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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, June 15, 2016

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## Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, June 15, 2016

### Governor Nikki Haley News:

**Associated Press:** SC legislators uphold Gov. Haley's moped safety veto

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Y4XWe3lc](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Y4XWe3lc)

SC State Wire

A moped safety bill is dead after the House failed to override Gov. Nikki Haley's veto. The 65-47 vote Wednesday fell far short of the necessary two-thirds. The Republican governor said requiring reflective vests for nighttime driving and helmets for drivers under 21 represents government overreach. The most vocal backer of Haley's position was House Minority Leader Todd Rutherford, normally a Haley foe. The bill's supporters contend moped drivers are dying because people can't see them, especially at night, and the requirements will save lives.

**The State:** Moped safety bill sputters, dies in S.C. House

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article83943092.html>

Avery G. Wilks

The moped safety bill sputtered and died in the State House on Wednesday as S.C. House members failed to muster the votes needed to override Gov. Nikki Haley's veto. The bill would have required moped riders to wear reflective vests at night, register their mopeds with the Department of Motor Vehicles and follow the same traffic rules as all other vehicles. It also would have raised the minimum age to drive a moped to 15 from 14, required moped riders younger than 21 wear a helmet and given mopeds a single definition under state law. In her veto message last week, the Republican governor said telling adults what to wear while on a moped constitutes "government overreach."

**Post and Courier:** S.C. House supports Gov. Haley's moped veto

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160615/PC1603/160619599>

Gavin Jackson

S.C. House members voted Wednesday to sustain Gov. Nikki Haley's veto of a comprehensive moped safety bill she said represented government overreach by mandating safety requirements such as helmets and vests. By a 65-47 margin, the House failed to reach the two-thirds majority needed to override Haley's veto. The governor said the moped bill went too far by requiring drivers under 21 to wear helmets and that all drivers and passengers wear reflective vests at night. "Mandating that adults must wear helmets or safety vests is government overreach," Haley said in her veto message. "I believe that adults over the age of 18 — who are allowed to vote and serve in our military — should decide for themselves what they should wear for their personal safety."

**Greenville News:** Veto upheld; no new moped rules this year

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/06/15/house-upholds-governors-veto-moped-bill/85934700/>

Tim Smith

The House today killed a bill regulating mopeds and their drivers, ending six years of work and pleas to do something to reduce moped fatalities. The House voted to sustain a veto of the bill by Gov. Nikki Haley, who had argued the requirements for operators to wear reflective vests at night and for those under 21 to wear helmets amounted to "government overreach." Rep. Todd Rutherford, leader

of House Democrats, argued for the House to agree with Haley, calling the bill "voluminous and complicated" and questioning how moped riders would be able to know what type of vests and reflective vests they should buy.

### **General Assembly News:**

**Associated Press:** Former SC House member Southard fined for harassment

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ngs65fcG](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ngs65fcG)

Seanna Adcox

The House Ethics Committee has fined former Rep. Edward Southard \$2,000 for harassing several women at the Statehouse. Under the agreement signed Wednesday, Southard must pay the fine within 30 days. The committee found the 69-year-old Republican from Moncks Corner violated the House's no harassment policy. Southard resigned his Berkeley County seat April 27, saying he wanted to protect his family and honor. But he remained on the ballot - unopposed - to potentially regain his seat in November. As part of the settlement, Southard agreed to remove his name from the ballot. Southard also agreed to the terms to end the matter but admits no guilt.

**The State:** Former SC Rep. Southard must pay \$2,000 fine settling harassment allegations

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article83943282.html>

Cassie Cope

Former state Rep. Edward Southard must pay a \$2,000 fine as part of a settlement with the S.C. House Ethics Committee that was investigating allegations of inappropriate behavior by the Berkeley Republican. The committee last month decided to continue a public investigation of Southard. It also released redacted reports detailing allegations of inappropriate behavior by Southard toward two House pages and a lobbyist. Southard's behavior was directed at African-American females who perceived the attention as inappropriate, according to an investigation by the Fisher and Philips law firm of Columbia.

**Post and Courier:** Former Moncks Corner lawmaker to pay \$2,000 fine in response to sexual harassment charge

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160615/PC1603/160619610>

Maya T. Prabhu

Former state Rep. Eddy Southard has agreed to pay a fine and accept a public reprimand, closing an investigation into accusations of sexual harassment at the Statehouse. Southard will pay \$2,000, which is the maximum fine the House Ethics Committee can levy. He has 30 days to settle. Southard's attorney, Mark Peper, said Southard agreed not to contest the committee's findings in an effort to avoid the expense of any future dispute. "As stated in the agreement, nothing contained therein is to be construed as an admission by Mr. Southard," Peper said.

### **Orlando Shooting:**

**Associated Press:** Authorities try to piece together Orlando killer's movements

<http://bigstory.ap.org/fa93fb3237aa41f591c1b0c026d6c7c3>

Mike Schneider

Investigators Wednesday worked to piece together a picture of nightclub gunman Omar Mateen and his crime and zeroed in on how much his Palestinian-American wife may have known about the plot that left 49 victims dead. The FBI said it is still gathering evidence at the Pulse and poring through volumes of leads and tips about Mateen and those who knew him, and it urged anyone with any information about the killer to contact the bureau. "We need your help in developing the most complete picture of what he did and why he did it," FBI agent Ron Hopper said. An official who was briefed on the case but insisted on anonymity to discuss a continuing investigation said authorities believe that 30-year-old U.S.-born Noor Salman knew ahead of time about Sunday's attack, but they are reluctant to charge her on that basis alone.

**Associated Press:** The Latest: Homeland Security set to issue new terror alert

<http://bigstory.ap.org/e1460463a39b4f7180c50aa2aae764be>

The Homeland Security is set to issue a new terror alert system bulletin that will highlight the threat environment facing the United States. The bulletin will be effective Thursday, the same day a bulletin issued in December expires. DHS Secretary Jeh (Jay) Johnson announced in December the addition of bulletins to the National Terrorism Advisory System. At the time, he said the bulletin was being issued to keep the public informed in a "new phase off the global threat environment." That global threat environment, he says today, hasn't changed and U.S. authorities remain worried about homegrown violent extremists "who could strike with little or no notice." A gunman attacked a nightclub early Sunday, leaving 49 people dead and wounding 53 others.

**Associated Press:** Dem senator frustrated by inaction on guns begins filibuster

<http://bigstory.ap.org/2d3034ec22ac4e56806dc20360822118>

Mary Clare Jalonick

A Democratic senator launched a filibuster Wednesday to force a vote on gun control legislation three days after 49 people were killed at a nightclub in Orlando, Florida, in the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history. Connecticut Sen. Chris Murphy said he would remain on the Senate floor "until we get some signal, some sign that we can come together," as he also evoked the Newtown school shooting in his state in 2012. His plea came as presumptive Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said he would meet with the National Rifle Association about the terror watch list and gun purchases. "For those of us that represent Connecticut, the failure of this body to do anything, anything at all in the face of that continued slaughter isn't just painful to us, it's unconscionable," Murphy said.

**Independent Mail:** Clemson University to hold vigil for victims of Orlando mass shooting

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/vigil-blood-drive-and-other-events-planned-in-upstate-to-support-people-grieving-in-orlando-353ed15d-383045541.html>

Anderson resident Matthew Kappler did not know anyone who was killed at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando where the worst mass shooting in U.S. history took place Sunday, but he is still hurting. The shooting inside the popular gay nightclub in Orlando left 49 people dead and 53 wounded. "I was taken aback by the extreme violence," Kappler said. "I want to help alleviate the pain and suffering in a way that I know how. If there is a show of love and support, I think we can overcome some of the violence that is out in the world."

**Emanuel AME Shooting Anniversary:**

**Island Packet:** Clementa Pinckney honored by Underground Railroad conference

<http://www.islandpacket.com/entertainment/local-events/article83882507.html>

Wade Livingston

Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney was posthumously honored with the Frederick Douglass Underground Railroad Legacy Award at this year's National Underground Railroad Conference on Hilton Head Island. The conference, convened by the National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program, presented the award to Pinckney for "promoting social change and work across racial, class, gender, political and other divisive lines to make the world a better place. The award comes just days before the one-year anniversary of Pinckney's death, when he and eight fellow churchgoers were killed by a gunman on June 17, 2015, at a Wednesday-night Bible study session at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston.

**Post and Courier:** The Very Hypnotic Soul Band forms after Emanuel AME tragedy to inspire change

<http://www.charlestonscene.com/article/20160615/CS/160609315>

Abigail Darlington

When the five members of the Very Hypnotic Soul Band first got together last year, it was only supposed to be for one performance. After the shooting at Emanuel AME Church on June 17, 2015, McKenzie Eddy, a local singer, and her keys player boyfriend, Elliott Smith, got a call from Lindsay Holler, another singer in Charleston's music community. She wanted their help putting together groups of musicians with different racial and musical backgrounds to collaborate for a free concert, called Hi Harmony, at the Charleston Music Hall. They didn't need to ask why.

### **Dylann Roof Case:**

**Associated Press:** Charleston church shooting defendant seeking local jury

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=R9C5EMrY](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=R9C5EMrY)

SC State Wire

An attorney wants the federal jury that will try Dylann Roof selected from the Charleston and nearby Beaufort areas, not from across South Carolina. David Bruck made the request in court documents filed Wednesday. Roof faces hate crimes and other charges in the shootings of nine parishioners at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston a year ago this Friday. The government is seeking the death penalty in the trial set for Nov. 7. During an earlier hearing, Bruck said it would be a challenge for jurors from across the state to have to come to Charleston. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel has said between 1,200 and 1,500 jurors will likely be summoned.

**Post and Courier:** Dylann Roof lawyers want jury with Charleston-area residents

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160615/PC16/160619607>

Andrew Knapp

Defense lawyers want jurors from the Charleston area to decide Dylann Roof's fate during his federal death penalty trial, a move that experts say puts a key decision on how the community moves forward into the hands of people who live here. Roof's lead attorney, David Bruck, filed the request Wednesday for the jury pool to be drawn from only nine counties in the Lowcountry, leaving out three other regions that make up the federal court's South Carolina district. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel had planned to summon 1,200 to 1,500 people statewide, but Roof's defense team indicated during a recent hearing that the broader draw probably would not be necessary.

**Associated Press:** US Attorney steps down months before church shooting trial

<http://bigstory.ap.org/32b3b97dea19446c9bbb6c03c61fb10e>

Meg Kinnard

Less than five months before the federal government's death penalty trial of accused Charleston church shooter Dylann Roof, South Carolina's top federal prosecutor announced his immediate departure from the office Wednesday, saying he is returning to private law practice. During an interview with The Associated Press, U.S. Attorney Bill Nettles said he had long planned to leave the post, to which he was appointed by President Barack Obama in 2010. Nettles said his six-year tenure made him South Carolina's longest-serving U.S. Attorney since the 1960s. With the election in November, whoever becomes president will make his or her own selections for U.S. Attorneys across the country. Nettles, 54, opposes the death penalty and spent much of his more than 20-year private practice career on criminal defense, at times fighting to keep defendants off death row. When he took office, Nettles told The Associated Press he would "follow the law as it's dictated by Washington," even in potential death penalty cases.

**The State:** U.S. Attorney Nettles stepping down on eve of Roof trial

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article83854022.html>

John Monk

Bill Nettles is retiring Wednesday as U.S. attorney for South Carolina, just before the federal death penalty prosecution of Dylann Roof, one of the highest-profile trials the state has seen. In recent months, Nettles quietly lobbied high officials in the Justice Department not to seek the death penalty against Roof, the accused white supremacist killer of nine African-Americans last June in a



Charleston church, sources said. Nettles, who usually signs major documents, noticeably did not sign the Justice Department's recent notice of intent to seek the death penalty against Roof.

**Post and Courier:** U.S. Attorney Bill Nettles resigning after lengthy, unlikely stay

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160615/PC16/160619626>

Glenn Smith

U.S. Attorney Bill Nettles is stepping down as South Carolina's top federal prosecutor on the eve of two landmark trials, ending a lengthy — and unlikely — six-year run marked by an emphasis on finding justice without leaning on mass incarceration. Nettles, 54, announced his resignation Wednesday, saying he intends to return to private practice as a criminal-defense lawyer and civil litigator. His final act will be addressing a drug court in Charleston in the afternoon. His decision comes just months before federal prosecutors are scheduled to go to trial in two high-profile, racially charged civil-rights cases from last year: the mass shooting of nine black worshippers at Emanuel AME church by a white supremacist and Walter Scott's killing by a white North Charleston police officer.

**Greenville News:** U.S. attorney: SC lacks adequate gun, ethics laws

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/06/15/us-attorney-sc-lacks-adequate-gun-ethics-laws/85699312/>

Tim Smith

South Carolina's top federal prosecutor says he increased resources to battle white-collar crime and public corruption when he took office six years ago but lacked one tool available to prosecutors in other states — adequate state laws. The state especially lacks adequate gun and ethics laws, Bill Nettles, who leaves office today as South Carolina's U.S. attorney, told The Greenville News. Nettles, who boosted prosecution on white-collar crimes and public corruption cases when he took office in 2010, said that in some states, gun laws are so comprehensive that federal prosecutors don't bring gun charges. Not so in South Carolina, he said.

## **SC Political News:**

**McClatchy DC:** Debate continues: Is Orlando tragedy a gun issue or terrorism issue?

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/congress/article83776492.html>

Vera Bergengruen

In the aftermath of the mass shooting in Orlando, South Carolina's Rep. Jim Clyburn and Sen. Lindsey Graham were on national television Tuesday to argue whether stricter gun laws could have prevented the tragedy. "This is not about ISIS, this is not any kind of foreign terror, this is about guns in America and whether or not we're going to have some kind of moderation to this Second Amendment," Clyburn, the third highest-ranking Democrat in the House of Representatives, said on MSNBC, describing the shooter as having "a lot of hate, and some of it was self-hate." "If you're on the no-fly list, you ought not be able to buy a gun," he said. "The same is true of people convicted of hate crimes. We ought not allow them to buy guns."

## **SC Elections:**

**The State:** Primary battle not over for two long-time GOP SC Senate leaders

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article83900322.html>

Jamie Self

The primary battle is not over for two long-time Republican state Senate leaders. Sens. Mike Fair, R-Greenville, and Larry Martin, R-Pickens, were forced into runoffs in Tuesday night's primaries. The senators will face their opponents in two weeks for a chance to hold on to their seats. In the House, the leading advocate of a new law passed this year that bans abortion at 20 weeks of pregnancy and later lost her seat.

**Greenville News:** SC Chamber-aligned PAC endorses Talley in runoff against Bright

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/06/15/sc-chamber-aligned-pac-endorses-talley-runoff-against-bright/85928170/>

Amanda Coyne

Former state Rep. Scott Talley has been endorsed by the S.C. Good Government Committee, a political action committee aligned with the S.C. Chamber of Commerce, in the coming runoff election for the Senate District 12 Republican nomination. Talley faces incumbent Sen. Lee Bright in that race, which will likely determine who represents that seat in the senate, as no other candidates are filed to run in the general election.

## **South Carolina News:**

**Associated Press:** \$15M to be spent on studies for South Carolina-Georgia port

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=0jdFLR11](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=0jdFLR11)

Bruce Smith

South Carolina and Georgia will spend about \$15 million during the next three years on studies for a joint \$4.5 billion container ship terminal to be built along the state line. The board of the Jasper Ocean Terminal on Wednesday approved a \$5 million budget for the fiscal year beginning in July and was told that the same amount will be needed the following two years. The port agencies from the two states are splitting the cost of the studies. The massive 1,500-acre terminal is planned for the South Carolina side of the Savannah River not far downstream from Savannah, Georgia, on the other side of the river. The first phase is expected to cost about \$2 billion.

**Associated Press:** NC nearing approval of border adjustment details with SC

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=GxVcz30t](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=GxVcz30t)

SC State Wire

The North Carolina legislature is now one vote away from agreeing to details associated with a more exact drawing of the state's original border with South Carolina. The House gave tentative approval Wednesday to a bill affirming the boundary redrawn using GPS technology. The bill also addresses people who believed they lived or ran businesses in North Carolina but actually are in South Carolina. For example, students can keep attending their North Carolina public school and receive in-state tuition. The House must complete one more vote before the bill goes to Gov. Pat McCrory. The Senate already approved it. South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley signed a similar bill June 10.

## **Local News:**

**The State:** Medal of Honor recipient cleared of hit-and-run charge

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article83961247.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

A hit-and-run charge against Medal of Honor recipient Kyle Carpenter has been dismissed, 5th Circuit Solicitor Dan Johnson says. The charge stemmed from an incident in December near the University of South Carolina. The Columbia Police Department also charged Carpenter with making an improper turn. Carpenter paid a \$237.50 fine in April for the improper turn charge, according to court officials. The youngest living recipient of the nation's highest military award was involved in a "routine motor vehicle accident," his attorney said in December.

**Post and Courier:** Juveniles who escaped from Charleston County detention back in custody

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160615/PC16/160619627>

Dave Munday

Two teens who escaped from the Charleston County juvenile detention center early Wednesday are back in custody, according to the Sheriff's Office. Christopher Rawls and Tylique Rhoden, both 16, were being held on armed-robbery charges after being arrested by North Charleston police. They

were reported missing at 4:18 a.m. The teens pried open a window screen from inside the cell, broke a protected stained-glass window, then used a bed sheet or blanket to climb over the barbed-wire fence surrounding the detention center, Maj. Eric Watson said.

**Post and Courier:** College of Charleston approves tuition increase

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160615/PC16/160619618>

Deanna Pan

The College of Charleston Board of Trustees voted this week to raise tuition for both in-state and out-of-state students by 3.5 percent for the coming academic year. Starting next fall, full-time, in-state undergraduate students will pay \$5,693 in tuition per semester while out-of-state undergraduate students will pay \$14,772. In-state graduate students will pay \$6,262 in tuition per semester and out-of-state graduate students will pay \$16,249. "We recognize that any increase in the cost of attending the College of Charleston is a matter of tremendous importance to our students and their families," said Board Chairman Greg Padgett in a statement. "The board has carefully considered these tuition adjustments in the context of our current budget and our university strategic plan, and we believe that they are necessary in order to maintain the high quality and prestige of our academic programs and student services."

**Post and Courier:** Ride-hailing app Lyft plans to launch in Charleston 'in the near future,' company says

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160615/PC05/160619619>

Thad Moore

Charleston may soon have a new way to catch a ride, as Uber's primary competitor says it plans to launch in the Lowcountry "in the near future." The ride-hailing service Lyft filed paperwork with state regulators this week asking for permission to open up shop in South Carolina, and the San Francisco-based company confirmed it was eyeing the Charleston market. "We don't have any immediate launch plans to share at this time, but are looking forward to launching in Charleston in the near future," Lyft spokeswoman Mary Caroline Pruitt said in an email. "We've been reaching out to gauge driver interest, and hope to add Lyft to the city soon."

**Independent Mail:** Development to bring more than 40 jobs, \$5 million investment to Anderson County

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/local/development-to-bring-more-than-40-jobs-5-million-investment-to-anderson-county-35526ccb-6d52-201d-e0-383163751.html>

Engineered Plastic Components, a manufacturer of plastic injection molded products, has chosen Anderson County to be the site of its new operations. The \$5.3 million investment is expected to create 43 jobs, according to a South Carolina Department of Commerce statement released Wednesday. EPC designs, engineers and manufactures thermoplastic products. Founded in 1994, the company has expanded to include more than 200 injection molding machines across 15 manufacturing facilities in the United States and Mexico.

**Greenville News:** Journalists tour BMW plant ahead of Mexican groundbreaking

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2016/06/15/journalists-tour-bmw-plant-ahead-mexican-groundbreaking/85842558/>

Rudolph Bell

A bionic "exoskeleton" strapped to a worker's back that provides pneumatic support to his arms as he lifts them overhead on the assembly line all day. Driverless vehicles hauling parts around the factory floor. A robot that lifts heavy parts unless a human commands it to stop. Those were among the industrial technologies that BMW showed to a group of visiting journalists at its manufacturing complex along Interstate 85 between Greenville and Spartanburg on Wednesday. The German automaker took more than 20 reporters from Europe, Latin America and the United States on a tour of the part of the 5.6 million-square-foot complex where it makes its X3 and X4 models.

**Island Packet:** Hilton Head renourishment project to start later this week

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/article83893582.html>

Teresa Moss

It is unlikely that the Town of Hilton Head will start its \$20.7 million beach renourishment project today as scheduled. The project is expected to start later this week, probably Thursday or Friday. Scott Liggett, Hilton Head's director of public projects, said Wednesday more time is needed to set up materials for the project. About 1,000 feet of beach will be restricted in front of the renourishment site once the project starts. It will move about 300 feet each day.

## **National News:**

**Associated Press:** The Latest: Sheriff: Body of boy killed by gator recovered

<http://bigstory.ap.org/47ff00663212405490294fea4a2a1bc1>

Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings says searchers have recovered the body of a 2-year-old Nebraska boy snatched by an alligator at Walt Disney World. The boy was attacked Tuesday night as he waded in shallow water at the edge of the Seven Seas Lagoon at Disney's Grand Floridian resort. Demings identified the boy as Lane Graves of Elkhorn, Nebraska. The search team grew to 50 people Wednesday as trappers and divers searched Disney's network of man-made canals, ponds and lakes. At least five other alligators were caught and cut open before they found the killer.

**Associated Press:** Boy snatched by gator is presumed dead; Disney beaches close

<http://bigstory.ap.org/2a1e6528c6e74f0084988e2aa0d00a34>

Jay Reeves and Terrance Harris

Walt Disney World closed beaches at its Florida resorts Wednesday while dozens of rescuers searched a lagoon for a 2-year-old boy who was presumed dead after being snatched off the shore and dragged underwater by an alligator. Wildlife officials removed five alligators from the water and cut them open but found no sign of the child. A Disney representative, speaking on condition of anonymity because the company had yet to prepare a formal statement, said the entertainment giant closed the beaches "out of an abundance of caution." Authorities planned to keep looking for the boy. "We're going to be here throughout," Sheriff Jerry Demings said.

## **World News:**

**Associated Press:** Iran files suit against US in world court over frozen assets

<http://bigstory.ap.org/cd05877e850440c3943282e52930b054>

Iran has filed a lawsuit with the International Court of Justice to recover \$2 billion worth of frozen assets the U.S. Supreme Court awarded to victims of a 1983 bombing in Lebanon and other attacks linked to Iran. In remarks broadcast Wednesday on state TV, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said the claim had been filed the day before. The Supreme Court ruling, issued in April, directly affects more than 1,300 relatives of victims, some who have been seeking compensation for more than 30 years. They include families of the 241 U.S. service members who died in the Beirut bombing. Iran has denied any role in the attacks and rejected the court ruling, saying it amounted to theft.

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