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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, June 29, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: SC leaders' education update short on solutions, lawyer for schools says
<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article86716507.html>

Jamie Self

State lawmakers' efforts this year to improve public schools amounted to "tinkering around the edges without offering meaningful remedies," an attorney representing poor, rural school districts says. Carl Epps, a Nelson Mullins attorney representing school districts that sued the state in 1993 for more support, was critiquing an update state lawmakers filed Wednesday with the S.C. Supreme Court. The report, outlining the steps that lawmakers took this year to improve public schools, cited more than \$100 million in new state spending in the districts that sued the state. That spending, in the state budget that starts Friday, includes more money for teacher pay raises, technology and technical assistance, and teacher recruitment efforts for rural districts. State lawmakers agreed this year to spend more than \$300 million in added money on education for all school districts.

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley, who backed the initiatives in her executive budget, also submitted an update to the court, outlining her push for more state spending on students living in poverty, technology and reading coaches, among other initiatives.

NOTE: First pitched by Haley in January, the proposal called for spending \$200 million in state money to help districts pay to renovate and rebuild aging school facilities. The House passed the bill, but it died in the Senate as the clock ran out on the legislative session.

The State: No solutions yet on Confederate flag display
<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article86614467.html>

The Confederate battle flag removed from S.C. State House grounds last July remains in limbo. Members of the S.C. Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum Commission on Wednesday acknowledged that lawmakers didn't move on a proposal to expand the museum and display the flag. And lawmakers this year sustained Gov. Nikki Haley's veto of a proposal to study moving the flag – and the museum – to Charleston from Columbia. For now, the \$52 nylon flag – one of many that flew over the State House grounds through the years – remains wrapped in acid-free tissue paper in a white, acid-free textile storage box. The box is stored on a stainless steel rack in a locked, alarmed, climate-controlled room in the back of the museum.

Post and Courier: S.C. Confederate Relic Room Commission to regroup on flag display
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160629/160629364/sc-confederate-relic-room-commission-to-regroup-on-flag-display>

Maya T. Prabhu

Almost a year after the Confederate battle flag was removed from public view at the Statehouse, there still is no clear plan for its display at the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum. The

Relic Room Commission received no feedback from the General Assembly on its \$3.6 million request for museum improvements, which included \$550,000 needed to display the flag. Museum staff said Wednesday they will look at other options. The Legislature received the proposal at the beginning of the year. "We plan to move on," museum director Allen Roberson said. "We will look at this in the future and see if there's alternative proposals that we can come up with." The commission was tasked last July with considering how to display the flag after lawmakers voted to move it from the Confederate soldier memorial on Statehouse grounds to the museum after the racially charged mass shooting at Charleston's Emanuel AME Church.

Greenville News: Martin's runoff loss means Upstate's loss of political clout in Columbia

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2016/06/29/martins-runoff-loss-means-upstates-loss-political-clout-columbia/86510320/>

Ron Barnett

State Sen. Larry Martin's re-election bid got caught up in "a perfect storm" of circumstances that blew away much of the Upstate's political clout in one blast Tuesday, a Greenville political consultant said. Former House member Rex Rice defeated Martin in a runoff for the Republican nomination for the state Senate District 2 seat. No Democrats filed to run in November. Martin, the affable Pickens lawmaker who had risen to the chairmanship of the powerful Senate Judiciary Committee and was one of the most senior members of the upper chamber with 24 years, fell victim to a national anti-incumbent sentiment, a virulent attack from a "dark money" group and a local school issue that he didn't even have anything to do with, said Chip Felkel, founder of the Felkel Group in Greenville.

NOTE: Martin had the momentum in his favor, with backing from everyone from Gov. Nikki Haley, the Senate Republican Caucus and the South Carolina Jobs Coalition to the Friends of the Farm Bureau and Conservation Voters of SC.

NOTE: Haley's support -- she came to Easley to stand with Martin and other legislators when she signed the ethics bill last week -- hurt him with some voters. "Martin sided with Haley to remove our Confederate Flag. They had already moved it off the Capital building and said no further action would ever be taken to remove it," Laura Courtney said. "Lies." Attempts to get a comment from Haley were unsuccessful Wednesday.

Washington Post: A split decision for Berniecrats, and four other lessons from June 28 primaries

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2016/06/29/a-split-decision-for-berniecrats-and-three-other-lessons-from-june-28-primaries/>

David Weigel

Just three South Carolina state senators, all Republicans, voted against the legislation that removed the Confederate flag from the state capitol grounds. One of them, state Sen. Lee Bright, narrowly lost his runoff last night and won't return to Columbia. "Tomorrow is a new day," Bright said cheerfully last night, with no suggestion that he'd run again. That was a victory for Gov. Nikki Haley (R-S.C.), who'd endorsed his opponent, and the Conservation Voters of South Carolina, who saw Bright as vulnerable and poured in. And so, the state senator who called for "the church to rise up" after gay marriage was legalized was turfed.

Free Beacon: Haley-Endorsed Candidate Wins S.C. State Senate Primary

<http://freebeacon.com/politics/haley-endorsed-candidate-wins-s-c-state-senate-primary/>

Natalie Johnson

Controversial state Sen. Lee Bright was ousted during the South Carolina GOP run-off Tuesday by a local attorney who had the backing of Gov. Nikki Haley. The winner, Scott Talley, a former state representative, was also favored by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, GreenvilleOnline

reported. Talley defeated Bright 52 percent to 48 percent. Bright's final term was mired in controversy after he proposed legislation mandating that transgender students use the bathroom that correspond to their biological sex. Haley and the chamber spoke out against Bright's bathroom bill, arguing it would damage the state's economy.

Easley Progress: Historic Bill Signing

<http://theeasleyprogress.com/news/5228/historic-bill-signing>

Kasie Strickland

The governor of South Carolina made history last week when she traveled to Easley to sign into law a bill leading to more transparency in state government and to give a nod to the local legislator who was instrumental in making it all happen. "The reason we are here, I have to say, is because of Sen. Larry Martin," Gov. Nikki Haley stated before putting her name to the new legislation. "It's the old guard versus the new guard and Larry Martin fought with the new guard to help bring ethics reform to the state. Imagine the work it took to get the legislation passed where legislators now have to show where their money comes from, and that is any elected official in South Carolina." Haley made the trip to Easley to sign into law two bills leading to independent investigations and private income disclosures for elected officials.

NOTE: According to Haley, Martin's work, along with others involved throughout the entire process, was leading South Carolina to more open government. "We are the 47th state to enact income disclosures for its public officials and this is going to help make our state more transparent," Haley said. "When you include the independent investigations portion of this, it sends a message to the old guard this is the new way of doing business in Columbia."

Dylann Roof Case:

Associated Press: Friend of accused church shooter wants sentencing delayed

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6Egcxm7I

Meg Kinnard

A friend of the man accused of gunning down nine black parishioners during a Bible study in a South Carolina church wants to delay his own sentencing. Joey Meek has pleaded guilty to lying to authorities and failing to report a crime regarding what he knew about Dylann Roof's violent plot. An attorney for the 21-year-old requested the motion for delaying the sentence to be filed under seal, citing Meek's "medical issues." Meek faces a possible prison sentence of eight years, though prosecutors say they'll argue for a shorter sentence if he's cooperative in their case against Roof.

Associated Press: Lawyer in church shooting case calls prosecutor reckless

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=JzWwz5ch

SC State Wire

An attorney defending the man accused of fatally shooting nine black parishioners in Charleston, South Carolina, says a state prosecutor is making reckless misstatements by implying a federal death sentence might not be carried out. Twenty-two-year-old Dylann Roof faces death penalty trials in state and federal courts in the shooting deaths of the parishioners at Emanuel AME Church a year ago. Prosecutor Scarlett Wilson wants a judge to set the state trial before the federal trial. She notes the last federal execution was 13 years ago and the state has no confidence a federal death sentence would be carried out. Attorney David Bruck says Wilson's position could mislead potential federal jurors to believe that their sentencing verdict would have no effect.

Post and Courier: Citing medical issues, Dylann Roof friend to seek sentencing delay

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160629/160629358/citing-medical-issues-dylann-roof-friend-to-see-sentencing-delay>

Andrew Knapp

A defense attorney wants to delay sentencing for the friend of Dylann Roof who failed to reveal knowledge of the mass shooting at Emanuel AME Church. Joey Meek, 21, pleaded guilty in late April in an agreement that called for his help in prosecuting Roof, 22. He faces up to eight years in prison on federal counts of misprision of a felony and lying to federal agents. In asking U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel to postpone sentencing, defense lawyer Deborah Barbier of Columbia plans to cite Meek's "medical issues," a document filed earlier this week stated. Barbier asked the judge for permission to file the motion under seal, which would shield medical information from public view.

Post and Courier : Seeking earlier state date, solicitor says Dylann Roof federal trial lacks 'relevance'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160628/160629432/seeking-earlier-state-date-solicitor-says-dylann-roof-federal-trial-lacks-relevance>

Andrew Knapp

In seeking to try Dylann Roof first, Charleston's top state prosecutor argued Tuesday that a federal trial would have little consequence on Roof's fate because of that government's "apparent unwillingness" to execute people. Ninth Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson recently suggested to a judge that the South Carolina trial should be rescheduled before the Nov. 7 federal proceeding. She cited the state's "primary jurisdiction" of Roof because local officers were the first to charge the accused killer of nine black worshippers at Emanuel AME Church. In a written motion Tuesday, Wilson reasserted her position and cited past rulings stating that federal courts should cede the way when state authorities start litigation. But the federal system, she said, did the opposite by moving to try Roof first despite this "rule" and "ingrained aspects of our national DNA."

LGBT News:

Associated Press: 2 transgender Democrats nominated in Western GOP strongholds

<http://bigstory.ap.org/d556a407aee74704a0a8e42c4ebe8756>

Michelle L. Price and Kristen Wyatt

Democrats in some of the reddest pockets of the interior West have nominated transgender women for Congress, sending a message of inclusivity in races many consider unwinnable for the party. Misty Snow was nominated Tuesday in Utah to challenge GOP U.S. Sen. Mike Lee, and Misty Plowright won a primary to challenge Republican Colorado Rep. Doug Lamborn in the state's most conservative congressional district. Both candidates are downplaying gender identity in their primary contests. "Yeah, I'm trans, but the simple fact of the matter is that a lot of people just don't care," said Plowright, 51, a first-time candidate who decided to run after attending Democratic presidential caucuses earlier this year and being inspired by the presidential campaign of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

SC Political News:

Associated Press: Court-ordered response to education efforts includes 4 laws

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kp7dLGST

Seanna Adcox

The Legislature's court-ordered report on fixing South Carolina's education system touts roughly \$400 million in budget increases and four new laws passed this year, including one asking college students what would entice them to teach in poor districts. The state Supreme Court gave legislators an end-

of-session deadline for developing a plan to improve South Carolina schools, after ruling in November 2014 that poor, rural students lack educational opportunities. "The effort of the Senate and the House to improve public education in S.C. is ongoing," concludes the report filed Wednesday. While the session's over, that's "not the end of the effort." The 18-page report lists eight bills introduced in the House - four of which passed - and 18 items in the 2016-17 budget, including \$9 million going to dozens of high-poverty districts for salary boosts. The report also details meetings held this year by legislative panels created to study the issue.

Charlotte Observer: President Obama and Hillary Clinton coming to Charlotte Tuesday

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/politics-government/article86600957.html>

Tim Funk and Jim Morrill

President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton will campaign on Tuesday in Charlotte, the Clinton campaign announced Tuesday. The announcement said Obama and the Democratic presidential candidate "will discuss building on the progress we've made and their vision for an America that is stronger together." The campaign did not immediately provide details of the appearance. In endorsing Clinton earlier this month, Obama said: "I've seen her determination to give every American a fair shot at opportunity, no matter how tough the fight – that's what's always driven her, and still does." N. C. Attorney General Roy Cooper, the Democratic candidate for governor, will join Obama and Clinton. So will Deborah Ross, the Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate.

Greenville News: Trey Gowdy skips political analysis of Benghazi

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/06/29/trey-gowdy-skips-political-analysis-benghazi/86523480/>

Mary Orndorff Troyan

Rep. Trey Gowdy warned long ago that his special committee's investigation into the 2012 terrorist attack in Benghazi would be filled with facts, not conclusions. On Tuesday, he made good on that promise and dropped an 800-page report on the American people that explores a litany of poor decisions made before, during and after the attacks. But he repeatedly refused to place blame on any one person or declare that four Americans would still be alive if not for political chicanery. "My job is to report facts. That's what I've done. You can draw whatever conclusions you want to draw," Gowdy said Tuesday.

SC Agency News:

The State: Judge to order penny tax funds be released to Richland County

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article86679332.html>

Sarah Ellis

A Richland County judge will order the state Department of Revenue to release transportation penny sales tax funds due to the county in July. Judge Thomas Cooper's law clerk emailed the case parties Wednesday afternoon saying the judge plans to order the release of the estimated \$17 million in penny tax revenues due to the county in mid-July. The judge's order has not been issued, and its possible details are not yet known. The order might contain other conditions to the release of the funds. "No official order has been issued, and therefore we do not yet know the court's complete ruling," DOR said in a statement Wednesday afternoon. "We look forward to a final resolution that ensures what this effort has always been about – protection of taxpayer dollars."

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: SC State trustees is appointed new university president

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

SC State Wire

South Carolina State University trustees have decided to name a member of their own board the university's new president. Trustees voted Wednesday to give James Clark a four-year term as president starting Friday. Clark became a trustee last year after the Legislature and Gov. Nikki Haley fired the entire board because of mounting debt and financial mismanagement that put the school's accreditation on probation. The university found out earlier this month it would keep its accreditation. Board of Trustees Chairman Charles Way says Clark didn't seek the job, but fellow trustees noticed over the past several months he was perfect for the job. Way says a full nationwide search for a new president would be difficult.

The State: James Clark named S.C. State president

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/education/article86672622.html>

Avery G. Wilks

Former S.C. State University trustee James Clark has been named school's 12th president, less than two weeks after the school escaped a death sentence by retaining its accreditation and moving off probation. The state's only historically black public college named Clark president on Wednesday after a short meeting of the school's trustees. "To fulfill the commitments we made in securing accreditation and strengthening further SC State's financial condition, we need a leader with proven success in meeting these kinds of challenges," said Charles Way Jr., chairman of S.C. State's board of trustees. "James Clark knows how to build and lead teams to success. He has had an outstanding career in business, a long-time involvement with higher education in South Carolina and a close association with S.C. State."

Times and Democrat: SCSU board installs trustee as president

http://thetandd.com/news/local/article_83e62c0a-3e2f-11e6-b35f-e3376c1813c9.html

South Carolina State University Board Vice Chairman James E. Clark has been named president of the university for the next four years. Trustees announced Wednesday that Clark had resigned from the board and soon after appointed him president on a voice vote. "James Clark has precisely the skills, experience and character we need to lead S.C. State today," Board Chairman Charlie Way said in a release. Clark, a retired AT&T vice president, begins the job Friday. Trustees decided in February to have a president in place by December. Even this month, they have continued to give the impression they were looking to hire a search firm to help it find the best candidate.

Post and Courier: The Rt. Rev. Edward L. Salmon Jr., 13th bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina, has died

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160629/160629386/the-rt-rev-edward-l-salmon-jr-13th-bishop-of-the-protestant-episcopal-diocese-of-south-carolina-has-died>

Diane Knich

The Rt. Rev. Edward L. Salmon Jr. died Wednesday after a battle with cancer. Salmon, 83, served from 1990-2008 as the 13th bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina. Four years after his tenure ended, a majority of area parishes left The Episcopal Church after ongoing disputes over scriptural interpretations, namely over same-sex relationships, and administrative powers. That group today calls itself the Diocese of South Carolina while parishes that stayed with the national church are called The Episcopal Church in South Carolina.

Local News:

Island Packet: Parents of missing Florida man: 'We don't know what to do'

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/crime/article86668602.html>

Caitlin Turner

Tim and Celia Pace spent Tuesday in the Coligny Beach area. They handed out fliers with their son's picture. They talked to people in hopes that someone had seen him. They visited local agencies that help homeless people. There was a moment of brief hope. On Wednesday, they went to Beaufort after a tip put Connor walking along S.C. 170. But the tip came to nothing. Connor was not there. None of their efforts have turned up solid leads, Tim Pace said. "After that, we don't know what to do," he said.

Sun News: State will retry Sidney Moorer in Heather Elvis case, solicitor says

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article86651182.html>

Elizabeth Townsend

The state will take Sidney Moorer, charged with kidnapping in the disappearance of Heather Elvis, to trial again after a mistrial was declared Friday because a deadlocked jury couldn't reach a verdict. The state is eager to get back into the courtroom soon and hopes to before summer is over, Fifteenth Circuit Solicitor Jimmy Richardson said. Scheduling is up to presiding Judge R. Markley Dennis Jr., who must contact court administration in Columbia to set a new date first, and so far nothing has been scheduled for a new trial as the dust settles on the mistrial. "We'd love to retry it, and start over the very next week, and I'm sure Kirk [Kirk Truslow, Moorer's attorney] would too, but you don't get to be king of the world and do that," said Richardson.

The State: Deputies locate trafficking victims; girl names leader of group

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article86675347.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

Richland deputies located three missing girls at a motel off Broad River Road on Tuesday night, and subsequently charged three suspects with human trafficking. Geordi Heyward, 23, was charged with human trafficking, 3rd degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor and contributing to the delinquency of a minor, according to the Richland County Sheriff's Department. Kristopher Davis, 25, was charged with human trafficking and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Danielle Burns, 18, was charged with human trafficking. Human trafficking is a felony carrying a maximum of 15 years in prison. During a bond hearing Wednesday afternoon, an official with the 5th Circuit Solicitor's Office referenced the incident report, saying one of the victims named Davis as a leader of a group involved in human trafficking.

Associated Press: Prosecutor wants jail time for Greenville strip club owner

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

SC State Wire

A prosecutor wants a judge to close a Greenville strip club for another six-month period and send the owner to jail because it did not follow a deal to stop nudity and simulated sex acts. Solicitor Walt Wilkins is asking for criminal sanctions against Platinum Plus that would include a \$280,000 fine and at least four months in jail for the club's owner. "While the solicitor recognizes such penalties are strong, lesser penalties have previously failed and the challenges to this court's authority by the defendants have been serial and substantial," Wilkins wrote in court papers obtained by The Greenville News (<http://grnol.co/293PbXj>). Wilkins' request came after two undercover officers saw dancers remove pasties over their nipples and engage in a number of erotic acts banned by the agreement that allowed the club to reopen at the beginning of this year after a different six-month

closing.

Associated Press: 4 people rescued from capsized boat off Charleston

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

SC State Wire

Four people are safe after they were rescued from their fishing boat which capsized off the South Carolina coast. The Coast Guard reports that an alert from an electronic positioning device on the 21-foot boat was received about 4:45 p.m. Tuesday. A helicopter and a 45-foot rescue boat were dispatched by the Coast Guard to the scene about 11 miles east of Charleston. When Coast Guard personnel arrived, they found four people wearing life jackets on the hull of their capsized vessel. The four were brought back to Mount Pleasant by the Coast Guard. There were no injuries. Their names were not released. There were thunderstorms moving through the area at the time.

Post and Courier: Making beaches accessible to disabled an uphill battle for authorities

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160629/160629393/making-beaches-accessible-to-disabled-an-uphill-battle-for-authorities>

Abigail Darlington

Wind, sand and waves don't make for the most wheelchair-friendly environment, but the Lowcountry has a reputation for being hospitable to all — and the Americans with Disabilities Act doesn't disappear just because someone approaches the water's edge. All three beach communities closest to Charleston have different strategies to accommodate people with disabilities and those who are bound to wheelchairs. They're just not always a breeze to implement and maintain. For people in wheelchairs, beach accesses that use wide, flat boardwalks are best — especially if they extend beyond the soft, dry sand. The landscape doesn't always make that possible, though. Sometimes, officials will have to build ramps at a slope that can't be too steep, according to the ADA. And they can't disrupt the dunes, according to state rules.

Associated Press: No free lunch but free parking, for now, in resort town

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=TxQ3Qsy3

SC State Wire

Visitors to Myrtle Beach this Fourth of July will still be able to park for free along the last stretch of shorefront Ocean Boulevard without parking meters. But after the holiday visitors will have to pay to park. Local media outlets report the city is delaying new parking rules along a 50-block stretch of oceanfront on the north end of town. The holiday weekend is one of the busiest times at the beach and officials worried the new rules which were to take effect Friday would cause too much confusion. After the holiday, parking on the east side of the boulevard nearest the ocean will be limited to city residents with decals. Lots on the other side of the road will cost \$2 an hour or \$10 a day.

Post and Courier : Clemson decides against charging students for football tickets in 2016

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160629/160629353/clemson-decides-against-charging-students-for-football-tickets-in-2016>

Aaron Brenner

For now, Clemson students will continue attending home football games at Memorial Stadium free of charge. Following conversations that lasted into the summer, Clemson decided to table the idea of attaching season ticket fees for 2016, while looking into tweaking its ticket distribution process and the prospect of eventually charging students for admission in future years. "I know students are very happy to hear it," student body president Joey Wilson said Wednesday. "There's a lot of tradition at Clemson of letting students come to football games for free, which is something beautiful about

Clemson, and it's something that should continue.”

Associated Press: NASCAR spokesman Tharp named president of Darlington track

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

SC State Wire

NASCAR spokesman Kerry Tharp has been hired to be the new president at Darlington Raceway. The track announced Wednesday that Tharp will start his new job July 18. Tharp has worked with NASCAR media relations since 2005, rising to become the organization's senior director of racing communications. Tharp has lived in South Carolina for 30 years, working as a spokesman for the University of South Carolina athletics from 1985 to 2005. Tharp promises Darlington Raceway will stay one of the sport's crown jewels. Races were first held on the egg-shaped raceway nicknamed The Track Too Tough To Tame in 1950. Tharp replaces Chip Wile, who became president of Daytona International Speedway in April.

National News:

Associated Press: GOP shifting to become the anti-trade party

<http://bigstory.ap.org/2da8ae0763e6476dba94bf5d2a8aeffd>

Nicholas Riccardi

Donald Trump's break with conservative economic thinking on free trade comes as Republicans are increasingly relying on older, struggling white voters who are the most skeptical of trade deals and have lost out during an age of globalization. Polls on the complex issue of trade are mixed, but many show that Republican voters, more than Democratic ones, oppose trade deals. A Pew Research Center survey in March found that 52 percent of Republicans viewed trade deals as bad, while only 30 percent of Democrats did. A Bloomberg poll found that 53 percent of Republicans said the North American Free Trade Agreement was bad, while only 36 percent of Democrats did. Part of the divide may be Republican distrust of President Barack Obama, who has made cementing an Asian trade agreement a top priority. But the shift against free trade may also reflect a political realignment that Trump's candidacy, which draws its greatest support from whites who have not graduated from college, is accelerating.

Associated Press: McConnell bids to shelter GOP senators from Trump upheaval

<http://bigstory.ap.org/ae9f6de67d954d498bbe6fb943855030>

Erica Werner

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is wrestling with an unenviable, arguably impossible task this election year: protecting Senate Republicans from the political upheaval caused by Donald Trump's presidential candidacy. If he fails it won't be for lack of preparation, hard work and cold-blooded political calculation. In many ways Trump's polar opposite, the close-mouthed, deliberate, uncharismatic McConnell maneuvered into his dream job as majority leader just last year, and has been working every angle to ensure he hangs onto it even if a backlash against Trump provokes a Democratic tidal wave. If they keep the presidency, Democrats need to pick up four Senate seats to take back the majority.

Associated Press: North America leaders defend free trade, resist isolationism

<http://bigstory.ap.org/7104d171c83f41f8853642a798b4c13b>

Kevin Freking and Rob Gillies

The leaders of the United States, Canada and Mexico pushed back Wednesday on calls for walling off their nations from free trade, arguing that more commerce with the outside world is inevitable and

will deliver measurable benefits for their citizens. President Barack Obama's meetings with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto come at a time of growing isolationist sentiments, not only in North America. Britain's decision to exit the 28-member European Union has brought to the forefront concerns in many nations that the forces of globalization are having negative effects on their local economies and lifestyles. "The integration of national economies into a global economy, that's here. That's done," Obama said. He argued that instead of withdrawing from the rest of the world, advanced countries needed to focus on higher standards, wages and legal protections that would ensure the benefits of globalization are widely felt.

World News:

Associated Press: Attackers kill 42 in scenes of chaos at Istanbul airport

<http://bigstory.ap.org/4f2da830f3dc423e92d07e89623bca52>

Zeynep Bilginsoy, Suzan Fraser and Dominique Soguel

Suicide attackers armed with guns and bombs killed 42 people and wounded hundreds at Istanbul's busy Ataturk Airport, apparently targeting Turkey's crucial tourism industry. The government blamed the attack on Islamic State extremists but there was no immediate confirmation from the group. Scenes of chaos and panic unfolded Tuesday night as gunfire and explosions sent crowds fleeing in all directions. Airport surveillance video posted on social media appeared to show one explosion, a ball of fire that sent terrified passengers racing for safety. Another appeared to show an attacker, felled by a gunshot from a security officer, blowing himself up seconds later. A growing stream of travelers, some rolling suitcases behind them, fled down a corridor, looking fearfully over their shoulders. "Four people fell in front of me. They were torn into pieces," said airport worker Hacer Peksen.

Associated Press : External attacks rise as Islamic State fortunes fall

<http://bigstory.ap.org/01b59ffc622f4aee8bd77092f1211b6b>

Zeina Karam

International terror attacks seemingly inspired by the Islamic State group are increasing as its fortunes fall in Syria and Iraq. The attack on the Istanbul airport was still unfolding Tuesday night when Turkish authorities said IS is the likely culprit, although no group has claimed responsibility so far. If IS is behind the latest carnage, it would be in keeping with its accelerated campaign of exporting terror, a tactic which appears aimed at deflecting attention from mounting territorial losses in Syria and Iraq. Here's a look at what the Islamic State group would hope to gain from such an attack...

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