the cameras' use. But the future of body cams is still in flux, said Geoffrey Alpert, a professor of criminology at the University of South Carolina. "It's a really new technology," Alpert said. "It has not been tested in the courts." The scorecard was put out by The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and Upturn to highlight transparency and privacy concerns. So how do the Columbia Police Department, Richland County Sheriff's Department and Lexington County Sheriff's Department stack up?

Associated Press: Police body cam funds go to many, including oyster officers

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=oTACH8zl

Seanna Adcox

After a bystander's video last year showed a white North Charleston police officer shooting and killing a fleeing, unarmed black man, widespread outrage spurred South Carolina lawmakers to vote in favor of police body cameras, and to come up with \$5.8 million to pay for cameras and data storage. Now that the money is being distributed, it's flowing to every agency that applied -- including one that monitors oyster health and scrutinizes pharmacists, according to a list provided to The Associated Press. Yet while many small agencies got every dollar they applied for, the state Department of Public Safety is getting less than one-sixth of its request: \$240,900 to put cameras on about half of the agency's 974 troopers, transport police and Statehouse officers. It provides nothing for storing the video, said Sgt. Bob Beres. State economic advisers had estimated it would cost \$21.5 million to equip all of South Carolina's state and local law officers in the first year, then \$12 million annually for maintenance and data storage.

Associated Press: Agencies' share of body camera grants between \$400 and \$305K

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=p3kQ0jaZ

SC State Wire

The state's Public Safety Coordinating Council decided to split \$5.8 million the Legislature designated for body cameras, video storage and maintenance among all 168 agencies that applied for funding. The agency shares range between \$400 and \$305,000. The following 31 agencies are receiving 100 percent of their request...

Opinion/Editorial:

Post and Courier : Pick up the Senate pace

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160822/160829884/pick-up-the-senate-pace>

Editorial

The state Senate is supposed to be a deliberative body, but that doesn't mean that it should move at a glacial pace, or in some instances not at all. The fact that individual senators are able to use the rules to bring important legislation to a halt says that the rules ought to be changed. A prime example last session was the derailment of a bill to improve the state Freedom of Information Act. The bill would have expedited requests of private citizens exercising their right to obtain public information. It also would have kept officials from charging an inordinate sum to access that information — a way of punishing those requesting the information. That Sen. Margie Bright Matthews, D-Colleton, was able to effectively kill that long-sought reform bill at virtually the last minute of the session is an indication of just how much the rules need to be refined. Another lost opportunity occurred when legislation that would have imposed a 10-cent a gallon increase in the gas tax was filibustered to death, and the state had to settle for a half-measure on road funding. The gas tax increase would have ensured that those who use the roads pay for their upkeep, at least to a greater extent than at present.

The Herald: Why I love Donald Trump, and why I still can't vote for him

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andrew-dys/article96938112.html>

Opinion: Andrew Dys

Donald Trump despises the media, and so do I. He says the media is out to get him, and they are. Except I love Donald Trump. He never changes. Even Thursday night in Charlotte, when he said he regrets a few words he has said. Sure he has insulted people. So have I, and I have been insulted

sometimes. I deserved it. Still, I would never vote for him, even for dogcatcher. When Trump brought his primary campaign to Winthrop University in January, I predicted his romp to the Republican nomination, running roughshod over such poor alternatives as those who claim God told people to vote for them. Trump won the nomination because, without question, he is by far the best of those who ran from his party. He insulted people who deserved it. Trump events are huge. Trump never bores. Now some in his party have turned on him and the media who wish they were covering a coronation instead of an election are bawling that Trump won't change and never softens his stances and that he is a threat to democracy and worse. Some even want him to quit the race. Nonsense. Trump may be a bully and a loudmouth, and his words show that he is trying to incite fear of Hispanics and Muslims, but the people of his party chose him. Those people and those who believe Trump is a buffoon will decide in November.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Fiona is holding as tropical depression in the Atlantic

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

SC State Wire

The U.S. National Hurricane Center says Fiona is holding as a tropical depression in the Atlantic. The depression's maximum sustained winds early Monday are near 35 mph (55 kph). Little change in strength is expected during the next two days but forecasters say it could become a remnant low in the next day or two. Fiona is centered about 670 miles (1,080 kilometers) southeast of Bermuda and is moving west-northwest near 18 mph (30 kph). Meanwhile in the Pacific, Tropical Storm Kay is expected to weaken later in the day. Kay's maximum sustained winds are near 50 mph (85 kph). The storm is centered about 430 miles (690 kilometers) west of the southern tip of Mexico's Baja California peninsula and is moving west-northwest near 8 mph (13 kph). Neither tropical system currently poses a threat to land.

Associated Press: Gay South Carolina police chief makes historic sheriff's run

<http://bigstory.ap.org/167c39b0a8f84f67bc7873155e8304e8>

Jeffrey Collins

A small town police chief in staunchly conservative South Carolina is trying to make history by becoming the first female sheriff in the state. And the first openly gay one, too. Crystal Moore knows the November election will be tough, but she has beaten the odds before. Just two years ago, residents in Latta (population 1,400) rallied around Moore after the mayor fired her. He was later caught on a recording ranting that he would rather have a drunk watch a child than a lesbian. When the tape surfaced, residents voted in a special election to strip the mayor of his power and the Town Council rehired Moore. A few months later, gay marriage was legalized, and Moore married her longtime partner. They now have a 7-month-old daughter. "That firing really turned out to be a blessing in a way. I saw so much support and then the story went national, and even more people got to see how special this place is," Moore said.

Local News:

Associated Press: 74-year-old man arrested, charged in Sumter fatal shooting

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=h2SztwOd

SC State Wire

A 74-year-old suspect has been accused of fatally shooting a man in Sumter. Sumter police say Nathan 'Smoot' McBride was arrested and charged with murder Friday in the death of 45-year-old

Jermaine Williams. Police found William's body that afternoon in a roadway. Investigators believe the two men had an argument at McBride's home prior to the shooting. Police say after Williams left the home in his car and was followed by McBride. They say Williams was later shot when he stopped and got out of his vehicle. Authorities say McBride was taken into custody a short time later and a weapon was recovered. It's unclear whether McBride has an attorney.

Associated Press : Man dies after being shot during attempted robbery

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=zG6pwOeG

SC State Wire

Officials say a man has been shot and killed following an attempted robbery in Columbia. Columbia Police Chief Skip Holbrook said in a statement Sunday that 33-year-old Timothy Callahan was shot around midnight Saturday. He later died at a hospital. Richland County Coroner Gary Watts says Callahan died from a gunshot wound to the upper body. Witnesses told police that a suspect shot Callahan after demanding his vehicle. The suspect fled the scene after the shooting. No arrests had been made as of Sunday night.

Associated Press: Sheriff: Bodies thought to be missing woman, suspect found

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=HKgISi8v

SC State Wire

Deputies say a body found in Pageland is believed to be that of a woman reported missing last week. Chesterfield County Sheriff Jay Brooks tell news outlets that the remains were discovered Friday in a shallow grave off a dirt road and may have been there for days. He says he believes the victim may be 51-year-old Ternetha Ann Bennett, who deputies had been looking for since Aug. 15. The county's coroner is working to identify the remains. It's unclear how the victim died. On Saturday, deputies announced that a body thought to be that of Bennett's boyfriend, 50-year-old William Lazar Grant, who's suspected in her disappearance, was recovered from the Pee Dee River in Cheraw. Investigators say Grant was seen with Lazar the night she vanished.

Associated Press: Man dies after being struck by train in Spartanburg

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

SC State Wire

Spartanburg County's coroner says a 25-year-old man is dead after being hit by a train. Coroner Rusty Clevenger says Robert Lee Davis III of Spartanburg was struck by the train Saturday afternoon at an intersection west of downtown. The investigation into the incident continues. The freight train was stopped on the tracks for several hours into Saturday evening.

Associated Press: Special education teacher accused in home, vehicle break-ins

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=B2mHNwCW

SC State Wire

A Horry County special education teacher has been arrested in connection with a string of burglaries in Surfside Beach. Surfside Beach police said in a news release Sunday that 45-year-old Bion Legrand Shoemaker III was arrested Thursday and charged with three counts of second-degree burglary to a residence and one count of auto breaking. Police Chief Rodney Keziah says they have recovered stolen property linking the suspect to the burglaries that happened over the last several months. He says additional charges are possible. Horry County Schools representative Teal Britton says Shoemaker started at St. James High School in 2011 and transferred this year to Socastee High School, where he teaches special education. Shoemaker is on administrative leave pending an investigation. It's unclear if he has an attorney.

Associated Press: Myrtle Beach airport opens space for children with autism

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=vyriQC5F

SC State Wire

A South Carolina airport is about to become the second in the country to help families with autistic children by offering a quiet space to decompress after a flight. The Sun-News of Myrtle Beach reports (<http://bit.ly/2btHnBh>) that the new room opens inside the Myrtle Beach International Airport on Tuesday. The room in the airport's baggage-claim area features pillowed and cushioned cubicles and seats marked with the words "Quiet Room" on its glass paneled door. Becky Large of the Champion Autism Network says the room provides a safe environment for autistic children and a caregiver to relax while others collect checked baggage. Autism is a range of developmental brain disorders expressed by communication difficulties, social and behavioral problems, or repetitive behaviors. About one in 70 American children have autism.

Post and Courier: Special-needs scholarship shakeup leaves parents in a bind

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160821/160829940/special-needs-scholarship-shakeup-leaves-parents-in-a-bind>

Paul Bowers

Ellen Wilson is gambling for her son's education. With a cloud of uncertainty hanging over a South Carolina scholarship program that helps special-needs students attend private schools, Wilson and her husband went ahead and enrolled their 8-year-old son Trey in an expensive Mount Pleasant school for children with ADHD and dyslexia. Class started Aug. 18 at Trident Academy, and a semester's tuition can cost up to \$14,400. The Wilsons might not find out if they qualify for the scholarship until Sept. 15. Wilson and her husband scraped together the money and wrote a check, hoping to qualify for financial assistance from the newly reinvented Exceptional SC state-backed scholarship fund. But there's no guarantee they'll receive any relief, and a second semester might break the bank. Wilson started picking up extra hours at work, and her husband teaches classes on weekends now. "You can't even think about college or retirement when you've got a kid that needs special services," Wilson said. Frustrated with the help they were receiving in public schools, parents of special-needs children got some relief in 2013 when the state started subsidizing millions of dollars in tax credits for a handful of private scholarship funding organizations, or SFOs. Some SFOs focused on religious schools; the largest, Palmetto Kids First, raised millions of dollars in a matter of weeks and helped families across the state afford schools such as Trident Academy.

Post and Courier: Medical foster home offers aging veteran a family again

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160821/160829950/medical-foster-home-offers-aging-veteran-a-family-again>

Lauren Sausser

When Jeanette Drayton decided to sign up as a caregiver under the VA hospital's medical foster home program, she knew she'd be welcoming a stranger into her North Charleston house. She didn't expect that this patient, 71-year-old Ronnie Pruett, would become part of her family. "He is," she said. "He is everywhere I go. If he's not with me, they ask, 'Where is Mr. Ron?'" The VA's medical foster home program was established at the federal level about a decade ago, but it's relatively new in Charleston. The program accommodates elderly patients who can't live by themselves anymore, but don't want to, or can't afford, to move into a nursing home. Pruett, who served in the Air Force for three years in the early 1960s and suffers from dementia, pays \$1,900 in VA benefits to live with Drayton. Nursing homes, on average, cost more than \$6,000 a month. Natasha Simeon-Major coordinates the medical foster home program at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center in

Charleston. Five medical foster homes have been established in the area, but she hopes to grow the program to at least 25 homes.

Post and Courier : Homeless veteran reunited with Charleston family after 32 years

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160821/160829853/homeless-veteran-reunited-with-charleston-family-after-32-years>

Abigail Darlington

When Anna Judge received a Facebook message last year from a Veterans Affairs social worker, she and her sister Marta Sallie thought it was a hoax. The message said their brother, German Leon, was in the VA's care in Atlanta, and that they needed to speak with his family as soon as possible. Neither had heard from their brother in 32 years. The last time they spoke with him, he said he'd retired from the Army and was heading to Atlanta in search of a job. As time went by without any word, they started to worry. Sallie said they called hospitals and law enforcement in the Atlanta area. They even hired a private investigator to track him down, but he never turned up. So after more than three decades of silence and frustration, the VA's message seemed too good to be true. "I was like, 'This has got to be a joke,' " Sallie said.

Post and Courier: Charleston visitor industry celebrates role in international tourism

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160821/160829953/charleston-visitor-industry-celebrates-role-in-international-tourism>

The Charleston Convention and Visitors Bureau celebrated the city becoming an international tourist destination Thursday with a partner that helped make it happen. Brand USA, the official U.S. international tourism marketing arm, showed invited guests a new film celebrating the 100th anniversary of the National Parks System at the Charleston Music Hall. Actor and director Robert Redford narrates "National Parks Adventure," which is being shown around the world. Fort Sumter National Monument, the Charles Pinckney National Historic Site and the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor are the national parks in the Charleston area. They aren't mentioned in the film, which focused on more scenic and adventuresome sites such as Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon. That's OK, because anything that helps draw more visitors to America will help Charleston, according to Gary Edwards of Coastal South Carolina USA, who promotes international tourism with the CVB. Brand USA CEO Chris Thompson, who also attended, agreed. CVB chief Helen Hill told the audience that Brand USA "made the difference in taking us to the next step." Duane Parrish, director of the S. C. Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism, also acknowledged Brand USA's role.

Post and Courier : A matter of time: Charleston ports chief pushes for realistic data on truckers and terminals

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160821/160829959/a-matter-of-time-charleston-ports-chief-pushes-for-realistic-data-on-truckers-and-terminals>

David Wren

The amount of time it takes a trucker to pick up and drop off a cargo box at a seaside port's container terminal is one of the dirty secrets of maritime record keeping. But with traffic jams at the State Ports Authority's busiest terminal now diminishing, the maritime agency's executives are starting to shine a light on an industry practice that often misleads the public about how efficiently a port is operating. "It's about being transparent," Jim Newsome, the SPA's president and CEO, said last week. "This is an important part of truckers' livelihood." Shipping lines, trucking firms and distributors want to work with an efficient port, and terminal operators are judged in part on how quickly they can get drivers in and out of their facilities, a statistic known as "turn times." So ports typically report only the amount of time a trucker spends inside the terminal's gates, regardless of whether that trucker spent an hour or

longer in a queue waiting to enter. That reporting method can make it appear as if turn times are only 20 or 30 minutes when truckers actually spend more than an hour waiting to pick up or drop off cargo.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: As Clinton asks for money, what she says remains a mystery

<http://bigstory.ap.org/f66d2b58cf8e4bbabcc17ccd7f01fe9f>

Lisa Lerer

It was a very busy, very lucrative weekend for Hillary Clinton in the summer playground of the East Coast's moneyed elite. She brunchd with wealthy backers at a seaside estate in Nantucket, snacking on shrimp dumplings and crabcakes. A few hours later, she and her husband dined with an intimate party of thirty at a secluded Martha's Vineyard estate. And on Sunday afternoon, she joined the singer Cher at a "LGBT summer celebration" on the far reaches of Cape Cod. By Sunday evening, Clinton had spoken to more than 2,200 campaign donors. But what she told the crowds remains a mystery. Clinton has refused to open her fundraisers to journalists, reversing nearly a decade of greater transparency in presidential campaigns and leaving the public guessing at what she's saying to some of her most powerful supporters.

Associated Press: Divided America: Diverse millennials are no voting monolith

<http://bigstory.ap.org/bef9645adc0c428f993f93765c8aa631>

Gillian Flaccus, Tamara Lush and Martha Irvine

The oldest millennials — nearing 20 when airplanes slammed into New York City's Twin Towers — are old enough to remember the relative economic prosperity of the 1990s, and when a different Clinton was running for president. The nation's youngest adults — now nearing 20 themselves — find it hard to recall a reality without terrorism and economic worry. Now millennials have edged out baby boomers as the largest living generation in U.S. history, and more than 75 million of them have come of age. How they vote on Nov. 8 will shape the political landscape for years to come. Yet with less than three months to go before Election Day, the values of young Americans whose coming-of-age was bookended by the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and the Great Recession are emerging as an unpredictable grab bag of fiscal conservatism and social liberalism. What they share is a palpable sense of disillusionment.

National News:

Associated Press : Back in Washington, Obama's vacation glow may fade quickly

<http://bigstory.ap.org/f89cbe4923b84d80912738f3aca34686>

Darlene Superville

After two weeks of sunshine and 10 rounds of golf, President Barack Obama is preparing for the busy fall awaiting him. The glow from his vacation on the Massachusetts island of Martha's Vineyard may fade sooner than expected, though. Obama gets back on the road Tuesday to comfort residents of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, a city hard-hit in recent weeks by natural and man-made tragedies. Heavy flooding this month killed at least 13 people and displaced thousands more after murky water engulfed their homes. In July, the fatal police shooting of a black man outside of a convenience store sparked protests and mass arrests. Police say the death of 37-year-old Alton Sterling apparently led a gunman to train his weapon on law enforcement officers, killing three. Obama was criticized for not visiting Baton Rouge after Sterling's death or the killings of two Baton Rouge police officers and a sheriff's deputy. He went instead to Dallas to eulogize five police officers who were killed by a gunman who similarly targeted law enforcement.

Associated Press: S. Korea, US start drills despite N. Korea's nuclear threat

<http://bigstory.ap.org/205124ad4dc744f1994dde31fde3b4c9>

Hyung-Jin Kim

South Korea and the United States began annual military drills Monday despite North Korea's threat of nuclear strikes in response to the exercises that it calls an invasion rehearsal. Such fiery rhetoric by Pyongyang is not unusual. But the latest warning comes at a time of more tension following the defection of a senior North Korean diplomat and a U.S. plan to place a high-tech missile defense system in South Korea. The North's military said in a statement Monday that it will turn Seoul and Washington into "a heap of ashes through a Korean-style pre-emptive nuclear strike" if they show any signs of aggression toward the North's territory. The North's "first-strike" units are ready to mount retaliatory attacks on South Korean and U.S. forces involved in the drills, according to the statement, carried by Pyongyang's state media.

World News:

Associated Press: Samba, reflections and pride in final Rio Olympics party

<http://bigstory.ap.org/cd63997105954d9fa604bf3f341129f6>

Peter Prengaman and Mauricio Saverese

Shaking to samba and expressing a sense of longing with uniquely Brazilian words, Olympians and fans said goodbye to the Rio Games with one last big bash that was both revelatory and a sigh of relief. The closing ceremony Sunday celebrated the 16-day spectacle that was the Rio Games, which combined numerous highlights with ugly and even bizarre episodes that sometimes overshadowed competition. Cariocas — as Rio's residents are known — weren't swayed by the issues that led up to these Olympics, and braved rain and strong winds on the final night to cap their moment in the worldwide spotlight. While South America's first Olympics are over, safely and with a grandiose finale, many problems remain. Still, Brazil showed Sunday it still definitely knows how to party. "These were marvelous Olympic Games in the 'marvelous city,'" said International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach, playing off the "cidade maravilhosa" nickname of Brazil's postcard city of inviting coastlines, year-round sun and lush tropical vegetation.

Associated Press: After Rio, Olympics headed for Asian venues seen as safe

<http://bigstory.ap.org/dbd101ab606e433987c16ae03da36954>

Christopher Bodeen

For the Olympics, it's so-long Rio, hello Asia. The next three Olympics are headed for relatively calmer ports of call in South Korea, Japan and China following the organizational drama surrounding the 2014 Winter Olympics in Russia and the just completed Summer Games in Brazil, although challenges remain, especially when it comes to finances and generating enthusiasm among home audiences. A look ahead to the 2018 Winter Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea, the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics and the 2022 Beijing Winter Games. All three countries have hosted the Olympics before and enjoy a shared reputation for prosperity and a deft hand at organizing major events.

Associated Press : Iran: Russia has stopped using Iran base for Syria strikes

<http://bigstory.ap.org/0b7e2ae30c704f12ac167dbe43f87411>

Nasser Karimi

Russia has stopped using an Iranian air base for launching airstrikes on Syria for the time being, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman said Monday, just hours after the Iranian defense minister criticized Moscow for having "kind of show-off and ungentlemanly" attitude by publicizing their

actions. There was no immediate response from Moscow, which had used the Shahid Nojeh Air Base to refuel its bombers striking Syria at least three times last week. Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi told reporters in Tehran that the Russian airstrikes on militants in Syria were "temporary, based on a Russian request." "It is finished, for now," Ghasemi said, without elaborating. Last week, Russia announced it used the airfield, located some 50 kilometers (31 miles) north of the Iranian city of Hamedan. Iranian officials only confirmed Russia's presence a day later.

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