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Subject: Morning Clips – Thursday, June 9, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: Gov. Haley announces budget vetoes

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160609/PC1603/160609355>

Gavin Jackson

Gov. Nikki Haley will hold her annual press conference this morning to discuss vetoes she has made to the \$7.5 billion state budget. Haley announced her vetoes last year shortly before the July 1 start of the fiscal year due to drawn out budget deliberations by lawmakers over additional money. Despite additional money this year, there was no continuing resolution needed as the budget sailed through the House and Senate before being ratified a week ago. Last year, Haley issued 87 vetoes totaling \$30.2 million. It was a higher than the \$18.5 million she vetoed in 2014 and significantly lower than in prior years when she's vetoed as much as \$94 million.

Post and Courier: From Maggie to Nikki to Hillary

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160609/PC16/160609386>

Frank Wooten

She made an impressive mark in a mostly male legislative body. Then she became the first woman to win a major-party nomination for the chief executive job she sought. How about that Nikki Haley? From her first inaugural speech on Jan. 12, 2011: "My mother was offered one of the first female judgeships in her native country, but was unable to serve on the bench because of the challenges of being a woman in India. Now she sits here today watching her daughter become governor of South Carolina, the state she proudly calls her home. When you grow up with a mom like that, the word 'can't' is not in your vocabulary." And even if you can't accept — yet — that Hillary Clinton will be our nation's first major-party presidential nominee, here's reassuring evidence that putting a woman in charge can work out well: Marvel at the grand force of right-wing nature that was Britain's only (so far) female prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, who served longer (1979-1990) in that job than anyone else during the 20th century.

Note: Haley, though far below Thatcher's exalted conservative-icon status, is also a fiscal hawk. Our woman governor has even dared to take on the good old General Assembly boys in this legislatively dominated state, riling them anew by backing some challengers to incumbent Republicans in next Tuesday's primary.

Post and Courier: Haley approves billions for roads; millions for S.C. State University

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160608/160609430/haley-approves-billions-for-roads-millions-for-sc-state-university>

Gavin Jackson

Gov. Nikki Haley on Wednesday signed legislation approving billions of dollars for road projects across the state, but she wasn't happy about it. She says reform measures in the legislation approved by lawmakers don't go far enough. "I have done so for one reason and one reason only," Haley said of the roads bill, "it is a better option than what we will have without this bill: a full reversion to the even more unaccountable and defective system that was replaced in 2007." Haley had until midnight to either sign, veto or let the bill become law without her signature. The governor also signed into law a bill to forgive \$12 million worth of state loans for South Carolina State University and create

a repayment plan for a \$6 million loan.

WCSC: SCDOT responds to Gov. Haley signing roads bill

http://m.live5news.com/live5news/db_349195/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=OK8pcd7u

Heather Carpenter

The South Carolina Department of Transportation issued a response to the signing of S. 1258 law by Gov. Nikki Haley: "The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) appreciates the efforts over the past two years by Governor Haley and the General Assembly to review highway funding issues and to identify potential solutions towards meeting the needs of the state. With Governor Haley's signature on S. 1258, SCDOT can now move forward with the planning and development of several projects and needed repairs that have been deferred for years due to a lack of funding..."

Associated Press: Haley signs bill funding billions for roads by borrowing

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

Seanna Adcox

Gov. Nikki Haley reluctantly signed legislation Wednesday that will let the state borrow \$2.2 billion to jump-start improvements to South Carolina's deteriorating roads, saying she did so only because its so-called reforms are better than nothing. The Republican governor said the law provides a step forward in highway funding and marginal improvements to the Department of Transportation's governance. "To claim this law as anything close to a victory, to represent it in any way as a true solution to our infrastructure problems" would be deceiving the public, she said in a letter to legislative leaders she sent along with the signed law.

The State: SC Gov. Haley signs road plan that includes Malfunction Junction fix

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article82539257.html>

Cassie Cope

Gov. Nikki Haley signed a \$4 billion road and bridge spending plan Thursday that includes repairing Malfunction Junction in Richland and Lexington counties. The proposal also includes replacing nearly 400 bridges and giving the governor more control of the state Transportation Department. Still, Haley expressed disappointment in the proposed changes for restructuring the Transportation Department commission. "So let us all be honest about what we accomplished in this bill: incremental and incomplete reform, or put a different way, far less than the people of South Carolina both expect and deserve from us," she wrote in a letter to lawmakers.

Post and Courier: Gov. Haley approves billions for roads

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160608/PC1603/160609393>

Gavin Jackson

Gov. Nikki Haley approved billions of dollars for road and bridge projects across the state Wednesday even though she said reform measures in the bill that took lawmakers years to pass don't go far enough. "I have done so for one reason and on reason only—it is a better option than what we will have without this bill: a full reversion to the even more unaccountable and defective system that was replaced in 2007," Haley said in a rare signing statement. "This bill does move South Carolina marginally forward by replacing General Assembly selection of the Transportation Commissioners with gubernatorial appointment," Haley wrote. "But let's be clear that 'progress' is little more than window dressing. The process for confirmation and removal of commissioners is deeply flawed."

Associated Press: Gov. Haley ceremoniously re-signing anti-abortion law

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

SC State Wire

Gov. Nikki Haley is ceremoniously signing a law that bans most abortions in South Carolina at 20 weeks beyond fertilization. Supporters are celebrating the law Wednesday at a Christian school in Greenville County that caters to children with disabilities. The law took effect with the governor's

signature two weeks ago. The ban's only exceptions are if mother's life is in jeopardy or a doctor determines the fetus cannot survive outside the womb. Its definition of "fetal anomaly" makes it illegal to abort a fetus with a severe disability if the child could live. Such anomalies are generally detected around 20 weeks.

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley holds ceremonial signing of 20-week abortion ban

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160608/PC1603/160609483>

Maya T. Prabhu

Gov. Nikki Haley traveled to a Christian school for children with disabilities to re-sign a new state law that bans abortions at 20 weeks of pregnancy, holding the ceremony in the heart of the conservative Upstate. Haley said she did not bring this second and more symbolic bill-signing to the Greenville area because abortion is so political. Instead, she said, it's because she's a mom. "I'm not pro-life because the Republican Party tells me," Haley said. "I'm pro-life because all of us have had experiences of what it means to have one of these special little ones in our life."

Greenville News: Haley has signing ceremony for 20-week abortion ban in Taylors

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/06/08/haley-has-signing-ceremony-20-week-abortion-ban-taylors/85590676/>

Amanda Coyne

Gov. Nikki Haley held a ceremonial signing ceremony for a recently-passed law that would ban abortions at 20 weeks, which bill sponsor Rep. Wendy Nanney said was just the first step in the effort to chip away and eventually overturn abortion rights in South Carolina. "We are at 20 weeks and we're going to keep pushing," Nanney said at the ceremony held at Hidden Treasure Christian School, a religious school for children with intellectual and physical disabilities. The law bans all abortions at 20 weeks or later and makes no exceptions for rape or incest. The only case in which an abortion can occur past 19 weeks in South Carolina is when the fetus will die or the health of the mother is threatened. Doctors who violate this law could be jailed.

Associated Press: Gov. Haley signs loan forgiveness for SC State into law

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=QqnOUA20

SC State Wire

South Carolina State University is officially free of \$12 million in state loans, but it must repay a separate, \$6 million loan over the next 16 years. Gov. Nikki Haley signed the terms into law Tuesday without fanfare. The law forgives \$8 million next year, then \$2 million each in the following two years, provided SC State's finances keep improving. The university must make yearly payments of \$355,000 on the other loan. State officials approved both loans in 2014.

Island Packet: Want to drive your golf cart at night? Soon you could

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/traffic/article82465437.html>

Lucas High

With the summer right around the corner, it's the perfect time to cruise around town in a golf cart. Now, thanks to the passage of a bill co-sponsored by S.C. Rep. Bill Herbkersman of Bluffton, the fun doesn't have to stop when the sun goes down. Earlier this week Gov. Nikki Haley signed into law a measure that allows golf cart drivers to use local roads at night so long as local municipalities are on-board and the cart is equipped with front and rear lights. A similar proposal failed in the Senate last legislative session.

The State: SC Democrats call on Haley, other GOP leaders to drop support of Trump

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article82586122.html>

Avery G. Wilks

S.C. Democratic Party chairman Jaime Harrison on Wednesday called out the state's Republican leaders, including Gov. Nikki Haley, for supporting Donald Trump's presidential bid despite the real-estate mogul's controversial rhetoric. "It has been obvious since very early in this presidential

campaign that Donald Trump is a racist, a bigot, a xenophobe, and a misogynist who plays footsie with the world's worst regimes and advocates committing war crimes," Harrison said in a press conference at the party's Columbia headquarters. Harrison noted some elected S.C. officials publicly have objected to Trump's comments and called on them to withdraw their support for the presumptive GOP presidential nominee.

Note: "Gov. Haley has made her objections to Donald Trump very clear on many occasions," Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams responded.

Savannah River Site/MOX News:

Aiken Standard: Construction of Salt Waste Processing Facility completed at SRS

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160608/AIK0101/160609453>

The U.S. Department of Energy announced Wednesday that the Savannah River Site's Salt Waste Processing Facility construction is complete, bringing the facility one step closer to full operation planned for late 2018. "Completing construction safely and eight months ahead of the contractual requirement is a tremendous accomplishment and this achievement is truly a reflection of the skilled workforce we have here at SRS and across the complex," said Jack Craig, SRS Manager for DOE. "While construction work is now complete, we are pushing forward to reach our shared goal of getting this facility into operation by 2018," he said.

SC Political News:

Associated Press: SC Dems: Trump is a 'threat'; withdraw your endorsements

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6Jm1CCjf

Meg Kinnard

South Carolina's top Democrat is calling on elected Republicans to rescind their endorsements of Donald Trump, saying Wednesday that the presumptive GOP nominee is a racist and xenophobe, in part due to his race-based attacks on a Hispanic judge. During a news conference, party Chairman Jaime Harrison said that, while he respects Republicans and their party, he doesn't understand how officials including Gov. Nikki Haley can condemn Trump's divisive rhetoric, yet say they still feel he's the best choice to be president. "To say these types of remarks, and then constantly defend them, is disqualifying for a presidential candidate, period," Harrison said, adding that a President Trump would put the country "in peril."

Aiken Standard: Legislators introduce companion bills to nullify Labor Department overtime changes

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160608/AIK0101/160609455>

Thomas Gardiner

A pair of bills with identical language has been introduced into each chamber of the U.S. Congress in joint opposition to the Department of Labor's rule to change employee classifications and broaden the scope of overtime pay. The bills are companion bills called the Protecting Workplace Advancement and Opportunity Act in both the House and Senate. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., said, "Companion bills promote simultaneous consideration of a topic or issue of interest to members of both the House and the Senate. It leads to a greater chance that the legislation will be passed before the end of the Congressional term, which is why it is so significant that this legislation to negate the overtime rule has companion legislation already introduced in the Senate." The bills aim to nullify the Labor Department's rule change which was made official in late May and is currently set to become effective Dec. 1.

SC Agency News:

Associated Press: DSS hopes grant lets caseworkers spend more time visiting

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=QX8F8yIE

Seanna Adcox

Caseworkers will be able to access children's files on their smartphones while away from the office starting next year, thanks to a grant announced Wednesday to the Department of Social Services. The \$250,000 grant will fund the development of an app allowing access to the agency's network, spokeswoman Karen Wingo told The Associated Press. It's among \$4.8 million in grants the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation awarded to 13 groups.

SC Elections:

The State: SC Lt. Gov. McMaster backs Hayes in Senate race

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article82579162.html>

Jamie Self

S.C. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster is endorsing state Sen. Wes Hayes, R-York, in his re-election bid, putting him on the opposite side of another race from GOP Gov. Nikki Haley. Republican McMaster, who presides over the Senate, also is backing two other Senate incumbents who face contentious re-election battles against GOP primary challengers who Haley has endorsed. In a statement from Hayes' campaign, McMaster said Hayes is "one of the finest men I've ever known. He is a man of character, honor and trust. Time and time again, when Republican senators go into battle, they seek Wes Hayes' leadership on huge issues like ethics, fixing our roads and education."

The Herald: McMaster endorses Hayes in Rock Hill Senate race

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/politics-government/election/local-election/article82598352.html>

Bristow Marchant

South Carolina's top two elected officials are taking different sides in the Rock Hill Senate primary. After Gov. Nikki Haley endorsed challenger Wes Climer last week, incumbent Sen. Wes Hayes has picked up the endorsement of Haley's No. 2, Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster. McMaster was to appear in Rock Hill on Wednesday night to endorse Hayes, a 30-year Statehouse veteran. "Wes Hayes is one of the finest men I've ever known," said McMaster, who presides over Senate proceedings since he was elected to the lieutenant governor's post in 2014. "Time and time again, when Republican Senators go into battle, they seek Wes Hayes' leadership on huge issues like ethics, fixing our roads, and education."

Post and Courier: Leatherman spends big ahead of Tuesday primary

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160608/PC1603/160609383>

Gavin Jackson

S.C. Senate leader Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, has spent on average \$50,000 a week on his re-election campaign since April. State Ethics Commission filings show Leatherman had \$1.2 million on hand as of late May after spending \$400,000 in the past two months, mainly on television advertising. The disclosure shows the 35-year Senate veteran's campaign is concentrating on his main challenger, former Florence County GOP Chairman Richard Skipper, ahead of Tuesday's GOP primary. After a strong fundraising pace earlier this year Leatherman saw increased support from Charleston-area donors who collectively gave more than \$35,000 — the most coming from any region in the state during the April and May reporting period.

The State: Challenger aims to oust veteran Richland sheriff

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article82564102.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan and Clif Leblanc

After a rough and tumble couple of years as Richland County sheriff, Leon Lott is seeking a sixth term, facing a challenger for the first time in eight years. Lott has twice tangled publicly with the governor, been the focus of criticism for investigating his own deputies and withstood the glare of the national spotlight when one of his officers was filmed manhandling a disruptive high school student.

At the same time, the homicide rate has been climbing, and gun and gang violence, escalating – all as scrutiny of police mounts. Former State Law Enforcement Division agent James Flowers is angling to knock Lott out Tuesday of the office Lott has held for 20 years – and from the state’s largest sheriff’s department, where Lott has worked for 41 years.

The State 'Candidate Q&A':

The State: Q&A with Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/election-endorsements/article82519662.html>

The State: Q&A with Richland County sheriff candidate James Flowers

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/election-endorsements/article82519607.html>

The State: Q&A with SC Senate District 21 candidate Wendy Brawley

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/election-endorsements/article82257142.html>

The State: Q&A Richland County Council District 8 Councilman Jim Manning

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/election-endorsements/article82255797.html>

Opinion/Editorial:

Post and Courier: Re-elect Grooms to state Senate

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160609/160609380/re-elect-grooms-to-state-senate>

Editorial

During his five terms in the state Senate, Larry Grooms has been the General Assembly’s most effective advocate for transportation reform. Republican primary voters in District 37 should keep him on the job. Because no Democrat is running for this seat, Tuesday’s primary victor is virtually assured of winning it. Sen. Grooms, who is seeking his sixth term, led the legislative effort in 2007 to provide for better use of the state’s limited revenues by using funds on ranked priority projects.

The State: Editorial: Here’s why Rick Hubbard is the best choice to replace Donnie Myers

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/editorials/article82307027.html>

Editorial

NORMALLY, RICK Hubbard would be the hands-down choice in the race for solicitor of the Lexington County-based 11th Judicial Circuit. He’s a career prosecutor with far more courtroom and managerial experience than his opponents, a person who was in charge of day-to-day operations when the elected solicitor was, to put it kindly, not particularly engaged, and he was being groomed to take over one of the top prosecutorial posts in the state. But there’s also this: The elected solicitor he worked for was Donnie Myers. Mr. Myers was known equally for sending killers to their death and for bending and sometimes breaking the rules to get those death sentences. Mr. Hubbard worked for Mr. Myers for 22 years, while Mr. Myers let defendants languish in jail before they were even tried, and too often forced appeals courts to overturn guilty verdicts, which in turn forced families of victims to endure a second excruciating trial.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Charleston police after drug bust: ‘Narcotics business is alive and well’

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160608/PC16/160609389>

Melissa Boughton

Charleston police arrested nine people and confiscated more than \$150,000 worth of drugs, \$214,000 in cash and seven guns

during a six-month probe that officials tied Wednesday to the shooting death of Patrick Moffly. Among the haul were 43,000 Xanax and synthetic marijuana pills, 1.5 pounds of cocaine, 5 pounds of marijuana, ecstasy and LSD. Most of the drugs were packaged on a table at the Charleston Police Department next to two military-style rifles as the officials announced the fruits of their investigation Wednesday. They also seized four cars. "We've certainly seen an increase in violence in our community, as well as other cities around the country," Police Chief Greg Mullen said during the news conference. "One of the things that we wanted to do is to demonstrate ... the level of connection between narcotics, weapons and violence."

Aiken Standard: \$300K worth of marijuana, equipment seized after Tuesday shooting in Jackson

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160608/AIK0102/160609495>

Maayan Schechter

A drive-by shooting early Tuesday in Jackson turned into a net of approximately \$300,000 worth of fresh-cut marijuana plants. "This investigation has developed into a multi-jurisdiction drug case spanning across two states," Sheriff Michael Hunt said in a news release. "As a result of this ongoing investigation we have disrupted a major marijuana trafficking ring and we will hold the violent suspects involved accountable for this disruption in our community." Around 6:43 a.m. Tuesday, the Aiken County Sheriff's Office, the Jackson Police Department and EMS responded to the 18000 block of Atomic Road in Jackson for a shooting incident, where two male victims were transported to the hospital for gunshot wounds.

Morning News: Darlington deputies seize 24 marijuana plants

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_dfe3b742-2da0-11e6-836e-3bf278a56c09.html

The Darlington County Sheriff's Office Drug Enforcement Unit conducted an operation Tuesday in the Mechanicsville area where 24 marijuana plants were located and seized. The plants hold a street value of more than \$46,000, according to Darlington County Sheriff Wayne Byrd. This state-coordinated eradication operation was conducted in conjunction with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division Aviation Unit and the Department of Natural Resources.

Morning News: Florence city residents prepare for emergency action

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_32572736-2d9a-11e6-876d-0320d0f248de.html

Jessica Imbimbo

The Florence County Emergency Management Division conducted its first Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training over the weekend to educate volunteers on how to help in the event of a disaster. Twelve volunteers attended the three-day training program that started June 3. They learned about basic firefighting, medical response, search and rescue tactics and incident command. Personnel from Howe Springs Fire Rescue, Florence County Emergency Medical Services and Florence County Emergency Management taught the courses. The nationwide CERT program is an official emergency preparedness program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The CERT concept was originally developed and implemented in 1985 by the Los Angeles Fire Department following a series of earthquakes in both the U.S. and Mexico. Those events left hundreds dead and injured and without emergency services.

Times and Democrat: City delays vote on bar hours after hearing from owners

http://thetandd.com/news/local/article_31f905ae-6ea1-5628-bf36-15ea173fef6c.html

John Mack

Orangeburg City Council has delayed action on an ordinance that would force bars to close early after hearing from owners who say the change would hurt their businesses. "As a taxpaying business, as a law-abiding business, all I'm saying is look at us as just businesses," Aaron Gillespie of Cloud Nine said to city council Tuesday night. "There's no other businesses in Orangeburg required to close their doors. None," he said. The ordinance would prohibit the sale and on-premise consumption of alcoholic beverages in commercial establishments during the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. The county approved a similar ordinance last year.

Times and Democrat: BlueCross Foundation awards \$4.8M to S.C. groups

http://thetandd.com/news/local/article_60a6f2eb-1250-5cd1-b7a0-77d7b1983bdb.html

The BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation will award \$4.8 million to 13 organizations serving South Carolinians' health needs. "We are excited about the newest grant recipients," Foundation Executive Director Harvey Galloway said. "These grants align with the mission of the foundation, which is to promote and support healthier South Carolinians, particularly the economically vulnerable." Recipients of the most recent grants serving local residents and those across the state include: Advanced Care Planning (ACP) in South Carolina – Funds support activities to develop a strategic plan to promote ACP for the economically disadvantaged.

Post and Courier: Wal-Mart ending ad-matching policy at 500 stores, including all in Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160608/PC05/160609395>

Warren L. Wise

The world's largest retailer is ending its ad-matching policy Thursday at 500 stores, or nearly 11 percent nationwide, including all 14 in the Charleston area. Wal-Mart began rolling back prices in early May at select stores so that price-matching is no longer necessary, according to spokesman John Forrest Ales. "It's our responsibility to offer prices on the shelf customers can trust," he said. Last week, the Arkansas-based company announced it is bringing back the decade-dormant, yellow smiley face in its marketing campaign to emphasize customer service and reinforce a price leadership claim that's been chipped away by competition from online leader Amazon.com and other rivals.

Herald-Journal: Housing remains elusive for displaced Park Place residents

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160608/articles/160609666>

Alyssa Mulliger and Allison Roberts

Two weeks after their apartments were condemned, some residents of the Park Place complex in Spartanburg are no closer to finding a permanent place to live. Brothers Timmy and Delmetre Mitchell had lived at the complex at 84-88 W. Park Drive for nearly eight months before they were forced to leave their bug-infested, decrepit apartment on May 25. They have temporarily moved in with their sister, Michelle Carson. Delmetre Mitchell said living with his sister has gone well so far, but eventually he wants to be back in his own place. "It hasn't been too hard. She's doing all she can do," he said.

Independent Mail: Pendleton seeks another \$25K for CAT service next year

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/pendleton-seeks-another-25k-for-cat-service-next-year-34ccc45a-c459-01db-e053-0100007f15c3-382296181.html>

Mike Eads

Next year's funding for the Clemson Area Transit service around Pendleton faces a \$25,000 shortfall. Town Administrator Steve Miller told the Pendleton Town Council Monday that he and CAT officials are looking for ways to maintain the town route, which costs \$185,000 for the budget year that ends June 30. Tri-County Technical College chipped in \$10,000 for this year's CAT service around Pendleton, and the rest of the \$185,000 came from Clemson University (\$15,000), the Town of Pendleton (\$30,000), Villages of Town Creek (\$30,000) and CAT itself (\$110,000). Tri-County spokeswoman Rebecca Eidson said CAT didn't ask for money this year.

Post and Courier: NFL Draft picks from Clemson amass \$20 million in guaranteed contracts

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160608/PC20/160609431>

Aaron Brenner

For the third consecutive year, Clemson's group of NFL Draft selections have collectively surpassed \$20 million in guaranteed salaries on their rookie contracts. The Tigers produced nine picks in the 2016 pool, the second-most in the country and second-most in school history. Eight of the nine Clemson products have signed their four-year contracts, which top \$35 million in potential base salaries spread over the length of the contracts, \$20 million in guarantees and \$11.6 million in signing bonuses, according to the NFLPA's draft report. Clemson's 2014 and 2015 classes also surpassed \$20 million in guarantees, led by Bills receiver Sammy Watkins' \$19.9 million deal in 2014 and Falcons linebacker Vic Beasley's \$14.5 million deal in 2015.

National News:

Associated Press: Clinton endorsement imminent, Obama to sit down with Sanders

<http://bigstory.ap.org/8ad1a56c78c34b11a79ac5e1a371c1e9>

Josh Lederman and Kathleen Hennessey

On the verge of endorsing Hillary Clinton, President Barack Obama will pay tribute to Bernie Sanders' historic candidacy for presidency with an Oval Office meeting aimed at unifying the Democratic Party for a general election brawl with Donald Trump. Sanders, the runner-up for the Democratic nomination, was heading Thursday to the White House under intense pressure to drop out and clear the way for Clinton. Though he showed signs he understood the end was near — he was laying off about half his team — he vowed to keep fighting for his movement, which Democratic leaders hope will evolve into a new base of support for Clinton. Obama, who was expected to formally endorse Clinton following his midday meeting with Sanders, has sought to give the Vermont senator the courtesy of exiting the race on his own terms. On "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" on Wednesday night, he praised the Sanders campaign.

World News:

Associated Press: Israel beefs up troops in West Bank after Tel Aviv shooting

<http://bigstory.ap.org/2872ff4ff9bc483594f4508fe5716a99>

Daniel Estrin

Israel on Thursday imposed a series of sweeping restrictions on Palestinian movement and deployed hundreds of additional troops to the West Bank in response to a Tel Aviv attack that killed four Israelis. The shooting, carried out by two West Bank Palestinians, targeted a crowded tourist and restaurant district in the heart of Tel Aviv and was among the deadliest and most brazen attacks in a nine-month wave of violence. The area is located across the street from the Israeli military's headquarters. As Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu prepared to meet with his Security Cabinet to discuss further responses, the Israeli military announced that it was deploying two additional battalions to the West Bank "in accordance with situation assessments." The deployment, involving hundreds of troops, includes soldiers from infantry and special forces units.

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