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Subject: Morning Clips – Thursday, July 21, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

NBC News: S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley Endorses Trump, Kind Of

<http://www.nbcnews.com/card/gov-nikki-haley-endorses-trump-kind-n613741>

Hasani Gittens

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley was at the RNC Wednesday night and she gave a ringing endorsement to... Cleveland. When asked by NBC News' Jacob Soboroff if she was going to support GOP nominee Donald Trump, Haley responded: "It's great to be in Cleveland." Haley was one of several high-profile Republicans during the primary season who came out against Trump, going so far in February as to say that he was "everything a governor doesn't want in a president." Asked again Wednesday if her non-response was a non-endorsement, Haley replied: "I wouldn't be here if I didn't want to make sure that Hillary was not going to be the next president." "Are you going to vote for him?" "Of course," Haley said, making her first — albeit tepid — endorsement of Trump since the campaign started.

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley gets 'rock star' reception on convention floor, live from Cleveland

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160720/160729966/gov-nikki-haley-gets-rock-star-reception-on-convention-floor-live-from-cleveland>

Emma Dumain

8:30 p.m.: Gov. Nikki Haley, as promised, paid a visit to the convention floor on Wednesday night to visit the South Carolina delegation. Word of her presence spread through the Quicken Loans Arena like wildfire. Republican fans swarmed her for photos and handshakes. Television news producers namedropped "Chuck Todd" to lure Haley in for an interview. "She's not doing interviews," her deputy chief of staff Rob Godfrey cut in, again and again. Reporters would not relent. Photographers strained to get a picture. Some reporters ignored Godfrey and attempted to shove microphones in her direction. Meanwhile, Haley made her way down the rows of seats where the South Carolina delegates were positioned, hugging old friends and colleagues. At one point, she was sandwiched between S.C. GOP Chairman Matt Moore and her predecessor in the Governor's Mansion, U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford. Sanford quickly climbed over several empty seats to get to the aisle, saying he had to meet his "number two son," which is how he refers to his second oldest of four boys, Landon.

NOTE: Haley is considered a "rising star" of the Republican Party, someone whose absence on the convention stage has been widely noted after enjoying a speaking slot in 2012. She has been reluctant to offer a hearty endorsement of Donald Trump, though she finally relented to MSNBC and replied, "of course," when asked whether she would vote for the Republican presidential nominee.

NOTE: Asked why so many people were excited to see her, Moore said the answer was obvious: "She's a rock star." "I haven't seen anyone else have this reception during this convention that she just had," Moore said.

Post and Courier: Haley and McMaster represent GOP's struggle for unity in presidential election

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160720/160729947/haley-and-mcmaster-represent-gops-struggle->

for-unity-in-presidential-election

Emma Dumain

Is this presidential election about electing Donald Trump, or defeating Hillary Clinton? Republicans are divided on this question and South Carolina delegates are no exception. As it turns out, the Palmetto State's highest-ranking elected officials are distances apart. Gov. Nikki Haley and Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster spoke back-to-back at Wednesday morning's S.C. delegation breakfast. Haley, who endorsed U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida during the presidential primary, didn't say Trump's name once in her remarks. "A 'no' vote in November is a vote for Hillary Clinton," said Haley, who also told delegates she was in Cleveland "to support all of you." McMaster, who delivered a nominating speech for Trump at the Republican National Convention the night before, immediately followed Haley with strong words for fellow delegates who have not yet embraced the party's candidate for commander-in-chief. "I know that not everybody here was for Donald Trump," McMaster said. "He might not be the one for you. But as of last night, he is. He is the nominee of our party. "We have to say we're behind him," he continued, "like we do with our other candidates." None of this is really a tectonic plate shift.

Associated Press: Ethics board: Governor gets luxury box only for business

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=2a0cg3Km

Seanna Adcox

Gov. Nikki Haley can watch the University of South Carolina Gamecocks from a free luxury football suite only if she is conducting state business, the State Ethics Commission decided Wednesday. The commission's advisory opinion is a revision from last September, when the board unanimously said the university can continue its longstanding practice of providing free tickets to the box to whoever occupies the governor's mansion, calling it a gift to the office rather than Haley herself. While last fall's opinion said state business - such as courting company executives or hosting out-of-state dignitaries - should be a priority for the 16 tickets, it allowed for personal use. "A caveat we put in the opinion recognized that sometimes there won't be a big company you're trying to woo to South Carolina that's going to need these tickets," said agency attorney Michael Burchstead, referring to a paragraph that read, in part, "we are not advocating for the tickets to go to waste."

NOTE: The governor personally attended two of six home games last year and three of seven in 2014, said Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams. Like previous administrations, Adams said, Haley has used the suite for state business "because there's no better way to showcase the great things going on in our state." Haley attorney Butch Bowers, who had no objection to the revised opinion, said the box is sometimes used for state business without Haley attending. But the governor's office couldn't detail who has used the suite or why.

Post and Courier: Ethics commission narrows governor's allowed use of USC football tickets

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160720/160729955/ethics-commission-narrows-governors-allowed-use-of-usc-football-tickets>

Maya T. Prabhu

Gov. Nikki Haley can continue to use University of South Carolina season football tickets and keep access to Williams-Brice Stadium's executive suites, but it must be for state-related business, the State Ethics Commission ruled Wednesday. The commission revisited an opinion from September that determined the Governor's Office could use the tickets for any purpose — as long as the priority is on state-related matters. Ethics Commission attorney Michael Burchstead said the tweak in the rules came after Commissioner Frank Grimball asked for the opinion be reconsidered. "Rather than saying 'using the tickets for state-related purposes is a priority,' the opinion states these tickets need to be used for state-related purposes, period," Burchstead said. Grimball said the opinion didn't go far enough. He argued that allowing the governor's office to use the tickets for any state-related business

— and not specifically for economic development — would allow other state offices and municipalities to follow suit. He called the allowance vague in its scope.

NOTE: Haley's office said the governor was following the previous pattern of governors showcasing the university football team. "Like previous administrations, the office of Gov. Nikki Haley has used the University of South Carolina's executive suite for state-related purposes, including economic development and business recruitment, because there's no better way to showcase the great things going on in our state," Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams said.

RNC Convention in Cleveland:

Post and Courier : S.C. delegates help boo Cruz off convention stage for not endorsing Trump, live from Cleveland

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160720/160729966/sc-delegates-help-boo-cruz-off-convention-stage-for-not-endorsing-trump-live-from-cleveland>

Emma Dumain

10:45 p.m.: U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz appeared to be doing great during his prime time speech at the Republican National Convention Wednesday night. The former presidential candidate from Texas had the audience's rapt attention, including that of the South Carolina delegation. He even mentioned the power of forgiveness demonstrated by Charlestonians after the Mother Emanuel AME Church massacre. But then Cruz appeared to be wrapping things up with no intention of endorsing his former rival and GOP presidential nominee, Donald Trump. The crowd grew angry. They began to shout and boo and shout, "Trump, Trump Trump." A woman from the mezzanine stood up and shouted, "say it, say it." Soon it became hard to hear what he was even saying. Suddenly the crowd turned to the back of the Quicken Loans Arena. Trump himself, unannounced, had entered the VIP seating section. He smiled and waved as the floor erupted in complete chaos. Nobody was paying attention anymore as Cruz concluded and left the stage. S.C. delegates weren't willing to concede that Trump might have entered at that moment intentionally, an attempt to take the spotlight away from a speaker who was refusing to play with the team.

The State: SC petition would have aided anti-Trump revolt

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article90909912.html>

Jamie Self

Ted Cruz was standing outside – thanking supporters, including some South Carolinians – when all eyes were drawn to the sky Wednesday. The U.S. senator from Texas, the last GOP presidential challenger standing against Donald Trump, had just said, "The party now has a nominee," when an unmistakable private jet with TRUMP emblazoned on the side flew over, low to the ground, and landed at a nearby airport. The crowd – including Cruz – bemoaned the coincidence. "That was pretty well orchestrated," Cruz said, laughing, finding humor in the moment with his supporters attending the Republican National Convention in Cleveland. Not far from Cruz's consolation party, a hoard of delegates from South Carolina and at least a half-dozen other states, pushed against a barricade, also watching as Trump's plane landed. A short while later, Trump's private helicopter flew circles around the nearby buildings before landing in the grassy area before them.

NOTE: A group of S.C. delegates joined an effort Monday that could have freed delegates to vote for a candidate other than Trump, supporters say. That movement – which failed – was driven in large part by anti-Trump activists, playing a long-shot hope that they could avoid nominating the bombastic billionaire.

NOTE: A petition to join the revolt circulated in South Carolina's delegation but never got off the

ground. Of the state's 50 delegates, only 16 signed on, falling short of the majority that supporters needed to submit it, said Stephen Brown, a Cruz supporter who headed up the petition effort among Palmetto State delegates.

Associated Press: SC delegates describe fractured, frustrated GOP convention

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=fuL2dCQ5

Meg Kinnard

The Republican Party may have nominated Donald Trump, but some South Carolina delegates are discouraged by what they describe as enduring divisiveness and negativity at the Republican National Convention. Without some quick healing in the confab's closing days, they fear, the party that has been fractured by a brutal primary season may have a hard time winning the general election - or surviving. "We are not going to win simply by demonizing Hillary, as much as she warrants derision," state Sen. Tom Davis, a libertarian-leaning lawmaker, told The Associated Press from Cleveland. "We need to offer a positive message on what we are about, too." Davis spoke a day after impassioned floor speeches from the likes of New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who on Tuesday night effectively put Hillary Clinton through a trial-by-delegates "for her performance and her character."

McClatchy DC: Here's what the four SC Republicans skipping the RNC are doing instead

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article90825872.html>

As the Republican Party rallies around Donald Trump as its official nominee for president in Cleveland this week, half of South Carolina's Republicans in Congress are sitting the party out – but only one out of dissent. Sen. Tim Scott and Reps. Mark Sanford, Tom Rice and Joe Wilson are attending the four-day Republican National Convention. Here is what the rest are up to this week...

The State: What SC delegates will be doing at GOP convention

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article90697497.html>

Thursday

8:30-10 a.m.: Breakfast featuring Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson

4-7 p.m.: Pre-acceptance speech reception sponsored by McClatchy, the owner of The State and S. C. newspapers in Beaufort, Hilton Head, Rock Hill and Myrtle Beach

7:30-11 p.m.: Convention business session, including acceptance speech of nominee Donald Trump

Friday

All day: Depart

Aiken Standard: Day 3: Aiken's Thompson meets Don King at Republican National Convention

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160720/160729957/day-3-aikenx2019s-thompson-meets-don-king-at-republican-national-convention>

Dede Biles

Jane Page Thompson's encounter with flamboyant boxing promoter Don King at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland on Tuesday wasn't planned. "I was trying to get back to another area of the convention floor when I was surrounded by about 100 media people and couldn't get out," said Thompson, who is a South Carolina delegate, in a telephone interview. "I really had no choice but to listen to him, and when I did, it was interesting." Donald Trump, who officially became the Republican presidential nominee Tuesday, wanted King to speak during the convention, but GOP leaders reportedly nixed that plan. "Who would have thought that Don King would have something politically relevant to say today?" Thompson said. "His take on this whole concept that blacks must vote for Democrats, women should vote for Hillary Clinton and only rich white men are going to vote for Donald Trump was 'that's not it.' He said if you are a person of faith and you believe that America

is about succeeding on your own terms and not the terms that the government lays out for you, then you are a Republican and you should vote like one. He said that if you are a conservative and you believe in America, you should vote for Donald Trump."

SC Political News:

The State: SC Military Base Task Force members: BRAC could be reality in 2021

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article90867147.html>

Jeff Wilkinson

Any Congressional process to realign or close military bases could be possible in 2021 after today's uncertain political climate in the nation's capital has dissipated. That was the assessment of S.C. Military Base Task Force members who attended the Defense Communities National Summit in Washington, D.C., in June. A new round of base closings under the BRAC — Base Realignment and Closure — program had once been envisioned for as early as 2015. But the lukewarm appeal that Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump have to the military, uncertainty about the makeup of Congress after upcoming elections, and a general uneasiness among some members of Congress to make defense cuts all are contributing to a BRAC round being delayed until 2021, members said.

NOTE: The military pumps about \$20 billion a year into South Carolina's economy. Most of those dollars flow to the state's four cities with major military installations — Columbia, Sumter, Charleston and Beaufort — which appoint members to the task force along with Gov. Nikki Haley and the S.C. National Guard.

Associated Press: Ethics board says when it's OK to pay family with donations

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=qQ8j73MI

Seanna Adcox

Political candidates can use donations to pay their company or a family member, as long as the campaign services are legitimate and the cost is reasonable, the State Ethics Commission said Wednesday. The board's unanimous opinion applies only to future spending. It is not retroactive. Basically, donor-paid services "can't be a sham," said agency attorney Michael Burchstead. The advice should be common sense, but it's important to give guidance to candidates the agency oversees, he said. At issue is a law barring candidates and officeholders from using donations for personal benefit. While noting the law isn't specific, the opinion presumes legislators did not intend an outright ban on payments to candidates' businesses, family businesses or individual family members. "If read too stridently, it can lead to some absurdities in application," the opinion reads. "If a candidate or his family owns a printing shop, a catering business, or a cleaning service, we do not read the ethics act as forcing the candidate to employ the services of a competitor." But the commission also recognizes such payments are ripe for abuse.

Post and Courier: SC Ethics Commission approves use of campaign funds to pay family members, self

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160720/160729938/sc-ethics-commission-approves-use-of-campaign-funds-to-pay-family-members-self>

Maya T. Prabhu

Candidates running for office in South Carolina can continue to use campaign funds to pay for work done through their own companies or businesses run by family members, the State Ethics Commission ruled Wednesday. The ruling comes after Attorney General Alan Wilson in December issued a non-binding opinion also allowing the expenses. Ethics Commission attorney Michael Burchstead said the ruling is was meant to give guidance to those who are under the group's

jurisdiction. The commission covers those working or running for office at any level outside of the General Assembly, including governor, lieutenant governor, lobbyists and other elected positions. Burchstead stressed that candidates must use legitimate businesses and pay market value for services.

Dylann Roof Case:

Post and Courier: Motion to bar evidence from Dylann Roof trial centers on videos, documents
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160720/160729925/motion-to-bar-evidence-from-dylann-roof-trial-centers-on-videos-documents>

Andrew Knapp

Dylann Roof's attorneys want a federal judge to bar evidence from his death penalty trial and withhold those details from the public. They plan to file a motion to suppress evidence that cites Roof's rights to be free from unreasonable searches under the Fourth Amendment and to not incriminate himself under the Fifth Amendment. But the filing would contain pieces of the evidence: a transcript, three videos and four other documents. The lawyers fear that making them public "could affect the court's ability to select an impartial jury and conduct a fair trial in this high-profile (capital) case," so they asked to make the request under seal.

SC after Baton Rouge Shootings:

The State : Columbia getting social media policy after Facebook postings, 3 firings

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article90893662.html>

Clif Lebank

Columbia City Hall is developing new guidelines for what is acceptable for city workers to say on social media, including when using their personal accounts. Last week, three firefighters were fired over statements they made from their personal Facebook accounts about Black Lives Matter protesters who had blocked a major access route to the city on July 10. City manager Teresa Wilson said Wednesday the new policy will be more specific than current rules and will be in tandem with department policies for police and firefighters. The citywide policy, which she said was in the works before the July 10 rally, will be in effect within two weeks. It will spell out punishments that will range from reprimands to terminations, she said. Wilson would not release a draft version, saying it remains under review by the city's legal staff.

Post and Courier: Charleston NAACP meeting to include discussion on shootings of black men, police officers

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160720/160729897/charleston-naacp-meeting-to-include-discussion-on-shootings-of-black-men-police-officers>

Melissa Boughton

The Charleston branch of the NAACP will discuss at its monthly meeting next week the recent national shootings of black men and law enforcement officers. The general membership meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. July 28 in the fellowship hall of Morris Brown AME Church, located at 13 Morris Street in Charleston. The meeting will include an update on community issues being addressed by the local NAACP branch and a discussion about the shootings. Three police officers were killed in Baton Rouge Sunday and five were killed nearly two weeks before in Dallas. The shooting in Dallas took place at a peaceful protest precipitated by the officer-involved shootings of black men in Baton Rouge and St. Paul, Minnesota. All members of the NAACP and all community members are encouraged to attend the meeting.

Post and Courier: Johns Island gardener aims to heal racial divisions with food

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160721/160719905/johns-island-gardener-aims-to-heal-racial-divisions-with-food>

Hanna Raskin

A former international development worker says organizing cross-cultural meals at which participants from different backgrounds "have conversations about race, and things in the news, and just about their families" is more difficult in Charleston than Kabul. "It's a little bit of a harder audience here," says Tina Singleton, a new Johns Island resident and aspiring farmer who's launched Transformation Table in response to racial, ethnic and religious discord. "In Afghanistan, you kind of have a built-in community of people from all over the world who are just willing to be open. I'm trying to figure out how to replicate that experience and bring African-Americans and whites together for a meal." Eventually, Singleton says, Transformation Table will encompass a set of raw vegan cooking classes; workshops and supper events. For now, though, she's focusing on giving community talks "so people understand who I am and where I'm coming from." She's scheduled to speak at the Johns Island Regional Library on July 30 at 11 a.m. about her time in Afghanistan.

Aiken Standard: Pick your card: Aiken County police agencies create trading cards to interact with community

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160720/160729949/pick-your-card-aiken-county-police-agencies-create-trading-cards-to-interact-with-community->

Tripp Girardeau

Local law enforcement agencies have a fun, new way to interact with members of the community. The Aiken County Sheriff's Office, North Augusta Department of Public Safety and the Aiken Department of Public Safety each have some officers, deputies and firefighters who have their own personal trading cards, complete with their picture, personal information and emergency numbers. "We began to do this sometime late last year or at the beginning of this year," said Capt. Eric Abdullah with the Aiken County Sheriff's Office. "Now, the majority of uniform patrol deputies have their own personal card." All of the cards are sponsored by different local companies, Abdullah said. Some of the card sponsors are Recleim, The Pot Smoker BBQ, Palmetto Wellness, and Bridgestone.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Despite world slowdown, SC ports post fiscal year gains

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

SC State Wire

Despite a general slowing in the world economy, business increased at South Carolina's ports during the fiscal year that ended June 30. The South Carolina Ports Authority reports that the container volume moving across the docks was up about 1.5 percent for the year. The authority handled the equivalent of 1.9 million 20-foot containers. Because steel shipping containers come in different sizes, volume is generally reported in how many 20-foot containers the cargo would fill. Ports Authority president and CEO Jim Newsome says a bright spot was that imported container volume increased about 5 percent. He says he expects container volume to increase in the future with new larger ships and the expansion of the Panama Canal.

Associated Press : Despite smarter cars, thousands in Carolinas get stranded

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=xzr80fL4

SC State Wire

Despite smarter cars, motorists in the Carolinas are being stranded in record numbers. AAA Carolinas reports a record almost 1 million motorists in the two states called the motor club after their cars broke down last year. Club CEO Dave Parsons says vehicles less than five years old had a higher proportion of problems with tires and keys. To reduce weight, spare tires are being eliminated on some newer models although inflator kits they are replaced with only help in some situations. Keyless ignition systems can leave a driver locked out if key is stored too close to a vehicle and the key battery dies. Parsons says some motorists are running out of gas pushing the limits of electronic readouts telling them how many miles until the tank is empty.

Post and Courier: 21st Zika case confirmed among S.C. residents

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160720/160729960/21st-zika-case-confirmed-among-sc-residents>

Derrek Asberry

Three more Zika cases among South Carolina residents have been reported over the past two days, bringing the state total to 21 confirmed cases. The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control reported on Wednesday that 20 patients contracted Zika when they traveled to impacted areas, and tested positive when they returned. The other case involved a resident who had sexual contact with someone who acquired the Zika infection while traveling abroad. The Zika virus is transmitted by the *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes — both of which are found in South Carolina. There is no evidence that they are spreading the disease locally. Only one out of every five patients ever actually get sick. Usually, the virus comes and goes within a week.

Local News:

Associated Press: AP Exclusive: Woman discusses alleged assault by deputy

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ubw9Q6q9

Meg Kinnard

For more than a month, a South Carolina woman has struggled with the burden of worrying if anyone would believe her harrowing allegation: a law officer forced her to perform a sex act, saying that he'd arrest her boyfriend if she refused. On Wednesday, the woman's attorney says she got at least some relief, as state police arrested the now former deputy on a felony charge of misconduct in office, which carries up to 10 years in prison in the event of a conviction. The Associated Press recently sat down with the woman and her boyfriend, who live in a single-wide mobile home in rural Orangeburg County, not far from Interstate 95 about midway between South Carolina's capital city and the coast. The AP isn't identifying the couple due to the allegations of sexual abuse. But, in an exclusive interview, they described their chilling experience, saying they hoped to shed light on an abuse of power scenario they wouldn't wish on anyone.

Herald-Journal: Spartanburg County Council supports efforts to help mentally ill inmates

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160720/articles/160729959>

Chris Lavender

Spartanburg County Council is backing an effort to reduce the number of people in jail who have a mental illness. The council passed a resolution brought by County Councilman Michael Brown to support the Stepping Up program at the Spartanburg County jail. Stepping Up is a national initiative that brings together county leaders, jail administrators and mental health professionals, among others, to develop an action plan for reducing the number of inmates with mental illness. Brown participated in a Herald Journal town hall discussion on June 23 during which he expressed the need to destigmatize mental health. Brown said Monday he plans to have follow-up conversations with community leaders on how the county can address the mental health crisis.

Sun News: Committee moves forward with six steps to stop violence

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article90901232.html>

Emily Weaver

An Horry County subcommittee is moving forward with a six-step process aimed at understanding local violence and ways to stop it, after a recent rash of armed robberies, break-ins and four homicides have claimed local headlines. And across the country, news of officer-involved shootings, rallies turning deadly and the country's peacemakers being targeted, solutions to curb violence can't seem to come fast enough. "What you see on TV is quick emotional reactions ... to a crime that happened today or yesterday," said Horry County Subcommittee on Violence member and spokesman George Payton, who pastors St. Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church in Aynor. "But what this is about, is a cool, calm approach to looking at Horry County, where we are, where we've been and to say, 'Where do we want to go and how are we going to get there?'"Steps...

Associated Press: Officials: Several animals killed in nature center fire

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ylsruQ6

SC State Wire

Officials say a fire at a Huntington Beach State Park nature center killed several animals and destroyed the property. Midway Fire Rescue Chief Doug Eggiman tells news outlets that the fire started Wednesday morning and was likely caused by a lightning strike. Several animals, including snakes and small alligators, were inside the three-story nature center during the fire. Eggiman says there was no way they could have survived. Crews from Georgetown Fire and Murrells Inlet-Garden City Fire Department helped put out the fire within two hours. It's unclear whether the nature center will be rebuilt.

Sun News: Protesters picket green group in International Drive dispute

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article90882532.html>

Audrey Hudson

Nearly two dozen protesters ignored the sweltering heat to picket along Georgetown's historic downtown district Wednesday, with a bottle of water in one hand and a sign held high in the other while chanting 1960s-era slogans directed at environmentalists. The group of Conway residents who live along S.C. 90 and support the construction of International Drive linking their neighborhood to Carolina Forest say they are frustrated with the Coastal Conservation League for challenging the road project in state court. Protesters say the league and other environmental groups opposed to construction are holding the project hostage through the court system. Environmentalists want the proposed four-lane road near the Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve to include bear tunnels, and challenged the project in the state Administrative Law Court during February hearings.

The State: Poké-hunters urged to use caution, not break the law

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article90853897.html>

Rachael Myers Lowe

Across the county, as the Pokémon Go craze spreads so do reports of players being victimized by criminals, getting in accidents, trespassing, being bitten by a venomous snake, or even falling off a cliff while Poké-hunting. The Richland County Sheriff's Department wants game players to stay safe and has issued safety tips for poke-hunters...

Morning News: Pokemon Go players warned away from some places in Pee Dee

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_4df5b71e-4ee2-11e6-b0be-97a7caf7fd46.html

Deborah Swearingen

As Pokémon Go continues to draw crowds to local landmarks, several are ramping up security and issuing guidelines for players. The Florence Veterans Park, a hot spot for Pokémon Go lovers, requested that those visiting the park to find Pokémon be respectful and tread lightly. "Please place your trash in the provided receptacles or take it with you when you leave," the park said in a statement on Facebook. "Please enjoy yourself and take a moment to reflect on the sacrifices our veterans have made in order for you enjoy life, liberty and freedom. Our Veterans Park is a beautiful place. Please do your part to keep it that way." The Veterans Park, which closes at 7 p.m., and Timrod Park, which is closed to the public at sunset, have both seen an increase in people sticking around after park hours.

Post and Courier: Chief asks Folly Council to approve loitering law

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160720/160719608/chief-asks-folly-council-to-approve-loitering-law>

Prentiss Findlay

A proposed ordinance aimed at reducing loitering-related crime could become law in early August. And while this coastal community has long celebrated its relatively laid-back nature, the change targets a few people who may take that to an extreme. "We've had some repeat calls on the same individuals over and over," said Chief Andrew Gilreath, director of public safety. If City Council ultimately approves the ordinance, he said the public need not worry that a trip to Folly to enjoy the ocean breeze or sunset will trigger new scrutiny from police checking to see if they are needlessly dawdling. "It doesn't punish somebody for their lifestyle," Gilreath said. "There's common sense that's applied with it, so it's not like anybody just standing on the corner is going to get talked to."

Associated Press: Free Wheeling: Busy Charleston bridge getting bike lane

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8e5XTUil

SC State Wire

It's going to be easier for bike riders to get around in congested Charleston as a plan to add a bike lane on one of the city's busiest bridges moves forward. Media outlets report the Charleston City Council has approved a plan to replace a traffic lane on the busy U.S. 17 bridge across the Ashley River with a bike lane. Each year more than 200 bike riders or pedestrians are injured in accidents in Charleston. The bike lane idea was first proposed two years ago and there were tests to determine the impact it might have on slowing traffic. Charleston County Council is now must approve the plan. It's expected to cost about \$2 million and take up to 18 months to complete.

Post and Courier : Charleston County Council offers little explanation about why I-526 removed from referendum

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160720/160729901/charleston-county-council-offers-little-explanation-about-why-i-526-removed-from-referendum>

Abigail Darlington

Prior to Tuesday night's Charleston County Council meeting, a list of proposed half-cent sales tax projects included the largest and most controversial road project in the county, the completion of Interstate 526. But when the council voted to put the referendum on the November ballot, I-526 had disappeared from the list — and no one said why, or asked. Why it disappeared, how it got on the list in the first place and what happened in between remains unclear. On Wednesday some council members said I-526 was pulled from the list because they have received hundreds of form emails from 526 opponents threatening to campaign against it. But others said they would work to kill the referendum before a final vote to place it on the ballot if I-526 isn't included.

Morning News : Pee Dee employers get advice on new federal labor rules

http://www.scnow.com/news/business/article_9c21dcdc-4ee3-11e6-845d-6b81a23387ea.html

Joe Perry

Employers who fail to closely follow sweeping new changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act could face expensive repercussions, and employees who fail to educate themselves could stand to lose substantial amounts of money. A Lunch and Learn presentation Tuesday at the Drs. Bruce & Lee Foundation Library hosted by the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce and Young Professionals of Florence, drew about 70 attendees to learn from attorneys with Willcox, Buyck & Williams, P.A. about new provisions of the law that will take effect Dec. 1. Signed into law on May 18 by President Obama, the Department of Labor's final rule updating overtime regulations will extend overtime pay protections to over four million workers in its first year of implementation, according to the department's website.

National News:

Associated Press: It's Trump's moment to talk to the nation _ and GOP doubters

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a74aef8bdeea45c5a0ceecbde6ab63f4>

Kathleen Hennessey and Calvin Woodward

It's Donald Trump's big moment to make his case to the country — and to the many rattled doubters in his own party. The most important speech of his presidential campaign will bring down the balloons on a convention marked by divided loyalties and unwanted distractions as well as full-throated roars against Democratic rival Hillary Clinton. Competing passions were sharply on display Wednesday night in a hall that echoed first with cheers for Trump's fiercest opponent in the primaries, Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, from his supporters, then thunderous boos from the pro-Trump masses when Cruz wrapped up his speech without endorsing the nominee. Mike Pence's acceptance speech as Trump's running mate was overshadowed as a result, one more missed opportunity at a convention with a daily drip of them. That raised the stakes even higher for what is intended to be Trump's triumphant turn on the stage Thursday night as he accepts the Republican nomination.

Associated Press: Ted Cruz booed lustily as he refuses to endorse Donald Trump

<http://bigstory.ap.org/cf5d2e8d486b4c499d77b15e0fb74842>

Thomas Beaumont and Steve Peoples

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz tried to link arms with Republicans at the party's national convention but was booed lustily by delegates when he ended his speech without offering Donald Trump his endorsement — or even saying he would vote for the New York billionaire. The blatant sign of disunity in prime time angered the Trump campaign, with top adviser Paul Manafort saying Cruz "used very bad judgment" and was "not respectful to the invitation by the convention to come and speak." Manafort told NBC's "Today" on Thursday that Cruz "understood what the responsibilities are, someone in his position." Trump repeatedly mocked Cruz throughout the campaign as "Lyin' Ted," compared Heidi Cruz's look to Melania Trump's and made the widely debunked suggestion that Cruz's father had a role in President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

Associated Press: Hating on Hillary: Republican convention down and dirty

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=o5j4K29p

Josh Lederman and Erica Werner

Liar. Garbage. Lock her up. Republicans at their national convention are putting Hillary Clinton on mock trial, declaring her guilty and issuing sentences that include death by firing squad, in a remarkable display of political rhetoric gone wild. Even some Clinton haters say the vitriol has gone

too far. The focus on Clinton has sometimes upstaged what's supposed to be a weeklong celebration and promotion of Donald Trump. Instead of extolling the virtues of their nominee, Republicans have turned to increasingly crass slurs against his opponent.

NOTE: Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake, a Trump critic who's skipping the GOP convention, tweeted that Republicans "can make the case that she shouldn't be elected without jumping the shark." And Bill Pickle, a South Carolina delegate and talk radio host, said those doing the name-calling "sound and act like demons." "I personally hate - I mean hate - all of the negativity," Pickle said. "What happened to professionalism, manners and humanity in our politicians and citizens?"

World News:

Associated Press: Turkish lawmakers set to give Erdogan sweeping new powers

<http://bigstory.ap.org/103dc4ebd8344647b3a551b3040ef147>

Suzan Fraser and Sarah El Deeb

Turkish lawmakers are expected Thursday to endorse sweeping new powers for President Recep Tayyip Erdogan allowing him to expand a crackdown in the wake of last week's failed coup. The 550-member Parliament is set to approve Erdogan's request Wednesday for a three-month state of emergency. Erdogan's Justice and Development Party account for 317 members in the chamber. In an address to the nation late Wednesday, Erdogan announced a cabinet decision to seek the additional powers, saying the state of emergency would give the government the tools to rid the military of the "virus" of subversion. He didn't specify exactly what the state of emergency would entail.

Associated Press: Prosecutors to appeal Pistorius' 6-year jail sentence

<http://bigstory.ap.org/258abcb3a2c04707acf5064c7cd26a72>

The South African prosecutors' office said Thursday it will appeal against Oscar Pistorius' six-year jail sentence and seek a longer prison term for the double-amputee athlete, who was convicted of murder for shooting girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp. Calling the sentence given to Pistorius by a judge on July 6 "shockingly too lenient," the National Prosecuting Authority announced it would file appeal papers on Thursday — the day of the deadline to appeal. Pistorius was convicted of murder for shooting Steenkamp in his home in 2013, but only after an appeal by prosecutors. He was initially acquitted of the charge and found guilty of the lesser offense of manslaughter, and served one year in prison. The latest decision to appeal by prosecutors prolongs the three-and-a-half legal case of Pistorius, a multiple Paralympic world champion and the first amputee athlete to run at the Olympics.

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