

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

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Latest from the S.C. Republicans in Cleveland (Live)

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160718/160719448/latest-from-the-sc-republicans-in-cleveland-live>
Emma Dumain

3 p.m.: Gov. Nikki Haley is not speaking at the Republican National Convention this week, but delegates still got to see their governor speak in a special Republican Governors' Association video screened on the arena's jumbotrons on Monday afternoon.

YouTube: RGA Convention Video: Republican Governors Are Driving America's Comeback

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4IVEUBD3r6I&feature=youtu.be>

In case you missed it, watch the RGA video that just aired this afternoon at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, highlighting how Republican governors are driving America's Comeback. The video features 15 of our nation's 31 Republican governors emphasizing how they are using conservative policies to get results for their states.

NOTE: Nikki Haley 1:56-2:45

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

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

Jamie Self

Four years ago, S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley took the national stage at the Republican National Convention in Tampa as speculation swirled about the rising political star's future. This week, the term-limited, lame-duck governor – who missed the mark this presidential primary season, backing two of Donald Trump's opponents – will keep a lower profile as Republicans gather in Cleveland for their 2016 convention. For instance, Haley's name was not on a list released Thursday of dozens of speakers slated for the convention stage. But that's not because she was not asked to speak, Haley's office says.

NOTE: Republican National Committee Chairman "Reince Preibus asked if Gov. Haley would speak at the convention a couple weeks ago," said Rob Godfrey, Haley's deputy chief of staff. "Gov. Haley was grateful for the invitation and looks forward to attending the convention. But, as we have said before, she has no plans to speak, so she declined the opportunity."

India Today: Jindal, Haley not on list of speakers at GOP convention

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/jindal-haley-not-on-list-of-speakers-at-gop-convention/1/717832.html>
Lalit K. Jha

The two leading Indian-Americans in the Republican party ?Bobby Jindal and Nikki Haley? are not on the list of speakers at the Republican National Convention which would culminate on Thursday with the formal nomination of Donald Trump as the party's presidential candidate. South Carolina Governor Haley, who is a favorite of Tea Party and considered to be a rising star of the party, has

declined an invitation to speak at the Republican National Convention, her spokesperson said. Her differences with Trump is well-known. Notably she was one of the leading national speakers at the RNC Convention in Tampa in 2012. During the primaries Haley had supported Trump's two opponents. However, she would be attending the convention but maintaining a low profile. But a small contingent of Indian-Americans are attending the four-day extravaganza in various capacities.

Washington Post : Trump's convention is all about securing GOP votes. That won't be enough.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/plum-line/wp/2016/07/18/trumps-convention-is-all-about-securing-gop-votes-that-wont-be-enough/>

Paul Waldman

The theme for the first night of the Republican convention is "Make America Safe Again," in keeping with Donald Trump's belief that we're all about to be killed by terrorists or criminals. In the last week or two he has been repeating the phrase "law and order" again and again, saying that he's the law and order candidate and we need him because of what a hellish nightmare life in America has become. This is an old Republican line, but it has far less resonance today than it once did. And if we look at Trump's convention more broadly, we see that, like most of what he's doing, it seems designed to appeal not to a broad electorate but solely to Republicans.

NOTE: None of the rising minority stars of the party that make it look like something other than a party of, by, and for angry white men — like Nikki Haley, Tim Scott, Brian Sandoval, or Susana Martinez — will be speaking.

Morning News: Farm aid information session set for Monday in Florence

http://www.scnw.com/news/article_97fc6c8e-4cf5-11e6-a679-4fb7a9a44421.html

Joshua Lloyd

Farmers in the Pee Dee are invited to an information session on Monday that will offer details on applying for aid following last October's historic flooding. The event will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Ramada Inn in Florence, located at 1819 W. Lucas Street. The event was called by Senate President Pro-tempore Hugh K. Leatherman Sr. and will bring together the North Eastern Strategic Alliance, the South Carolina Department of Agriculture, the South Carolina Farm Bureau and Clemson Extension. Leatherman said in a release he wants to bring together the best resources that can help farmers impacted by the "1,000 year flood." "The agricultural sector is truly the backbone of our economy," Leatherman said. "Following the devastating events last fall, I encourage all farmers to attend this event so that we can work together and they can hear helpful information about the application process."

NOTE: State legislature passed a bill earlier this year that placed \$40 million in a farm aid fund for grants to state farmers. Gov. Nikki Haley vetoed the bill, calling it an unfair bailout, but lawmakers overwhelmingly overrode her veto.

GSA: Clemson trustees approve \$1.1 billion budget

<http://www.gsabusiness.com/news/education/clemson-trustees-approve-11-billion-budget/>

Matthew Clark

The Clemson University Board of Trustees approved the university's \$1.09 billion budget during their quarterly meetings, according to the university. The \$1,090,752,000 budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year will "support programs, personnel and facilities to enhance safety and security, continue academic quality, ensure compliance and protect the value of 'the Clemson experience,'" according to Brett Dalton, the university's vice president for finance and operation, in a press release. During this year's legislative session, the House and Senate approved providing Clemson University with \$5 million in recurring funding for Education and General operating funds as well as an additional \$2.4

million in nonrecurring funding for outdoor laboratory facilities maintenance.

NOTE: Gov. Nikki Haley issued a line-item veto (.pdf) on the Garrison Arena Education and Conference Center funding, but House and Senate members overrode the veto, maintaining the funding. The state's budget also includes a 3.75% cost of living pay increase for employees as well as a health insurance premium increase which is paid by the state. The 0.5% increase in state employees' retirement contributions is not paid by the state and was part of the appropriations budget approved by state lawmakers in June.

SC after Baton Rouge Shootings:

The Herald: Peaceful, unifying York anti-violence march proves all lives do matter

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andrew-dys/article90312422.html>

Andrew Dys

After a long march Sunday night – and six days of organizing to make it happen while still working a full-time job – Quisha Bankhead's smile lit up downtown York. She stood before the chamber of commerce building where several hundred people had gathered after her Stop the Violence March – a Black Lives Matter event focusing on all lives and all people – proved what she had been saying all along. All lives are sacred. All people have dignity. Together, starting with a young black woman in York, the world can change if there is unity. The event was huge by any measure in the small city of York on a sweltering Sunday night. The numbers were big, and the hope is the impact will be even bigger. Bankhead, with a committee of young volunteers committed to safety and dignity and justice for all people, showed the future. "I am amazed," she said afterward. "I didn't think it was going to be this big. I am thankful to everyone who came."

Dylann Roof Case:

Post and Courier: In Dylann Roof hearing, judge rules jury should be picked from Charleston area

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160718/160719596/in-dylann-roof-hearing-judge-rules-jury-should-be-picked-from-charleston-area>

Andrew Knapp

A federal judge on Monday afternoon ruled that attorneys should pick a jury from the Charleston area in Dylann Roof's death penalty trial. The hearing took place at 2 p.m. at U.S. District Court in downtown Charleston and was a chance for Judge Richard Gergel to settle disagreements between Roof's defense team and prosecutors. Among the issues with jury selection, Roof's lawyers had asked that the panel members be chosen from just the Charleston region while prosecutors have sought a statewide pool. Gergel said Monday it would take an "unusual...situation" to have a statewide jury. Roof did not appear at the hearing after waiving his right to appear.

Associated Press: Judge: Jurors for Dylann Roof trial to come from Charleston

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

Bruce Smith

A jury selected from the Charleston area, not all of South Carolina, will decide the fate of Dylann Roof when he goes on trial later this year in federal court in the Charleston church shootings. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel ruled Monday that a local pool will be used to select jurors when the death-penalty trial for the 22-year-old Roof begins Nov. 7. Roof is charged with hate crimes and other counts in the June 2015 shooting deaths at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. He did not attend Monday's hour-long hearing during which other legal details including sharing of information from mental health exams on Roof were discussed. The court will take up defense motions to dismiss the

charges later. Roof also faces nine murder charges in state court.

SC Political News:

Independent Mail: Backlash from Trump supporters prompts Anderson legislator to delete Facebook post

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/backlash-from-trump-supporters-prompts-anderson-legislator-to-delete-facebook-post-37eb86ea-5f4c-443-387294841.html>

Kirk Brown

State Rep. Jonathon Hill faced a backlash of criticism Monday morning after posting an image on Facebook that one commentator said portrayed supporters of Donald Trump as "Nazi-like." The image of a man in a military uniform and woman standing behind children while wearing insignias with the initials of Trump and his running mate, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, sparked a flurry of negative comments. "Tasteless and despicable," commented one poster. "Ignorance on steroids," stated another. Hill, a 31-year-old Republican from Townville, deleted the image later Monday morning and posted an apology. "For all who were offended by my last post, I am sorry that I caused you offense, and have taken it down," Hill wrote. "I want to make people think, not insult them." Matt Moore, chairman of the South Carolina Republican Party, said Hill made the right decision to remove the "offensive and disrespectful" image. "There are better ways to make political points," Moore wrote in an email.

The State: SC's McMaster to give nominating speech for Trump at RNC

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article90324477.html>

Jamie Self

South Carolina's Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster has earned a speaking spot at the Republican National Convention. Donald Trump has asked McMaster to deliver a nominating speech during Tuesday's convention proceedings, said the Columbia Republican who surprised his friends in January when he became the first statewide elected official in the country to endorse Trump. It's "quite an honor," McMaster told reporters Monday at the convention. "He's going to be a great president." Trump went on to win the state's first-in-the-South Republican primary with 33 percent of the vote. The nominating speech, which will begin at 5:30 p.m., is an "historic role" and honor, said Ed McMullen, Trump's S.C. state chairman who has been helping with convention planning. McMaster said he's not nervous about delivering the speech under the bright lights of the convention hall. He said he's working on his remarks and has not received any notes yet from the Trump campaign.

The State: SC Republicans hear little of Trump at RNC foreign policy breakfast

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article90254017.html>

Jamie Self

Speakers at a breakfast for South Carolina's delegation to the Republican National Convention were slim on references to Donald Trump. The delegation heard Monday morning from U.S. Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., for the second time in three months. A potential 2020 presidential hopeful, Cotton headlined the state party's Silver Elephant Dinner in May. Monday's breakfast was sponsored by the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, an advocacy group for a strong foreign policy that rejects isolationism. Speaking to S.C. delegates, Cotton stuck to a foreign-policy heavy stump speech as he did in Columbia in May, after Trump's inevitability as the nominee snapped into focus. The attorney and U.S. Army veteran again on Monday touted that he has ties to the first-in-the-South state. Cotton

attended basic training in the U.S. Army at Fort Jackson in Columbia. Delegates also heard from U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-Springdale, and Fox News national security analyst K.T. McFarland, who interviewed retired U.S. Air Force Gen. Richard Hawley.

Post and Courier: RNC delegate spotlight: Stephanie Biddle

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160718/160719588/rnc-delegate-spotlight-stephanie-biddle&source=RSS>

Emma Dumain

Twenty-six-year-old Stephanie Biddle knows the Republican Party needs to make inroads with women, minorities and young people. That's what drove Biddle, the first female millennial to serve on the executive committee of the Aiken County Republican Party, to support U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., during the Republican presidential primary. "What attracted me to Marco was his ability to drive down and almost overcome some of the issues that have polarized conservatives and liberals for a long time, and kind of challenge the notion that we can't have people of other ethnicities in our party, that we don't share the same core beliefs," said Biddle, who oversaw some of Rubio's field operations in South Carolina during the primary season. "His optimism, his positivity and his ability to reach a different audience really attracted me."

NOTE: "We have some great governors, senators and congressmen who are working at the state level," Biddle said. "We have a great governor in Nikki Haley, and she's been able to reach out and touch a different group of people. That's what encourages me and why I support this process and want to stay with the party. I know we are a party for everyone."

Post and Courier: RNC delegate spotlight: Randy Page

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160718/160719443/rnc-delegate-spotlight-randy-page>

Emma Dumain

In 1982, a 16-year-old Randy Page responded to a knock on the door. "There was this young guy running for Congress," Page recalled. "He was coming door to door in my little town, so small that city councilmen didn't even come door to door. This was really interesting. I was really intrigued by him. I got involved in his campaign, made phone calls, folded letters and put up signs. He encouraged me to get involved in the process, so I did."

The State: Richland Co. delegate faced Democrat protesters at RNC start

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article90263137.html>

Tyson Grinstead

The Elephant in the Room: Richland County GOP delegate Tyson Grinstead shares an inside look at the Republican National Convention. After driving up from Columbia, it was great to see friends from around South Carolina this afternoon as the Palmetto State delegation arrived in Cleveland. All the South Carolina delegates, alternates, and guests attended Sunday night's major event, a welcome party sponsored by the Host Committee. The event took place right beside Lake Erie! Despite an initial delay getting to the event because of Democrat protesters, we enjoyed live music, food trucks and spotted Republican leaders like New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez.

Post and Courier: Emanuel AME shooting survivors to speak at Democratic convention

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160718/160719441/emanuel-ame-shooting-survivors-to-speak-at-democratic-convention>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

Two survivors of the Emanuel AME Church shooting will speak at the Democratic National

Convention during a day themed "Working Together," The Post and Courier has learned. Felicia Sanders and Polly Sheppard will speak on July 27 in the middle of the convention held in Philadelphia to share their experiences. Both women survived a barrage of 77 gunshots that left nine people dead during their church's Bible study last summer. The Democratic National Convention Committee and the Hillary Clinton campaign will announce later Monday much of a lineup of Americans from across the country who will share personal stories aimed at shining a spotlight on the stakes in this election, a Clinton spokeswoman said. Survivors of the horrific shooting have been traveling nationwide to speak and otherwise support efforts to reform gun laws that they hope can reduce the nation's epidemic of gun violence.

Associated Press: Mega Merger? There's talk of Columbia-Richland County merger

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

SC State Wire

Some leaders in the South Carolina Midlands are floating the idea of merging the governments of the state's biggest city and its second-largest county. The State newspaper reports (<http://bit.ly/2a4UOd1>) advocates say it would result in more efficient government and lower utility bills and taxes if Columbia and Richland County were to merge. Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin is proposing asking county council in September to undertake a study about a possible merger. Advantages might include a joint law enforcement agency and single planning staff as well as other ways to make government more efficient. Ultimately the voters would decide. There has been talk of merging the two governments at times for almost 50 years. The newspaper reports turf fights generally got in the way in the past.

SC Elections:

Post and Courier: Sylleste Davis, Robbie Metts square off in House Seat 100 primary Tuesday

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160718/160719427/sylleste-davis-robbie-metts-square-off-in-house-seat-100-primary-tuesday>

Brenda Rindge

Voters in state House District 100 will go to the polls Tuesday to choose a Republican nominee for the position. Incumbent Sylleste Davis, who was sworn in on June 8 to fill the unexpired term of former Rep. Eddy Southard, is being challenged by Robbie Metts. The district stretches from Moncks Corner to Summerville. The winner of Tuesday's primary will face Democrat Tonia Aiken-Taylor on Nov. 8.

SC Agency News:

Associated Press: 35-mile detour in place after Upstate bridge closed

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=MA9kOO6Q

SC State Wire

Highway workers are closing a major bridge over the Broad River in the Upstate for a month for repairs, forcing drivers to take a 35-mile detour. The South Carolina Department of Transportation says damage to the state Highway 9 bridge that crosses the river in Chester and Union counties requires repairs now, even as new bridges are scheduled to be built in a few years. Crews closed the bridge Monday. The DOT is demanding the repairs be finished by Aug. 14 so school buses don't have to take the massive detour when students return. A 35-mile detour is in place as the nearest bridges to cross the river are 11 miles upstream and 14 miles downstream. About 5,000 vehicles use the bridge every day. A quarter of them are trucks.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: New group wants SC to stop passing on nuclear plant costs

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

SC State Wire

A group of small businesses, community leaders and environmental groups is asking state regulators to stop letting South Carolina Electric & Gas pass all the costs of two nuclear plants under construction on to ratepayers. The two new plants in Jenkinsville are years behind schedule, and cost at least \$4 billion more than first thought. SCE&G is now asking the state Public Service Commission for its ninth rate increase since 2009 to pay for the plants - this one to pay off an additional \$846 million in increased costs. "We have to stop giving SCE&G a blank check," said Frank Knapp, president of the South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce.

Associated Press: The Latest: SCE&G defends extra money for nuclear plant

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kR3krfwS

SC State Wire

South Carolina Electric & Gas says it has done a good job managing a \$14 billion project to build two new nuclear reactors. The utility responded to a new coalition of small businesses, environmental groups and community leaders called Stop The Blank Check that wants South Carolina regulators to reject part of a rate increase to pay for nuclear power plants under construction. SCE&G says the new plants will cost an extra \$846 million, pushing the final costs to nearly \$14 billion. The utility's final paperwork for approval of the plants in 2009 estimated costs at \$11.4 billion. SCE&G spokesman Eric Boomhower says whether someone builds a house or two complex nuclear plants, there will always be unexpected costs that crop up. He says the plants will save ratepayers money in the long run.

Post and Courier: New coalition rallies against proposed rate hike by SCE&G

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160718/160719429/new-coalition-rallies-against-proposed-rate-hike-by-sceg>

Gavin Jackson

Leaders from small business, environmental and community groups joined forces Monday to challenge South Carolina Electric & Gas' largest rate increase proposal in years. The Coalition to Stop the Blank Check said SCE&G's 3.06 percent rate increase plan is detrimental for low-income customers and small businesses. The increase would cover ballooning costs at the V.C. Summer nuclear plant near Jenkinsville, north of Columbia. Frank Knapp, Jr., president and CEO of the S.C. Small Business Chamber of Commerce, said the state needs to stop letting the utility pass along the cost to customers. "Right now there's a blank check that the company holds and they are exercising that blank check by raising costs dramatically and delaying the plant's construction," Knapp said during a Statehouse news conference Monday.

Post and Courier: 7 states now offer gasoline below \$2/gallon; S.C. still lowest in nation

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160718/160719445/7-states-now-offer-gasoline-below-2gallon-sc-still-lowest-in-nation>

Warren L. Wise

Seven states now offer gasoline less than \$2 a gallon. All of them are in the South except Missouri, and South Carolina, with its low gasoline tax, maintains the lowest prices in the nation. The average price in the Palmetto State dropped to \$1.87 a gallon during the past week, down four cents from the

previous week, according to gas price service GasBuddy. Motor club AAA puts the price a penny higher. That's about 51 cents less than this time last year. Nationally, the price now averages \$2.20 a gallon after falling 1.6 cents during the past week. That's about 56 cents per gallon lower than last year at this time. Even though demand is up during the summer driving season, a glut of oil on the U. S. market is driving down prices.

Local News:

Associated Press: 2 women charged with stealing bullets in South Carolina

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=aTiMfy5M

SC State Wire

Two women have been arrested after sheriff's deputies in South Carolina say the women stole ammunition from a sporting goods store in Spartanburg. WHNS-TV (<http://bit.ly/29I2JbC>) reports the women were arrested Sunday afternoon on shoplifting charges. Deputies said surveillance video showed the women placing boxes of .22 caliber bullets in a bag and taking the bag into the bathroom before leaving the store. Employees found evidence of the stolen ammunition in the restroom. Deputies arrested the women following a traffic stop a short time later. Twenty-year-old Lynda Wittner and 28-year-old Ellie Hill are charged with shoplifting. It was not clear if either woman has an attorney yet.

Associated Press: Air Force colonel charged with possessing child pornography

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

SC State Wire

An Air Force colonel who served as vice commander of the 20th Fighter Wing until he was demoted in February has been charged with possessing child pornography and obstructing justice. The Air Force said in a news release Monday that Col. William R. Jones faces a preliminary hearing on Aug. 8. Jones, a command pilot and instructor with more than 2,000 flying hours, was reassigned in February to a desk job - deputy chief of safety for the Ninth Air Force headquarters at Shaw Air Force Base. Col. Stephen Jost said then that he had lost confidence in his deputy. It was not known if he has an attorney yet.

The State: Former Shaw AFB vice commander charged with child porn

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/military/article90243192.html>

Jane Moon Dial

Shaw Air Force Base's former vice commander who was relieved of his duty earlier this year faces criminal charges, including for child pornography. Officials at Shaw Air Force Base reported Col. William R. Jones was charged with possession of child pornography and obstruction of justice on June 29, according to a news release. Jones serves as the Headquarters Ninth Air Force deputy chief of safety. Jones took over as the 20th Fighter Wing vice commander at the base in April of 2014 but was relieved of his duty in February for loss of confidence, according to The Sumter Item. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for Aug. 8 to "conduct an inquiry into the matter," the release stated. "The charges are being worked through the legal process outlined in the UCMJ, and Col. Jones is presumed innocent until proven guilty by a court of law," said Colonel Stephen Jost, 20th Fighter Wing Commander.

Associated Press: At Last: After \$45M, almost 15 years, Bluffton flyover open

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=z7iZzjNC

SC State Wire

Motorists heading to Hilton Head Island should encounter less congestion getting on and off of the popular resort island. Local media outlets report traffic was able to use the Bluffton Flyover for the first time over the weekend after the \$45 million project, which was almost 15 years in the making, opened Friday. The flyover provides an alternate route to Bluffton from the bridges connecting Hilton Head Island to the mainland. Before it opened, traffic snarled along U.S. 278 near the bridges. That section of road was carrying about 53,000 vehicles a day. The flyover is expected to decrease traffic volume on that stretch by about 25 percent.

Associated Press : Do Myrtle Beach parking fees violate federal beach rules?

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=e7dDnuj2

SC State Wire

Federal officials are reviewing new Myrtle Beach parking fees to see if they violate a contract providing federal dollars for city beaches. New parking fees on the north end of the city allow residents who have paid a car tax to park for free while non-residents pay \$2 an hour and \$10 a day. Horry County Councilman Harold Worley tells The Sun News of Myrtle Beach (<http://bit.ly/2a2ZHAr>) the new arrangement may violate a 1995 contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The contract says that to get beach money, parking areas must be available on equal terms. Mayor John Rhodes says city residents also pay for parking through vehicle taxes. The Corps is looking into the matter. Myrtle Beach is the heart of South Carolina \$19 billion tourism industry.

Charlotte Observer: Carolina Panthers unveil sculpture of owner Jerry Richardson at Bank of America Stadium

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/sports/nfl/carolina-panthers/article90304932.html>

Jonathan Jones

Jerry Richardson has always been a large presence. Now, he's even larger. The Carolina Panthers partners unveiled a nearly-13-foot statue of the team's owner and founder at Bank of America Stadium on Monday as Richardson celebrated his 80th birthday. The sculpture depicts Richardson in a business suit holding out a football with his left hand. To his left and right are two panthers that represent both offense and defense and North and South Carolina. The sculptor, Todd Andrews, named the piece "The Tribute." He sculpted the six panthers on pedestals around Bank of America Stadium, known as the Indomitable Spirits, as well as the statues of former team president Mike McCormack and linebacker Sam Mills. The sculpture sits at the stadium's North entrance and is on a four-foot high pedestal. The statue of Richardson is double-life size at 12 feet and 10 inches.

National News:

Associated Press: Police: Gunman who killed 3 was 'seeking out' officers

<http://bigstory.ap.org/1bccf0398d7c4065a8ead701e0c953b5>

Mike Kunzelman and Melinda Deslatte

A former Marine dressed in black and carrying extra ammunition set out to ambush police in Baton Rouge, authorities said Monday, a day after three law enforcement officers were killed in the attack. The gunman's "movements, his direction, his attention was on police officers," state police Col. Mike Edmonson said. He would not elaborate but said the shooter was definitely "seeking out" police. Three other officers were wounded Sunday, one critically. The gunman was identified as Gavin Long of Kansas City, Missouri, who was black. He turned 29 on the day of the ambush and was killed in a gunbattle with police. In online posts, a man using an alias of Long's said protests alone do not work, and that people must fight back after the deaths of black men at the hands of police.

Associated Press: 3rd officer acquitted in black man's police custody death

<http://bigstory.ap.org/1832a8d9afdf438eb2b0f67b7e6bd9c0>

Juliet Linderman

A judge further hollowed out the case against six police officers charged in the death of a young black man, delivering a third consecutive acquittal and ruling once again that prosecutors failed to prove officers intentionally hurt Freddie Gray. In acquitting Lt. Brian Rice, the highest ranking officer charged, Baltimore Circuit Judge Barry Williams was unequivocal in his ruling Monday. He told prosecutors they failed to establish that Rice was aware of his duty to buckle Gray into a seat belt, and more importantly, that he deliberately breached his duty in order to put Gray in danger. "There are a number of possibilities this court could entertain, some that are innocent and some that are not," Williams said. "However, the burden of proof rests with the state, and the court's imaginings do not serve as a substitute for evidence." Gray was arrested in April 2015 when he ran from police in a high-crime area. He was handcuffed and shackled but left unbuckled in the back of a police van and suffered a critical neck injury. Gray's name became a rallying cry for the Black Lives Matter movement, fueling outrage nationwide over the treatment of black people by the criminal justice system and prompting the worst rioting in the city in decades.

Associated Press: GOP kicks off convention with nod to 'troubling times'

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

Kathleen Hennessey and Alan Farm

Braced for uncertainty and struggling for unity, Republicans opened their convention to nominate Donald Trump for president on Monday as dissident delegates pursued one last chance to deny him and the nation reeled from yet another outburst of violence. A day after a deadly ambush of police in Louisiana, Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus welcomed delegates to the convention hall with a brief acknowledgement of the "troubling times" swirling outside. The chairman called for a moment of silence out of respect for "genuine heroes" in law enforcement. "Our nation grieves when we see these awful killings," he said. Weeks of racial tensions and violence are shadowing the Republicans' long-awaited showcase of their presidential pick and putting both participants and the convention city on alert.

World News:

Associated Press: Turkish Interior Ministry fires 9,000, detains others

<http://bigstory.ap.org/bc487c5f160244e5abeeb3d9c447f2d6>

Suzan Fraser and Dominique Soguel

Turkey's Interior Ministry has fired nearly 9,000 police officers, bureaucrats and others and detained thousands of suspected plotters following a foiled coup against the government, Turkey's state-run news agency reported Monday. News of the firings and detentions came as the U.S. and European Union urged the government to uphold democracy and human rights as it pursues the military officers and anyone else involved in the coup attempt. The state-run Anadolu news agency said a total of 8,777 employees attached to the ministry were dismissed, including 30 governors, 52 civil service inspectors and 16 legal advisers. Other media reports said police and military police officers and coast guards were also removed from duty. The government has blamed Friday's failed coup — which it says killed 208 government supporters and 24 plotters — on backers of a U.S.-based Muslim cleric who has become President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's chief opponent.

Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044