

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
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Subject: Morning Clips – Monday, July 18, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: South Carolina delegates ready for Trump in Cleveland

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160717/160719457/south-carolina-delegates-ready-for-trump-in-cleveland->

Emma Dumain

South Carolina's delegates, alternates, elected officials and guests have arrived in Cleveland for the Republican National Convention anticipating Monday's opening gavel and a week of pomp and uncertainty. And to get ready, on Sunday evening close to 100 representatives from the Palmetto State gathered at the city's downtown Holiday Inn Express, where delegates sported their credentials to the Quicken Loans Arena and their laminated passes to state party events proudly reading "First in the South." There was also a trip to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. "The hospitality of Cleveland has been amazing," said Jane Page Thompson, a delegate from Aiken. "The police officers and Homeland Security are doing an amazing job and the plans of the RNC organizers have been special." South Carolina Republicans were clamoring to be the first at something else this week, too. Led by James Epley, Donald Trump's Upstate regional director, delegates swarmed around a petition to formally nominate Trump and Indiana Gov. Mike Pence as the GOP choices for president and vice president. Only a handful of states will be recorded as having officially nominated the leaders of the party ticket, and Epley said he would ensure that South Carolina is among them.

NOTE: "I think Trump, to a degree, condensed his own list of possible (vice presidential nominees) based on his statements toward the likes of Gov. (Nikki) Haley and (New Mexico) Gov. (Susana) Martinez," he added. Haley and Martinez, who are of Indian and Mexican heritage, respectively, were at one point thought to be ideal picks for the 2016 GOP ticket. Both have been targeted by Trump and neither plans to speak at the convention this year.

NOTE: Haley is an honorary co-chair, along with U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, of the South Carolina delegation to the convention. She plans to be in Cleveland with her husband Tuesday through Friday morning, and expects to attend convention festivities inside the arena Wednesday and Thursday nights. At least one of those nights she'll visit with the delegation on the convention floor, which is seated to the right of the center aisle facing the podium.

NOTE: Rob Godfrey, Haley's deputy chief of staff, told The Post and Courier the governor will also be participating in Republican Governors Association events while in town.

The State: SC Gov. Haley to keep low profile at this year's GOP convention

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article90212922.html>

Jamie Self

Four years ago, S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley took the national stage at the Republican National Convention in Tampa as speculation swirled about the rising political star's future. This week, the term-limited, lame-duck governor – who missed the mark this presidential primary season, backing two of Donald Trump's opponents – will keep a lower profile as Republicans gather in Cleveland for their 2016

convention. For instance, Haley's name was not on a list released Thursday of dozens of speakers slated for the convention stage. But that's not because she was not asked to speak, Haley's office says. Republican National Committee Chairman "Reince Preibus asked if Gov. Haley would speak at the convention a couple weeks ago," said Rob Godfrey, Haley's deputy chief of staff. "Gov. Haley was grateful for the invitation and looks forward to attending the convention. But, as we have said before, she has no plans to speak, so she declined the opportunity."

SC after Baton Rouge Shootings:

Associated Press: Black and a cop: Detective says 'We've all got work to do'

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=JPMjTM4q

Lisa Marie Pane

In the aftermath of the deadly attack on Dallas officers, the city's police chief issued an appeal to blacks: If you want to change law enforcement, join us. Apply to become a cop. Chelsea Whitaker heeded that call nearly a decade ago, long before the fatal police shootings in Ferguson, Missouri, and North Charleston, South Carolina, and elsewhere that energized the Black Lives Matter movement. Now she finds herself living in two worlds. Whitaker is a police officer who's been cursed at and attacked while making an arrest. She's also a black woman who has faced the indignity of being asked if she belongs where she is, even while using the city's gas pumps to fill up her department-issued vehicle. In this era of distrust between blacks and police, Whitaker believes she has an opportunity to help bridge the divide. "We're all dominated by fears and our prejudices. We've got to do better," she said. "We can't just jump to 'What this white person did is racist' or 'What this black person did is criminal.'"

Post and Courier: Local law enforcement on Baton Rouge killings: 'This is only going to make the police more on edge'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160717/160719456/local-law-enforcement-on-baton-rouge-killings-this-is-only-going-to-make-the-police-more-on-edge>

Melissa Boughton

Area law enforcement is more vigilant than ever after the Sunday shooting of six police officers in Baton Rouge, three of whom died. "This is only going to make the police more on edge," said Hanahan Police Department Capt. Michael Fowler. "Cops are either going to underreact for fear of 'being the cause of a protest' or an officer might overreact for the fear that someone might be looking to attack a cop." Either way, he added, it's counterproductive to the goals of civil rights groups calling for change. Tensions between community members and police across the nation are high. The officers in Baton Rouge were shot less than two weeks after the death of Alton Sterling, a black man killed by white officers there. The day after his death, a black man in Minnesota was killed in a police-involved shooting, and the day after that, a black gunman in Dallas opened fire on police at a protest about the two police shootings, killing five officers.

Post and Courier: Amid police shootings, man shot 12 times in infamous chase aims to change shots fired reporting

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160717/160719597/amid-police-shootings-man-shot-12-times-in-infamous-chase-aims-to-change-shots-fired-reporting>

Melissa Boughton

The man who was shot a dozen times by police in one of the most infamous car chases in local history wants to change the way authorities report "shots fired" calls over the radio. By all accounts, Ron Burris should have died Aug. 23, 1999. He was shot at 49 times after leading police on a six-

hour chase through multiple jurisdictions and ultimately crashing in West Ashley. While he takes full responsibility for what happened, Burris said if the initial "shots fired" call to dispatch was clarified to say an officer was shooting at him and not vice versa, he may not have taken so many bullets. "I believe there should be a specific code; I fired shots at the suspect and the suspect was hit or the suspect is firing shots," Burris said. He added that he is disturbed by the current state of police shootings, and every time he hears "shots fired," it hits close to home.

The Herald: 'We are all human': 300 gather in York for Black Lives Matter march

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article90213742.html>

Teddy Kulmala

The only thing that reverberated more than the chants of 300 people marching through the streets of York on Sunday night was the peace that cloaked the entire event. Protesters of different ages and races walked down Congress Street during the Black Lives Matter march, which was organized last week in response to the shooting deaths of black men by police officers in Minnesota and Louisiana. York police officers lined the route to keep it secure, and some walked and talked with the protesters. About halfway through the march, members of Lifeway Church said "God bless you" while handing out bottles of water to the protesters. Among chants of "Hands up, don't shoot," "No justice, no peace" and "Guns down, stop the violence" were the names of people lost to violence, locally and nationally, displayed on signs and posters.

Herald-Journal: Spartanburg ceremony to honor fallen officers in Dallas, Baton Rouge

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160717/articles/160719759>

Chris Lavender

A service to remember law enforcement officers killed and wounded in the line of duty in recent days in the U.S. will be held Monday in Spartanburg. The Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office is conducting the Fallen Officers Remembrance Ceremony at 6 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 250 E. Main St. The ceremony was initially scheduled to honor the Dallas Police Department but was expanded to include Baton Rouge, La., law enforcement officers after a shooting there Sunday morning left three officers dead and three more wounded. According to the Associated Press, Baton Rouge law enforcement officers were investigating a report of a man with an assault rifle shortly before 9 a.m. when the shooting occurred. The site of the incident was less than one mile from police headquarters in Baton Rouge, according to the report. The deadly shooting continues to be under investigation by authorities.

Dylann Roof Case:

Post and Courier: In Dylann Roof hearing, judge to take up jury, mental health issues

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160718/160719596/in-dylann-roof-hearing-judge-to-take-up-jury-mental-health-issues>

Andrew Knapp

A federal judge on Monday afternoon is expected to discuss with attorneys how they will pick a jury and present mental health evidence in Dylann Roof's death penalty trial. Set for 2 p.m. at U.S. District Court in downtown Charleston, the hearing will be a chance for Judge Richard Gergel to settle disagreements between Roof's defense team and prosecutors. Roof was not expected to attend the proceeding after waiving his right to appear. The opposing attorneys have disputed how many details should be revealed and when they should divulge the information before they bring up Roof's mental health status in the penalty phase of the Nov. 7 trial. Among the issues with jury selection, Roof's lawyers have asked that the panel members be chosen from just the Charleston region while

prosecutors have sought a statewide pool. It's unknown if the judge intends to rule on that key point during the hearing.

Associated Press: Jury selection, other matters considered in church shooting

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=qmhF2hfz

Bruce Smith

A federal judge is taking up jury selection and other matters in the trial of a white man charged in the shooting deaths of nine black parishioners at a South Carolina church. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel holds a motions hearing Monday in the case of 22-year-old Dylann Roof. He's scheduled to stand trial Nov. 7. Roof is charged with hate crimes and other counts and faces the death penalty in the June, 2015, shooting deaths at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. He will not attend the hearing. A hearing notice said jury selection is being considered, although there is also a motion before the court to dismiss the charges. Defense attorneys say they are willing to have the jury selected from the Charleston area instead of from across South Carolina.

SC Political News:

Associated Press : GOP reaches for nuance on race, police after latest unrest

<http://bigstory.ap.org/0dfc1cff708b4aaabd01c9e18275befd>

Bill Barrow

Some prominent Republicans are speaking out about race, expressing empathy for the challenges faced by black Americans, after a spate of racially tinged gun violence that saw two black men killed by police and retaliatory attacks by a black sniper that killed five Dallas police officers. House Speaker Paul Ryan and one of his predecessors, Newt Gingrich, have argued for frank conversations about race, citing some hurdles unique to African-Americans. "It's important that we acknowledge ... there are people in this country who believe that because of their color of their skin, they're not as safe as everybody else," Ryan said recently on CNN. Gingrich, among the finalists to be Donald Trump's vice presidential pick, said, it was "difficult" for white Americans to "appreciate how real" it is for black Americans to live in fear of a "situation where the police don't respect you and you could easily get killed."

NOTE: Additional killings of at least three police officers Sunday in Louisiana, where Alton Sterling had been killed by Baton Rouge police two weeks ago, could certainly test the new tenor. But before Sunday's shootings, at least, Giuliani's take was an outlier in a week punctuated by a floor speech from Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, one of two black men in the chamber and the only black Republican.

NOTE: In deeply personal remarks, Scott, 50, told of years of being stopped by police — including seven times in one year after he was an elected official. The senator recounted a white officer once calling him "boy." Even recently, Scott recalled, a Capitol Hill policeman questioned the lapel pin issued only to senators. Scott said he was told: "The pin, I know. You, I don't. Show me your ID."

NOTE: Scott, who nevertheless praised American law enforcement, said he doesn't know a black man of any age, social status or income level who hasn't suffered the "loss of dignity that accompanies each of those stops." And he said that pales in comparison to what Philando Castile in Minnesota, Alton Sterling and others faced as they died at the hands of police.

NOTE: Still, Matt Moore, the South Carolina Republican Party chairman and one of Scott's constituents, said the chilling videos of Castile's and Sterling's deaths — along with live televised images of the Dallas sniper attacks during peaceful protests against police violence — have created a new sense of empathy in the GOP. "Empathy is just seeing the world through someone else's eyes, and we already experienced that in South Carolina," Moore said. He cited the April 2015 killing of

Walter Scott, a black man, by a white North Charleston police officer, and the June 2015 massacre in which a white gunman killed nine people at a historic black church in Charleston.

Aiken Standard: Aiken's Thompson ready for Republican National Convention's start in Cleveland
<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160717/160719576/aikenx2019s-thompson-ready-for-republican-national-conventionx2019s-start-in-cleveland>

Dede Biles

Aiken's Jane Page Thompson is at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, where she is fulfilling a long-held dream. A self-described political junkie, Thompson is among the 50 South Carolina delegates who are attending the gathering, which starts officially today in the Quicken Loans Arena and continues through Thursday. Thompson, who is a Realtor and land consultant, arrived in Ohio on Friday night. "I cannot believe how safe Cleveland is," she said during a telephone interview Sunday morning. "Barricades and trucks are blocking the main squares, and there are police officers everywhere. Cleveland also has this wonderful group of volunteers. They have been at the hotels and the airports, and they're also at all the public transportation stops. They have been so helpful and so welcoming."

The State: Sewage in the Saluda deserves more attention, politicians, river advocates say
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article90154532.html>

Sammy Fretwell

Keeping sewage out of the Saluda River has been an elusive goal for a quarter century, despite ever-growing interest in the river as a watery playground. Now, after a recent sewage discharge sent bacteria levels soaring at a public park, some lawmakers and river protection advocates are pledging renewed efforts to get sewer pipes out of the lower Saluda. Among other things, they favor holding a public meeting, or river summit, to discuss how they can jump-start the long-stalled plan, which calls for connecting the smaller systems to larger, regional sewers. Some also want to step up state efforts to close one problematic sewage plant near Interstate 20. Recreational users of the river have pushed since at least 1990 to remove sewage pipes from the lower Saluda because it is considered a special waterway. For a variety of reasons, that never happened. "We have not had the kind of progress that many of us want to see," said state Rep. James Smith, D-Richland. "We need to take stock of what is going on and what it is going to take to make these changes."

SC Elections:

Post and Courier: Dorchester County may ask voters for \$43 million to fund parks, libraries
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160717/160719580/dorchester-county-may-ask-voters-for-43-million-to-fund-parks-libraries>

Brenda Rindge

Dorchester voters could decide Nov. 8 if they want to pay higher taxes to fund \$43 million in new parks and libraries. County Council is expected to give final reading Monday to an ordinance that will put a question on this fall's ballot asking voters whether they support a plan to spend \$30 million on libraries and \$13 million on parks. If approved, the measure would add about \$48 to the annual property tax bill of a \$200,000 owner-occupied home. "Libraries, parks and things like that are the core of a community," said Council Chairman David Chinnis. "This will tell us whether the people of Dorchester County are interested in quality of life issues."

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: How Columbia police are working to earn trust

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/op-ed/article89953642.html>

Opinion: Skip Holbrook

Tensions between law enforcement and the communities they serve are high throughout the nation, as recent events have brought police transparency and accountability, community trust, officer and public safety and use of force to the forefront in our public dialogue. In the midst of the challenges we face, we in Columbia find ourselves with a critical opportunity to come together to find our way forward. As with any relationship, it will require patience and a commitment from both sides to make and maintain real progress. The Columbia Police Department understands that we can only be effective if we have the trust and confidence of those we serve. We are committed to building relationships and demonstrating transparency and accountability to earn your trust. Using the recommendations offered in the Report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing as a guide, we have implemented such reforms as establishing a citizen advisory council, working to recruit a diverse pool of candidates, providing a residence incentive for officers to live in the community they serve, implementing a body-worn camera program, publishing annual internal affairs reports, opening our command-staff meetings to the public, encouraging community engagement and initiating a text-message-based citizen survey to help community members give feedback on their interactions with police.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Traveler returning to York County is SC's 18th reported case

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

SC State Wire

A York County resident who traveled to a country where the Zika virus is active marks the 18th case of the disease reported in South Carolina. Multiple media organizations reported that the case is the first for the county on the North Carolina border near Charlotte. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control received confirmation of the case from a lab Friday night. Agency spokesman Jim Beasley says the state isn't releasing where the person contracted the virus. All 18 cases reported in South Carolina this year involved travelers to countries where the Zika virus is active. Nineteen cases of Zika have been reported in North Carolina. No cases have been reported of people contracting the virus from a mosquito in North Carolina or South Carolina.

Post and Courier: Average South Carolinian affected by more than 1 data breach since 2011

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160717/160719622/average-south-carolinian-affected-by-more-than-1-data-breach-since-2011>

The average South Carolinian has had their information stolen more than once. That's the finding of a recent report by the state Department of Consumer Affairs, which found that at least 7.6 million South Carolinians have been affected by data breaches in the last five years. That's a big number, especially when you consider that only an estimated 4.9 million people live in South Carolina. That works out to almost 1.6 breaches per person. To be sure, that figure is dominated by the massive 2012 Department of Revenue breach. In that attack — one of the largest government breaches in history — more than 6 million people had their information compromised. But the Consumer Affairs report shows that hundreds of thousands of people have been affected by smaller incidents in the years since. Last year, the report says, more than 626,000 South Carolinians were impacted by 38 breaches.

Associated Press: Data in Danger: Average South Carolinian has been hacked

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

SC State Wire

New state numbers show the average South Carolinian has had their personal information compromised by computer hackers at least once in the past five years. The Post and Courier reports that (<http://bit.ly/2a5iYRu>) figures from the Department of Consumer Affairs figures show that there have been at least 7.6 million data breaches in south Carolina. That's about 1.6 breaches per state resident. The biggest breach was four years ago when someone hacked into the state Department of Revenue affecting more than 6 million people. Last year more than 626,000 South Carolinians were affected by almost 40 breaches. The total number is probably higher because agencies and companies only have to notify Consumer Affairs when more than 1,000 people are affected by hackers.

Associated Press: Duke Energy-Piedmont Natural Gas offer reasons behind merger

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=eGrFRNJ4

Emery P. Dalesio

The heads of Duke Energy Corp. and Piedmont Natural Gas Co. are on the witness stand as they explain why North Carolina regulators should approve their merger. The state Utilities Commission on Monday hears Duke Energy CEO Lynn Good and Piedmont Natural Gas head Thomas Skains defend their plan. Duke Energy plans to buy its fellow Charlotte-based company for about \$5 billion. The companies were already working together to build a pipeline to deliver natural gas from West Virginia to North Carolina when Duke announced its planned purchase last fall. Duke's move comes as power companies are increasingly switching from burning coal to natural gas to generate electricity and buy suppliers to control costs. Piedmont has customers across most of North Carolina; around Nashville, Tennessee; and around Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Local News:

Associated Press: Horry County committee seeks cut in violent local crime

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=AgE5ajJx

SC State Wire

A Horry County committee is trying to understand the local reasons behind violent crime as four people were slain within a few days. The Sun News of Myrtle Beach reported (<http://bit.ly/2a3h9Vb>) the Horry County Council's Public Safety Committee has been at work since February. The group is looking at area crime statistics as well as demographics to understand violent crime and develop strategies to reduce it. Two Myrtle Beach-area men were found shot to death Monday, the same day a Conway man was bludgeoned to death with a baseball bat. Amanda Fisher of Brunswick County, North Carolina, was shot to death on July 9 and her body left a cafeteria parking lot. Horry County has recorded 14 homicides this year, down from 16 in the same period last year.

Associated Press: Officials: Suspect crashes car into building after shootout

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=0NS57o1j

SC State Wire

Deputies say a man crashed his car into a building following a shootout at a Sumter nightclub. Sumter County deputies say the 41-year-old suspect was taken to a hospital after the crash and will face charges. Sumter County sheriff's spokesman Ken Bell tells news outlets the incident began early Sunday after the suspect was turned away from a nightclub by security guards following an argument. Bell says the man then grabbed a gun from his car and shot a security guard. The guards returned fire as the suspect ran toward his car and drove away. Moments later, the suspect crashed

his vehicle into the Hillcrest Masonic Lodge. He was taken to the hospital where he underwent surgery. Deputies say the man faces charges after he is released from the hospital.

Associated Press: Man shot to death in Richland County; 1 arrested

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

SC State Wire

One man has been arrested after another man was shot and killed in Richland County. Sheriff's spokesman Curtis Wilson said 28-year-old Ira Ellison has been charged with murder. Twenty-year-old John Adam Hopkins of Eastover was shot Saturday in Gadsden. Hopkins was taken to Palmetto Health Richland hospital where he died. Wilson says the two men knew each other. He says deputies were called shortly before 3:30 p.m. Saturday. It was not known whether Ellison has an attorney.

The State: Remember the Spring Valley video? One student is about to go to court

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article90213792.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

Nine months after a video showing a deputy yanking a girl from her seat at Spring Valley High School and tossing her went viral online, one of the two students charged with disturbing schools is set to appear in court. Niya Kenny is scheduled to appear at the Pontiac Magistrate Office on Wednesday. Kenny is not the student who was removed from her seat and slung across the floor – rather, she says she encouraged classmates to film what was happening with their cellphones. Kenny and the other girl, who has not been publicly identified because she is a minor, were both charged with disturbing schools. If convicted of the misdemeanor, Kenny faces a fine of up to \$1,000 or 90 days imprisonment in the county jail.

The State: NewSpring Church congregants 'moving forward' without Noble

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article90195887.html>

Roddie Burris

Elgin residents Marcus and Chanelle Sharper showed up a week ago at NewSpring Church in Columbia for just their second attendance, unaware that they, along with the congregation, were about to be broadsided by a beam, not exactly from heaven. The couple and their two young sons, invited by one of Chanelle Sharper's co-workers to attend service at NewSpring's Northeast Richland campus, heard through that Sunday sermon broadcast live from the main campus in Anderson that church founder and Pastor Perry Noble had been removed. But this Sunday, the Sharper family showed up again at NewSpring, to the message that the church – with its main Upstate campus, plus 30,000 strong in satellites statewide – will carry on.

Greenville News: Homelessness drops in the Upstate

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/07/16/homelessness-drops-in-the-upstate/87124718/>

There are fewer people experiencing homelessness in the Upstate this year compared to last year. That's a finding in the 2016 Point-in-Time Count (PIT Count), a report that takes an unduplicated census of people experiencing homelessness – sheltered or not – on a given night and to help communities better understand the magnitude and characteristics of its homeless population. The report, released by Upstate-based United Housing Connections (UHC), found a seven percent decline in individuals experiencing homelessness in the Upstate – a drop by 144 people from 1,961 in 2015 to 1,817 in 2016. The report also revealed a decline in the number of individuals in transitional housing and unsheltered. The unsheltered count declined by 146 and the transitional housing count declined by 176, the UHC release said. At the same time, the number of people in emergency

housing increased by 178, the report said.

The State: Richland project to add to area's affordable housing stock

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article90213482.html>

Richland County officials will break ground Tuesday on a multimillion-dollar, multifamily complex on Shakespeare Road that will add to the area's supply of affordable rental housing. The plan is to build 24 rental units, according to federal grant documents. The complex will be constructed at 6319 Shakespeare Road in Columbia, the former site of Columbia Mobile Home Park. The development is being funded by Richland County government, the S.C. State Housing Finance Development Authority, Midland Housing Trust Fund, Wells Fargo and Community Assistance Provider, the owner and developer of the project. The demolition of the former Columbia Mall Mobile Home Park and development of the site is part of the area's Trenholm Acres/New Castle Neighborhoods Master Plan.

Island Packet: After more than 20 years, logging starts again on Hilton Head Island

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/business/article89891032.html>

Teresa Moss

About 60 acres of long leaf pines are being logged on the north-end of Hilton Head Island, raising the ire of nearby residents and leading to calls for a prohibition on the practice. Residents living near the sites say the logging — an unwanted anomaly that hasn't happened in more than 20 years — is heartbreaking and could lower the value of nearby properties. As of last week, town officials have said about 29 of the 60 acres have already been logged. "It will take 20 to 30 years to replace what has been taken from this community," said Gary Higgins as he looked at a field of stumps across from his home in Port Royal Plantation. "This town has to fight the state and get these laws changed."

Post and Courier: Realtor.com: Charleston area No. 1 in nation for dogs; 68% of households own one

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160718/160719683/realtorcom-charleston-area-no-1-in-nation-for-dogs-68-of-households-own-one>

Warren L. Wise

Man's best friend has landed Charleston at the top of another list. According to realtor.com, the Holy City and its surrounding beaches are No. 1 when it comes to dogs. The ranking is based on the percentage of households that own a dog; number of dog parks, trails and beaches; number of dog-friendly restaurants and bars; number of pet service providers; and affordable dog-walkers. The report says 68 percent of households in the Charleston area own a dog. "The rapport between humans and dogs in Charleston goes way back, long before the city was named one of the most dog-friendly cities by Rover.com," according to realtor.com. "Poogan's Porch, one of the city's oldest restaurants, was named after the dog that began parking himself on the, um, porch in 1976. After being adopted by the owner, Poogan served as the restaurant's official greeter."

National News:

Associated Press: Baton Rouge police killer: A former Marine from Kansas City

<http://bigstory.ap.org/c0e1d88e9cef446c9c0dcc60188bed77>

Holdbrook Mohr, Mike Kunzelman and Jim Suhr

The man who killed two police officers and a sheriff's deputy in Baton Rouge was a former Marine sergeant who served in Iraq and had no known ties to any extremist groups. Gavin Eugene Long, whose last known address was in Kansas City, Missouri, carried out the attack Sunday on his 29th birthday. Police say he also wounded three officers before he was killed in the latest in a string of

violent incidents involving police. According to military records, Long was a Marine from 2005 to 2010 and rose to the rank of sergeant. He served in Iraq from June 2008 to January 2009, and records show he received several medals during his military career, including one for good conduct. Long, who received an honorable discharge, was listed as a "data network specialist" in the Marines.

Associated Press: Former Marine kills 3 Baton Rouge officers, wounds 3 others

<http://bigstory.ap.org/3caf41bdf877478a983a9ea7fc7826df>

Mike Kunzelman and Melinda Deslatte

A former Marine dressed in black and carrying extra ammunition shot and killed three Baton Rouge law enforcement officers Sunday, less than two weeks after a black man was fatally shot by police here in a confrontation that sparked nightly protests that reverberated nationwide. Three other officers were wounded, one critically. Police said the gunman was killed at the scene. The shooting less than a mile from police headquarters added to the tensions across the country between the black community and police. Just days earlier, one of the slain officers had posted an emotional Facebook message about the challenges of police work in the current environment. President Barack Obama urged Americans to tamp down inflammatory words and actions.

Associated Press: GOP convention kicks off as nation reels from more violence

<http://bigstory.ap.org/9ffff88ae3154d8da2ad118b0bdeb05d>

Alan Farm and Steve Peoples

The Republican National Convention is set to kick off as the nation reels from another deadly shooting and dissident delegates stage a longshot, last-gasp effort to deny Donald Trump the GOP nomination for president. Amid the tumult, it was undeniably Trump's moment — a week at the pinnacle of American politics that few could have imagined when the New York billionaire entered the race a year ago. "We want America to understand who Donald Trump the man is, not just Donald Trump the candidate," said campaign chairman Paul Manafort. Yet the first act Monday was likely to underline how divisive Trump has been. Delegates were voting on the rules that will govern the convention week, and insurgent delegates said they would try to force a state-by-state vote — a move that could disrupt floor proceedings even if they fail.

World News:

Associated Press: The Latest: Turkish leader says he can cope with all threats

<http://bigstory.ap.org/cfae1d77264d4a42ade6bac080cec1dd>

Turkey's prime minister has rejected accusations that his government is concentrating all efforts on dealing with the aftermath of a failed coup, weakening its ability to counter foreign or terrorist threats. Binali Yildirim told reporters at the end of a cabinet meeting that Turkey is "strong enough to eliminate multiple threats at the same time." Yildirim said: "Turkey is a great country with 100 years of experience." The Turkish premier also insisted that Friday's failed coup had no major economic impact. "Our banks, our bourses are working. Our central bank is on top of its duties. Any changes in economic indices are normal and no different from fluctuations recorded on normal days."

Associated Press: Uncle says Nice attacker recruited by Algerian IS member

<http://bigstory.ap.org/1ffdf3cc47474bfa85a1741343213160>

Bouazza Ben Bouazza and Angela Charlton

The uncle of the truck driver who killed 84 people on the French Riviera says his nephew was indoctrinated about two weeks ago by an Algerian member of the Islamic State group in Nice. French officials could not confirm Monday that attacker Mohamed Lahouaiyej Bouhlel had been approached

by an Algerian recruiter, saying that the investigation is ongoing. IS claimed responsibility for last week's attack, though Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said Monday that investigators have found no sign yet that Bouhlel had links to a particular network. The driver's uncle, Sadok Bouhlel, told The Associated Press that given Bouhlel's family problems — he was estranged from his wife and three children — the Algerian "found in Mohamed an easy prey for recruitment."

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Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044