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To:
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Subject: Morning Clips – Monday, July 25, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Gov. Haley is on the cellphone grid — but out of public view

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160723/160729804/gov-haley-is-on-the-cellphone-grid--but-out-of-public-view>

Since the start of Gov. Nikki Haley's first term in 2011, her election campaign account has paid \$17,000 for a cellphone that's off limits to public disclosure laws. Unlike a state-taxpayer provided phone, Haley can use it to text message state officials or staff without disclosing the content under the state's Freedom of Information Act. "The governor uses her non-state cellphone for various reasons permitted by law, including incidental personal use," Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams said. Texting, calls and in-person meetings are Haley's preferred forms of communication and all of them leave little to no public trace. Calls to agencies or a "fellow governor" are noted on Haley's public schedule, but details are not always revealed. Haley isn't alone in using campaign money for private cell use. At least 16 lawmakers use campaign funds to pay for phones, disclosure reports show, with bills ranging from \$58 to more than \$300 a month. Haley's phone and a Wi-Fi hot spot tab averages \$270 a month. It's all legal under state law.

Democratic National Convention:

Associated Press: Democrats seek display of unity despite leadership shuffle

<http://bigstory.ap.org/45a30889ac464f01ac02a47a3bb4b073>

Ken Thomas and Catherine Lucey

Democrats are opening their national convention in Philadelphia eager to show off a forward-looking party united behind Hillary Clinton, but they face lingering bitterness among supporters of defeated rival Bernie Sanders and a fresh political mess of the party's own making. The resignation of Debbie Wasserman Schultz as chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee made for a rocky start on Sunday, as the Florida congresswoman heeded Sanders' longstanding call to leave as party chief. Her departure comes a few days after the publication of 19,000 hacked emails, which the Vermont senator said confirmed his belief that the national party played favorites for Clinton during the primary. "The party now needs new leadership that will open the doors of the party and welcome in working people and young people," Sanders said.

Associated Press: Sanders, delegates to meet privately amid lingering angst

<http://bigstory.ap.org/063aa8104e5344199dfdf2c911c393e6>

Catherine Lucey

Amid lingering angst over the primary process, Bernie Sanders has a chance to encourage his supporters to embrace party unity. Sanders is set to meet privately with supporters Monday before the start of the Democratic National Convention. Sanders backers have expressed frustration over the nominating procedures, the party platform and party leadership, with some suggesting they may protest or take action on the floor. But the Vermont Senator has struck a positive message in recent

interviews, expressing his support for Hillary Clinton. "I'm proud that, in the Democratic platform that was passed a few weeks ago, we are making some real progress," Sanders said on CNN Sunday. He added: "My focus right now is defeating (Donald) Trump, electing Clinton, electing progressive candidates around this country and focusing on the issues that matter the most to working families." Sanders will address the full convention Monday night.

Post and Courier: Amidst unsettling news, S.C. Dems aim for unity in Philadelphia this week
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160724/160729642/amidst-unsettling-news-sc-dems-aim-for-unity-in-philadelphia-this-week>

Emma Dumain

The Republican National Convention kicked off last week with some serious soul-searching about the fate of the GOP. On the eve of the Democratic National Convention, Democrats were asking similar questions about their own party's political future. As South Carolina delegates arrived in Philadelphia on Sunday morning, word was spreading about the thousands of leaked emails revealing potential anti-Bernie Sanders bias from DNC officials, including the senior staff of DNC Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz. By that afternoon, Wasserman Schultz, a U.S. Congresswoman from Florida, announced she would resign as chairwoman by the week's end. The unexpected revelations hit some South Carolinians hard. "It's unfortunate that (Wasserman Schultz) will not be able to enjoy the fruits of her very good and hard work," Don Fowler, a fixture of South Carolina Democratic politics who served as DNC chairman in the mid-1990s, told The Post and Courier Sunday.

The State: Clyburn, Benjamin to address Democratic convention
<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article91641497.html>

Avery G. Wilks

The inspiration for Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin's speech this week at the Democratic National Convention came long before he accepted an invitation to pick up the microphone in Philadelphia. Last July, Benjamin introduced his oldest daughter to Hillary Clinton during a campaign stop at a West Columbia church. He then watched as the 10-year-old discussed politics with one of the most influential women in the world. "It was really a wonderful opportunity to see the look of hope and aspiration in my daughter's eyes," said Benjamin, whose speech Tuesday will center on children and the impact of the United States electing its first woman president. Benjamin is among at least six South Carolinians who will speak at the nominating convention for Clinton, representing a state that is punching above its weight in the number of convention speakers. U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-Columbia, and former state Rep. Bakari Sellers also will speak at the convention. So will Felicia Sanders and Polly Sheppard. The two survivors of the Emanuel A.M.E. Church shooting in Charleston last summer will speak on Wednesday.

Post and Courier: DNC delegate spotlight: Ra Shad Frazier-Gaines
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160725/160729742/dnc-delegate-spotlight-ra-shad-frazier-gaines>
Emma Dumain

Ra Shad Frazier-Gaines said he was always known as the "weird kid," the "crazy kid." But vindication came last November in an unexpected form when Frazier-Gaines was asked to introduce a Democratic presidential contender during a rally at the University of South Carolina-Aiken. "I feel like my hometown doesn't know me," he said. "It was thrilling to introduce a bona fide, legitimate candidate for president in my hometown in front of my family and friends. It was a really big honor, and I was grateful to do that." That candidate was Bernie Sanders, a self-described socialist who might be considered, like Frazier-Gaines, an outlier in South Carolina politics. In aligning himself with

the Vermont senator, however, Frazier-Gaines was showing Aiken exactly the person he himself had become. He describes himself as “activist,” “blunt” and “in your face.” “I am prepared to vote for the candidate that best represents what I believe is important for the next president. And hopefully Hillary Clinton will embrace those ideas and things that are important to me before November,” he said. “We’re saying to the Democratic Party, ‘If you want our votes, you need to fix some things.’ ”

Aiken Standard: Aiken’s Gaines happy to be at Democratic Convention, but upset about party leaders’ actions

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160724/160729762/aikenx2019s-gaines-happy-to-be-at-democratic-convention-but-upset-about-party-leadersx2019-actions>

Dede Biles

Aiken’s Ra Shad Gaines was excited about being in Philadelphia for the Democratic National Convention. “I’ve already eaten my first Philly cheesesteak, so everybody else needs to catch up,” said Gaines in a telephone interview Sunday morning. “I’m really looking forward to reconnecting with some of my colleagues and friends from across the country.” Gaines and other delegates were participating in community service projects on the day before the convention’s official start. “Delegates are painting murals that will be placed in southwest Philadelphia and the central area of the city,” Gaines said. “Delegates, particularly the Bernie Sanders delegates, also are bringing new socks and underwear to give to the homeless community in Philadelphia. I brought 50 pairs of socks to donate.”

Independent Mail: Anderson’s Young Democrats hope to change political conversation

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/andersons-young-democrats-hope-to-change-political-conversation-383becc2-f95f-6627-e053-0100007f3d53-388069912.html>

Kirk Brown

The leader of the recently formed Young Democrats of Anderson County says his group is seeking to change the political conversation in an area seen as a Republican stronghold. The group’s first meeting, which happened in May, included an appearance by Capri Culpepper, a transgender teen from Anderson. She had recently testified against proposed legislation that would require South Carolina residents to use public bathrooms corresponding with their birth gender. The bill failed to pass. Three days earlier, two Republican candidates and the head of the county’s GOP party had railed against President Barack Obama’s position that public schools should let transgender students use bathrooms that match their gender identity. Last week, about 35 people attended a discussion the Young Democrats hosted about curbing gun violence. One of the speakers, Progress South Executive Director Michael Wukela, was impressed with the turnout.

SC Political News:

The State: Columbia lawmaker wants to ban cops from shooting into cars

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article91491857.html>

Cynthia Roldan

State Rep. Todd Rutherford of Columbia says he’s had enough of police officers shooting into cars. He pointed to a police video released in June by the State Law Enforcement Division of a May 19 Forest Acres Police officer shooting at a motorist in a slow-moving car as just the latest example in a series of shootings that have endangered or even killed drivers, not for trying to harm police but simply for trying to get away from them. That’s why Rutherford, the state House of Representatives’ minority leader, said he will introduce a bill in the upcoming legislative year to ban the practice. Rutherford, a criminal defense attorney and former prosecutor, said he’d rather not have to file

legislation to ban it. But not enough South Carolina police and sheriff's departments have taken the initiative to end the practice of shooting into vehicles.

SC Agency News:

Associated Press: Jasper County tree-cutting delayed until summer 2017

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

SC State Wire

The state Transportation Department has delayed the cutting down of trees along a dangerous stretch of Interstate 95 in Jasper County. The Island Packet reports (<http://bit.ly/2a5Da2U>) that while DOT originally estimated work could begin this year, it's now slated to begin at the end of next summer. DOT traffic engineer Brett Harrelson says the plans are taking longer than anticipated. Figures from the Office of Highway Safety show at least drivers have died in tree-related crashes since DOT first announced plans to remove trees along the interstate's edges and median. This tree-cutting project follows a controversial one that wrapped in September 2015 along I-26 in Dorchester and Berkeley counties. Opposition to that plan resulted in control of the project being taken away from DOT and given to a local group.

Island Packet: I-95 tree-cutting project delayed as state tries to avoid repeating problems

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/traffic/article91345992.html>

Kelly Meyerhofer

The schedule to cut down dangerous trees along Jasper County's stretch of I-95 is slipping further behind as the S.C. Department of Transportation works to avoid miscalculations, cost overruns — and perhaps a political firestorm — that a similar tree-cutting project sparked in 2010 near Charleston. While DOT originally estimated the Jasper County work could begin this year, its construction phase is now slated to begin at the end of the summer of 2017. "It's taking longer than we anticipated," said Brett Harrelson, traffic engineer for DOT. The delay increases the odds that more lives will be lost along the dangerous stretch of road. Since DOT originally announced plans to remove trees along the interstate's edges and median, at least six drivers have died in tree-related crashes, according to the Office of Highway Safety. That includes James Matthew Eddins, a N.C. truck driver and Sharon Toomer, a Ridgeland resident and longtime cafeteria worker at Hardeeville Elementary School.

Associated Press: Coroner: Strangulation was cause of death of SC inmate

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

SC State Wire

The Dorchester County coroner says strangulation was the cause of a death of an inmate at Lieber Correctional Institution. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports (<http://bit.ly/2akl68u>) coroner Alice Durr released the cause of death of 24-year-old Ryan Mansfield late Saturday. She says Mansfield was strangled early Thursday morning by his cellmate. It's not clear if charges have been filed. Mansfield was serving a five-year sentence for grand larceny and second-degree burglary, non-violent, from a conviction in Richland County. He began serving his sentence in February 2015. Brice was incarcerated in January and is serving a sentence of up to 13 years for drug and firearm charges. Lieber is a maximum-security facility that houses more than 1,200 inmates.

Post and Courier: Lieber Correctional inmate was strangled by cellmate, says Dorchester County Coroner

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160723/160729655/lieber-correctional-inmate-was-strangled-by->

cellmate-says-dorchester-county-coroner

Gregory Lee

The Dorchester County Coroner's Office has released new details in the death of Lieber Correctional Institution inmate Ryan Mansfield. Mansfield, 24, was strangled at 1:20 a.m. Thursday by his cellmate, 34-year-old Michael Jerome Brice, and pronounced dead at the scene, said Coroner Alice Durr, in a news release late Saturday. The death has been ruled a homicide but no information on whether any charges have been filed was available. Mansfield was serving a five-year sentence for grand larceny and second-degree burglary, non-violent, from a conviction in Richland County. He began serving his sentence in February 2015. He recently was transferred to Lieber in May from the medium-security Ridgeland Correctional Facility. Brice was incarcerated in January and is serving a sentence of up to 13 years for trafficking methamphetamine, distribution of crack cocaine and possession of a firearm by a felon out of York County.

SC Elections:

The State: 11th Circuit solicitor finalists wind up with small campaign debts

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article91586012.html>

Tim Flach

The three candidates for chief prosecutor in Lexington County and nearby areas relied on bank loans of varying amounts to help finance their campaigns, their latest disclosure records show. Two of the three Republicans, including winner Rick Hubbard, still have small debts to pay off, according to their reports to the State Ethics Commission. The loans are of note because the race to elect the 11th Circuit's first new solicitor in 40 years has been one of the area's most expensive in memory. Hubbard took out a \$25,000 loan, while challenger Candice Lively borrowed \$12,000 as their runoff showdown began in mid-June, the reports said. The loans helped make sure enough money was on hand to arrange broadcast ads, mailings and other promotional efforts during the intense two-week contest, both campaigns said. Both said the debt was manageable, not onerous.

Morning News: David Alford likes running elections, likes public service more

http://www.scnw.com/news/local/article_928dd990-51dc-11e6-b2ca-6bde5d9e53fe.html

Shamira McCray

David Alford, director of the Florence County Voters Registration and Election Commission, has served the county since 2009. What he likes most about the position is being a public servant and running a department that's vital to the existence of government in Florence and the state and running it with integrity and a knowledgeable staff. For major elections such as the coming November general election, Alford's job entails a lot of planning. "You've got to plan staffing-wise to have enough people here. You've got to plan to have enough machines ready to cover the absentee," Alford said. "You've got to have enough people at all the customer service stations to handle one right after the other person." In a couple of months, Alford said, he will begin training nearly 600 poll workers who will work November's general election. The 600 will work at the 63 precincts across the county. For each presidential election, Alford said he has to plan for it to be as big as the previous one. "In 2012, we voted 13,000 people in that room right there. Three thousand were mailed out. So we voted 16,000 absentees in '12," Alford said from his office at the voter's registration building. "Just imagine. Probably half of that was in the last two weeks before the election, or more. So you've got to plan for that."

SC after Police Shootings:

Post and Courier: Killings of officers highlight need for state-covered PTSD treatment, first responders say

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160724/160729775/killings-of-officers-highlight-need-for-state-covered-ptsd-treatment-first-responders-say>

Maya T. Prabhu

The past few weeks have been tough on Michael Ackerman. The Charleston County sheriff's deputy said there are several things that can trigger strained emotions for a first responder already dealing with post-traumatic stress. That includes any time a police officer is killed or injured in the line of duty, such as what happened in Dallas and Baton Rouge, La., this month. It all took him back to the time two years ago when Ackerman witnessed the death of his partner, 43-year-old Deputy Joseph Matuskovic, who was shot and killed by Michael Donovan Oswald at a West Ashley apartment. "The most recent (police deaths) have been hard just because of the enormity of it all," Ackerman said. "It's taken an emotional toll on me because so many people were affected. Families, coworkers, those who were injured; law enforcement agencies where they still have to go out and do their jobs." Ackerman and other first responders for the past two years have lobbied lawmakers to update the state's worker compensation laws to include PTSD treatment. The state doesn't consider the death and despair first responders often witness to be "unusual" or "extraordinary" circumstances in that line of work. A bill introduced by James Island Republican Sen. Paul Thurmond in 2015 to make the change died when the session ended in June.

Independent Mail: Activist says gun statistics show S.C. is a 'war zone'

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/activist-says-gun-statistics-show-sc-is-a-war-zone-383becc2-f95e-6627-e053-0100007f3d53-388069892.html>

Kirk Brown

Michael Wukela says a litany of gun-related statistics for South Carolina add up to one grim conclusion. "We are living in a war zone," said Wukela, executive director of Progress South. His group helped organize last month's anti-violence rally at the Statehouse in Columbia after 49 people were fatally shot at an Orlando nightclub. Last Thursday, he took part in a discussion about gun-control issues hosted by the Young Democrats of Anderson County at McGee's Scot-Irish Pub in downtown Anderson. A 2016 report from the Violence Policy Center found that South Carolina ranks ninth nationally in the rate of gun-related deaths. The state's overall homicide rate is the nation's fifth highest, according to Wukela. He also said the number of mass shootings in the state increased in the year after nine people were slain at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston.

Greenville News: Police shootings in SC on pace to match last year

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/07/23/police-shootings-sc-pace-match-last-year/86939806/>

Tim Smith

Officer-involved shootings in South Carolina are on track to match or slightly surpass last year's total, according to statistics compiled by the State Law Enforcement Division for the first half of the year. That the numbers of such shootings have risen in recent years is not in doubt. But when it comes to breaking down the data by race, there seems little agreement on what the numbers mean and some suggest a comprehensive analysis involves digging much deeper into how officers interact with the African-American community that goes beyond the use of lethal force. Through July 11, officers in the state have been involved in 26 shootings, including four in Greenville County, according to records provided to The Greenville News by SLED. That compares to 48 statewide for all of last year, 42 in 2014 and 37 in 2013, according to SLED.

WIS: Orangeburg leaders hold All Lives Matter march and vigil

<http://www.wistv.com/story/32518097/orangeburg-leaders-hold-all-lives-matter-march-and-vigil>

Warren Stocker

Marching and praying side-by-side, the Orangeburg community and law enforcement agencies united with a message that all lives matter. City and county leaders in Orangeburg, along with school board members and ministers, gathered Saturday morning to march from the campus of South Carolina State University. They ended the march in the Orangeburg City Square where they joined in prayer. "We need to be involved marching, not just walking and having conversation with the community. I think this is where the conversation really, really starts," said Orangeburg County Sheriff Leroy Ravenell. A forum is being planned in the coming weeks with the community and law enforcement to continue the conversation.

Morning News: McElveen to host P.A.U.S.E. forum in Florence

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_37e84710-51db-11e6-9b0d-db728a4198fe.html

Shamira McCray

Florence pastor and businessman Tony McElveen said in the wake of the current violence across the nation, he is being proactive and plans to host a community forum this week to discuss ways to prevent similar situations from happening in Florence. The forum, entitled P.A.U.S.E (People Against Unarmed Shootings Everywhere), will be held at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the Rooms R Us furniture store located at 131 Pamplico Highway in Florence. "We will talk about the events that occurred and be proactive and make sure what we see displayed negatively on TV doesn't happen in Florence," McElveen said. But Florence residents don't have anything to worry about when it comes to the city's law enforcement, he said. The goal is to keep the harmony within the city. Recent police-involved killings have happened in Louisiana, Minnesota and Dallas. Each person who attends the forum will be able to ask questions to a panel of community leaders and express any feelings they might have about the tragedies that have occurred, McElveen said.

Associated Press: Girl helps police, kids smile with drawings, stuffed animals

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Z1qYstMN

Joan McDonough When her mom told her about police officers "getting hurt by bad guys" in Dallas recently, Maya Smith of Bluffton decided to do something. The Bluffton Park 8-year-old has been creating "thank you" drawings and encouraging notes and slipping them under the windshield wipers of police cars in her neighborhood for about a week. She says she's surprised seven or eight officers so far. She's even secretly stuck around to watch a few of them find her notes. "They had very big smiles on their faces," Maya said, smiling herself. She and her mom, Monika Smith, and her brother, Jake, 15, have left the drawings on Bluffton Police Department cars, a Beaufort County Sheriff's Officer car and a South Carolina Highway Patrol car, Monika Smith said. Joy Nelson, spokeswoman for Bluffton Police Department, said July 13 at least one Bluffton officer has said she got a note on her car.

Opinion/Editorial:

Aiken Standard: Editorial: Public input paradox in Williston District 29

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160725/AIK0201/160729774>

We're not picking on Williston School District 29 by seeking evaluations conducted of former Williston-Elko Principal Joel Mitchell, who's facing a felony assault charge. In early June, we requested copies of Mitchell's employment records so Barnwell County taxpayers can have a better understanding of how the school district they fund operates. While we wait, we've run into another

roadblock. The Aiken Standard requested to address the principal evaluation issue during the “public participation” segment of the board’s July 19 meeting. Our objective was to restate our request for the records and distribute supporting documentation. Williston 29 denied our request because we didn’t provide enough notice. The district requires the public to submit requests to speak three business days in advance, creating a paradoxical policy that can never be met. The S.C Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA, requires public bodies to provide 24-hour notice of all public meetings. This includes special meetings, such as the one Williston 29 conducted July 19.

NOTE: We also provided copies of Gov. Nikki Haley’s veto message from May 27, which struck down a bill that would’ve shielded teacher evaluations from public disclosure.

Post and Courier: I-526 threatens road vote

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160724/160729685/i-526-threatens-road-vote>

Editorial

Early last week, Charleston County Council appeared to have settled its differences on a referendum asking voters to support a half-cent sales tax hike for road improvements, green space preservation and the local bus system. That accord was apparently reached by eliminating the extension of I-526 — the most costly and controversial program on the list. But by Thursday, I-526 was back, with its advocates urging support for the project, and council members ultimately dissolving into disagreement and a shouting match. Finally County Council killed the referendum altogether. Well, not quite. Councilman Vic Rawl said that the matter could be revived next Tuesday under the parliamentary rule that allows a council member to bring up an issue if he’s prepared to change his vote. If that happens, council should take a lesson from the chaos that followed I-526’s revival, and jettison this project again.

The State: Columbia- Richland merger makes immense sense, just like it always has

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scoppe/article91480892.html>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

I HAD BEEN AT The State a year, covering the Richland County Council as a reporter, when county and city council members started talking seriously about mergers. Columbia officials brought up the subject, because they wanted to unload their jail; county officials wanted to go all the way, with a full political merger. That was 1987. As a fresh-out-of-college political science major, I thought the idea made a lot of sense: It eliminated a world of duplication and inefficiency, it encouraged one vision for the community, and it had worked well to cut costs and political frictions in Nashville and Jacksonville, Fla. But of course it didn’t happen — not the jail merger, not the planning and zoning merger, and certainly not the full city-county merger, which wasn’t even possible under state law at the time. It made sense again in 1990, when voters rejected an advisory referendum on a merger; that vote was doomed to fail for lack of official support and probably wouldn’t have done any good anyway, since state law still didn’t allow consolidations. It made sense in 1994, two years after the Legislature finally legalized it, when local officials brought it up again, only to be stymied by concerns over disenfranchising black voters. It probably made sense in 1972, and in 1963, when serious efforts were mounted but opposed by most elected officials, but I haven’t studied those efforts as closely. They all ended the same.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Civilians, fall in! Army's Fort Jackson wants you to visit

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=dT3osri2

SC State Wire

The Army's largest basic training installation is inviting civilians to learn what happens when soldiers go through basic combat training. Fort Jackson commander Brig. Gen. John Johnson says members of the public may take part in a daylong tour of his installation on Aug. 4. The tour will introduce them to drill sergeants, show them what happens during soldiers' first days in the military and teaches the basics of marksmanship with an M-16 simulator. Lunch is included at a cost of \$5.55. The event begins at 7:30 a.m. and is open to people 13 and older. Space is limited and reservations are required by July 29.

Associated Press: Gas prices drop 7 cents to \$2.22 a gallon

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Wp3lBnh2

SC State Wire

The average price of gasoline has dropped 7 cents over the past three weeks to \$2.22 a gallon for regular grade. Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg said Sunday lower oil prices and an abundant gasoline supply caused the decline. She says the price is 60 cents less than it was a year ago. The Lundberg Survey found the average price of midgrade unleaded is \$2.51 a gallon and \$2.72 for premium. The highest average price for regular gasoline in the Lower 48 is \$2.83 a gallon in the San Francisco Bay Area. The lowest is \$1.81 in Charleston, South Carolina. The U.S. average diesel price is \$2.39 per gallon, down three cents from two weeks ago.

Local News:

Associated Press: 2 charged with neglect ask to attend infant's funeral

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=z7bHlkul

SC State Wire

A man and woman charged with unlawful neglect of a child say they want to attend the funeral of the 4-month-old, whom they say is their child. The Sun News of Myrtle Beach reports (<http://bit.ly/29Ttft7>) 28-year-old Andrew Wade Johnson and 31-year-old Jennifer Elizabeth Wood said during a bond hearing Saturday in Conway that they wanted to attend the funeral of their child. They're charged with the unlawful neglect of 4-month-old Caroline Wood, whom authorities found dead Thursday in a home after an emergency call about an unresponsive child. The coroner says an autopsy was inconclusive on cause of death. A magistrate judge set bond at \$18,000 for Johnson and \$15,000 for Wood. While Wood and Johnson referred to the infant as their daughter, police haven't confirmed that relationship.

The State: Is Wal-Mart a crime magnet in the Midlands? A look at the numbers

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article91600637.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

Police are a common sight at Wal-Marts across the Midlands. But for officers in a small town near Columbia, handling problems at the retail giant makes up about 14 percent of their total calls. That town is Camden. Between the start of January and the end of June, 187 of the Camden Police Department's 1,372 calls were to the Wal-Mart on West Dekalb Street. That means on average, police were called to the store at least once every day. In contrast, during similar spans of time, calls at Wal-Marts in Irmo, West Columbia and Lexington made up about 1 to 3 percent of all calls, according to those municipalities' police departments. "The fact that they're a 24-hour operation, especially in a small town, lends to being pretty much the only thing open that time of night," Camden Police Chief Joe Floyd said. "That makes them more vulnerable sometimes because they're dealing with smaller shifts" of store employees.

The State: Will residents join West Columbia after spurning Springdale?

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article91585907.html>

Tim Flach

Residents in a square-mile area around I-26 and U.S. 1 will go to the polls Tuesday to decide whether to join West Columbia. It's the second time in 15 months that residents will decide on remaining unattached or being annexed into a community. Springdale's effort to take in the sizable area was overwhelmingly rejected in April 2015 amid complaints about higher taxes and the town's requirements for home upkeep. Town leaders say they made their bid and are staying neutral on West Columbia's gambit. About 1,500 persons live in the area, mostly in the Darby Place, Fox Glen, Stonewood and Westgate neighborhoods. There are 84 businesses, mainly stores. West Columbia lies east of the area; Springdale, to the south.

Post and Courier : Upstate's industrial boom reflects impact inland ports are having nationwide

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160724/160729808/upstates-industrial-boom-reflects-impact-inland-ports-are-having-nationwide>

Success of the State Ports Authority's inland port in Greer has helped make the Upstate one of the nation's fastest-growing industrial markets, illustrating how such facilities are spurring growth nationwide, according to a new report by the commercial real estate firm CBRE Inc. The Greenville-Spartanburg market has seen its cargo volumes grow by triple-digit percentages since the \$50 million inland port opened in Greer in 2013, the report states. The facility's number of rail moves — cargo boxes lifted onto or off of a train — is on track to surpass 100,000 annually. And massive distribution centers, like the 1.5 million-square-foot Dollar Tree warehouse that opened this month in Cherokee County, promise to fuel cargo growth well into the future. "The steady growth of industrial users, along with our proximity to other major southeast markets and the Port of Charleston, has enabled the Greenville-Spartanburg market to boast strong absorption numbers and record low vacancies for the past several quarters," Marcus Cornelius, CBRE's vice president of industrial and logistics, said in a statement. "Additionally, with the expansion of the Panama Canal and more than 5.7 million square feet of space under construction, development is not slowing down and is expected to continue on its robust growth track."

National News:

Associated Press: The Latest: 2 dead, 17 wounded in nightclub shooting

<http://bigstory.ap.org/4a06bb759eff4cdca532065d2cc15b73>

Officials say a shooting broke out at a nightclub as parents picked up their kids from a party for teens, leaving two dead and at least 17 wounded. Cheryl Garn, a spokeswoman for Lee Memorial Health System, says that three people remain hospitalized Monday morning. Garn says the victims range in age from 12 to 27. Club Blu says on its Facebook page that the shooting broke out as parents picked up their children. The post from the Fort Myers nightclub says armed security had been posted at the event inside and outside.

Associated Press: 2 killed, at least 16 wounded in Florida nightclub shooting

<http://bigstory.ap.org/64cec4857ebb4cbdadccc9ab2483fd3a>

A shooting at a Florida nightclub early Monday morning killed two people and wounded at least 16, police said. The attack apparently occurred at a teen party, billed as a "Swimsuit Glow Party," at Club Blu in Fort Myers, according to local media. Police detained three people and said the area around the club had been deemed safe, police Capt. Jim Mulligan said in a statement. It was not immediately clear what triggered the violence. Four people remained hospitalized Monday morning, including two

in the intensive care unit, Cherly Garn, a spokeswoman for Lee Memorial Health System, said in an e-mail. All others were treated and released. A shooting victim brought to Cape Coral Hospital was also treated and released, Garn said. Ages of the patients ranged from 12 to 27, Garn said. The shooting comes more than a month after a nightclub shooting in Orlando that was the deadliest shooting in modern U.S. history. The shooting at the Pulse nightclub on June 12 left 49 victims dead and 53 others wounded.

World News:

Associated Press: Germany: Syrian asylum seekers blows himself up, wounding 12

<http://bigstory.ap.org/9879c7496862406c87e99f6c4f1249b7>

Tomislav Skaro and Kirsten Grieshaber

A failed asylum-seeker from Syria blew himself up and wounded 12 people after being turned away from an open-air music festival in southern Germany, authorities said Monday. It was the fourth attack to shake Germany in a week — three of them carried out by recent immigrants. The 27-year-old set off explosives he was carrying in a backpack at a bar shortly after 10 p.m. Sunday, having been refused entry to the festival in the southern town of Ansbach because he didn't have a ticket. Roman Fertinger, the deputy police chief in nearby Nueremberg, said it was likely there would have been more casualties if the man had managed to enter the concert venue. Three of the 12 victims suffered serious injuries in the blast. The attacker's pack had contained sharp bits of metal.

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