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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Thursday, July 28, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Joint committee formed to tackle state pension fund woes

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160727/160729447/joint-committee-formed-to-tackle-state-pension-fund-woes>

Gavin Jackson

Top state lawmakers announced Wednesday they are forming a joint committee to study ways to fix the financial woes of the state pension fund — a fund that teachers, police, state and local employees rely on for retirement. Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, and House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Hartsville, created the 12-member committee to find reforms to the underfunded pension system for more than 500,000 public employees, retirees and their beneficiaries. “This committee will take into account all the relevant factors involved in making this system as strong as possible,” Leatherman said. “I’m confident we’ll roll up our sleeves, work together and make sure South Carolina honors its obligations in a fiscally responsible way.” Meeting dates have not been announced.

NOTE: Last month, the State Fiscal Accountability Authority voted to raise state employee and employer retirement contributions by 0.5 percent each. The contribution increases will help offset the pension fund’s 1.6 percent rate of return last fiscal year — far short of the 7.5 percent expected rate. The problem is compounded increased benefit costs and fewer state employees paying into the fund, among other drags.

NOTE: Leatherman abruptly left the June 22 meeting, reportedly for another meeting, and did not vote on the increase. Gov. Nikki Haley, who chairs the authority, said a “new guard” way of thinking was needed to remedy the pension fund’s \$23 billion shortfall.

Greenville News: Potential gubernatorial candidate warns of pro-union sentiment

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2016/07/27/potential-gubernatorial-candidate-warns-pro-union-sentiment/87615182/>

Rudolph Bell

A potential Republican candidate for governor warned members of the Greenville Chamber Wednesday that pro-union sentiment may be growing in South Carolina. Catherine Templeton, a Charleston resident who ran the state Department of Health and Environmental Control under Gov. Nikki Haley, spoke to the chamber’s Legislative Committee and Manufacturing Roundtable. She cited the results of a 2015 survey taken by the Palmetto Shield, an alliance of business groups, that she said showed majority support for organized labor among people who had lived in South Carolina for five years or less. “It’s a shocking result, especially for those of us who were pretty sure we were anti-union,” Templeton said. She said South Carolina has been growing fast and has a “new demographic that we need to be aware of. And it’s only going to continue to become more of a majority.”

NOTE: Echoing the anti-union rhetoric of Haley, Templeton accused organized labor of using

"dishonorable" tactics in trying to penetrate the "greenfield" state of South Carolina, which historically has had one of the lowest unionization rates in the country.

The State: U.S., Columbia chambers to hold veterans job fair at Fort Jackson

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article92187827.html>

Jeff Wilkinson

The U.S. and Columbia chambers of commerce along with other partners will host a job fair at Fort Jackson for active duty military personnel, veterans and their spouses on Tuesday. The fifth annual Hiring Our Heroes-Columbia event is open to all veterans and spouses regardless of rank or branch, including National Guard members and reservists. About 100 local and national employers are expected to participate. The job fairs held at the fort's Solomon Center have become more important in recent years because of budget cuts spurred by the drawdown of troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, said retired Maj. Gen. George Goldsmith, chairman of the Columbia Chamber's military affairs committee. "We are really committed to trying to help service members, particularly those getting out of service, because of the cutbacks," he said.

NOTE: Hiring Our Heroes was launched in 2011. The first Hiring Our Heroes event in Columbia was held at Fort Jackson in 2012, kicked off by Gov. Nikki Haley.

NOTE: The project is a nationwide initiative to help veterans, transitioning service members, and military spouses find meaningful employment. It has helped hundreds of thousands of veterans and military spouses find meaningful employment through more than 1,000 job fairs in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and overseas military installations.

Democratic National Convention:

Associated Press: Her turn now: Hillary Clinton makes her case for presidency

<http://bigstory.ap.org/ef1e6ef5a5084ed495619b2acb3aca00>

Julie Pace and Robert Furlow

It's Hillary Clinton's turn. After three days of Democratic stars, including a pair of presidents, asserting she is ready for the White House, Clinton must make that case for herself on her nominating convention's final night. The first woman to lead a major U.S. political party toward the White House, Clinton will be greeted by a crowd of cheering delegates eager to see history made in the November election. But her real audience will be millions of voters who may welcome her experience but question her character. For Clinton, the stakes are enormous. She's locked in a tight general election contest with Republican Donald Trump, an unconventional candidate and political novice. Even as Clinton and her validators argue Trump is unqualified for the Oval Office, they recognize the businessman has a visceral connection with some voters in a way the Democratic nominee does not.

Associated Press: Chelsea Clinton will testify to her mother's credentials

<http://bigstory.ap.org/fa612dd15ed94258851dd0b91c88d3a2>

Catherine Lucey

After days of endorsements from celebrities, elected leaders and passionate supporters, Hillary Clinton will be introduced Thursday night by the woman who knows her simply as mom. Chelsea Clinton will open for her mother at the Democratic National Convention as Clinton accepts a place in history as the first female presidential nominee for a major party. Chelsea Clinton's appearance comes after her father, ex-President Bill Clinton, gave a deeply personal address about his wife Tuesday night. It's part of a campaign effort to show the softer side of the former first lady, senator and secretary of state. And it's hardly a new role for 36-year-old Chelsea, who works for the Clinton Foundation and recently gave birth to her second child. She has been active in the campaign, as with

her mother's past campaigns. She was at the convention Tuesday, as her father called her birth "the greatest moment of my life." Hillary Clinton talks about her too, often telling a story about toddler Chelsea asking her to stop singing lullabies.

Associated Press: Trump has a record of siding with Putin on key issues

<http://bigstory.ap.org/75ac0039ea424d4f8278ceaf7bda6c2b>

Nataliya Vasilyeva

Donald Trump has refused to condemn Russia's military takeover of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, saying if elected he would consider recognizing it as Russian territory, in the latest of a series of statements that have raised eyebrows about the Republican candidate's intentions toward the Kremlin. "We'll be looking at that. Yeah, we'll be looking," Trump told reporters on Wednesday. Accepting Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea would be a radical departure from U.S. policy. The United States and the European Union worked together to punish Russia by imposing economic sanctions and have shown no willingness to lift them. Even Belarus, Russia's closest ally and neighbor, did not recognize the annexation. While Trump has sided with Putin on a wide range of issues, Putin has not openly backed the Republican nominee and the Kremlin denies interfering in the U.S. electoral process. Hillary Clinton's campaign claimed that Russia was behind the hacking of Democratic National Committee computers as part of an effort to undermine her candidacy.

Post and Courier: South Carolinians prepare for final day of the DNC, live from Philadelphia

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160728/160729411/south-carolinians-prepare-for-final-day-of-the-dnc-live-from-philadelphia>

Emma Dumain

12 p.m.: When South Carolina Democratic delegates next gather, it will be on the floor of the Wells Fargo Arena for their official Democratic National Committee photograph. After 5 p.m., they will hear from former State Rep. Bakari Sellers and S.C. Democratic Party Chairman Jaime Harrison. Later in the evening U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., will give a speech. Finally, Hillary Clinton will formally accept the nomination of president, the first woman to do so in American history.

The State : Post-convention job for SC Democrats: get people to vote

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article92351447.html>

Steven Porter

South Carolina's delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia turned their attention Thursday to the work ahead, preparing for a general election in a state that hasn't voted blue in a presidential race for four decades. "Remember when you were studying for final exams in school? If you actually liked college or graduate school, you really kind of got into it, and it was fun," Ed Greenleaf, a delegate from Columbia, said. "This reminds me a whole heck of a lot of getting ready for the final exam, and it has been a very uplifting, very positive, very intensive three days," Greenleaf said the morning of the DNC's fourth and final day. During breakfast, U.S. Rep. Cedric Richmond, who represents Louisiana's 2nd District, told delegates from his state and South Carolina that they have their work cut out for them.

Island Packet: SC delegates inspired by historic nomination, historic city

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/state/south-carolina/article92355027.html>

Brianna Spause

On the tail of the landmark vote that named Hillary Clinton as the first female presidential nominee of a major party, South Carolina delegates on Wednesday felt inspired by the spirit of democracy

radiating through the city of Philadelphia. Lauren Bilton, who serves as third vice chair of the South Carolina Democratic Party, is no stranger to landmark elections. In 2008, she was the youngest delegate at the Democratic National Convention when she pledged to support John Edwards. In 2012, she again was the youngest of the South Carolina delegates, this time for President Barack Obama. With a few hours to spare before Wednesday's convention speeches, Bilton, 26, explored the birthplace of American democracy and explained why she aligns most with candidates who possess traditional Democratic values. "I like a candidate that can get their hands dirty when needed and can take action," said Bilton.

The State: SC delegate in Philly marvels at a 'convention floor that looked like America'

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article92394207.html>

Beverly Frierson

Delaine and I are on the bus for the last day of the Democratic National Convention. As we travel to participate in the historic night wherein Hillary Rodham Clinton will officially accept our nomination to become President of the United States, we reflect on the differences between our convention and that of the Republicans. While waiting for the elevator to get to our floor in the hotel, Delaine noticed that there was more diversity in that line than what she observed at the Republican convention. The convention floor looked like America - black, white, Hispanic, young, old, LBTGQ, disabled - they're all a part of the convention, just as they are all part of America. It is beginning to rain gently as we ride to the Wells Fargo Center. I can not help but think of the fact that a gentle rain is sometimes followed by a raging storm. As I listened to the Republican nominee for President, I heard the language of doom and gloom, and I heard the code words and phrases of hatred, bigotry, racism, and divisiveness. I realize that our nation is not perfect, but I believe in the talents, resources, and strengths of our diverse nation. I truly believe that we are "Stronger Together."

McClatchy DC: Charleston shooting survivors: "I chose love. And this election I chose Hillary Clinton

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/national/article92270367.html>

Vera Bergengruen

Charleston shooting survivors Felicia Sanders and Polly Sheppard brought the crowd to its feet at the Democratic National Convention on Wednesday evening with emotional speeches in support of the gun control legislation that they say could have prevented the tragedy. "We mean you no harm," Sanders began her address. These were the last words of her 26-year-old son Tywanza, who died trying to shield his 89-year old great-aunt from the shooter's gunfire at a weekly Bible study. "Two days later I forgave the shooter that murdered him," she said. "Hate destroys those who harbor it. I refuse to let hate destroy me." "I chose love. And this election I chose Hillary Clinton," she said to applause. "Hillary was in South Carolina the day before the shooting and in the days that followed, she talked about the hatred in our nation, the racism, the adjustment."

McClatchy DC: North Carolina GOP apologizes after mistakenly attacking Kaine for 'shameful'

Marine pin that honored his son

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/election/article92302632.html>

Elizabeth Koh

When Democratic vice presidential nominee Sen. Tim Kaine addressed the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia Wednesday night, the North Carolina GOP thought it quickly spotted something wrong. "[Tim Kaine] wears a Honduras flag pin on his jacket but no American flag," the state party tweeted as he was speaking. "Shameful." There was one problem: Kaine's pin, which had a single blue star on a white background bordered with red, wasn't the flag of Honduras, where he

spent a year as a missionary decades ago. It was the symbol for Blue Star Families, or those with members serving in the military. The head of the North Carolina GOP, Dallas Woodhouse, tweeted late Thursday morning with a general apology and said "corrective action" had been taken. He released a fuller statement Thursday afternoon offering "our sincere and unqualified apology" to Kaine, his family and his son abroad. "The tweet was wrong on the facts, wrong in tone and should not have happened," Woodhouse wrote. "The members of the staff that were invoked are facing severe internal sanctions and mandatory retraining."

The State: House Bill 2's a hot topic at Democratic convention – and there's an 'all-gender' bathroom
<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article92259707.html>

Colin Campbell

With a simple sign outside a busy arena bathroom, the Democratic National Convention is thumbing its nose at North Carolina's House Bill 2. "All-Gender Restroom," the sign says. Inside, male and female convention delegates use side-by-side private stalls and wash their hands together. While the Wells Fargo Center also has single-gender bathrooms this week, the "all-gender" facility is meant to be transgender-friendly. By contrast, Republican lawmakers in North Carolina passed HB2 into law in March, requiring people in government facilities to use the bathroom that corresponds with their birth certificate. They argued that a Charlotte ordinance allowing transgender people to use the bathroom of the gender which they identify would have led to the end of single-sex bathrooms. Democrats using the all-gender bathroom didn't seem bothered by the setup.

SC Political News:

The State: Tim Scott's suggestion to ease race relations: Share a Sunday dinner
<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article92400202.html>

Bristow Marchant

SC Sen. Tim Scott has found a unique solution to the tricky topic of race relations in America. In a column for Time magazine co-authored with Oklahoma Sen. James Lankford, Scott calls on Americans to look beyond the government to solve racial problems, and instead look on the other side of the dinner table. "Although, the first thought is often to look to government to solve race relations, we know the federal government cannot solve this problem," Scott and Lankford write in the piece. "So, we challenge each family to give one Sunday lunch or dinner for building relationships across race, to literally be part of the solution in America." "It is harder to stereotype when you know people first-hand," they write. The two senators also called for "substantive policy conversations" on policing, criminal justice reform, racial reconciliation, mental illness, "a seemingly growing culture of violence," and jobs.

The Herald: Hayes picks Wood for York County magistrate post
<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article92355402.html>

David Thackham

Citing her extensive experience as a lawyer, State Sen. Wes Hayes, R-Rock Hill, said he will appoint Magistrate Judge Stephanie Wood for an open York County magistrate position over fellow judge Mandrile Young. Hayes said he would appoint Wood as the successor to longtime judge Bob Davenport, who worked in the Catawba-Ebenezer Township position for 22 years. Announcement of the appointment comes just days after black leaders from around York County held a news conference expressing concerns about the decision process and the need for black representation at

this level of the bench. Supporters of Young, including York County councilman William "Bump" Roddey and former Rock Hill NAACP president Melvin Poole told media on Tuesday that they had "deep concerns and reservations" after conversations with Hayes and Sen. Creighton Coleman, D-Winnsboro, believing Wood had been given more consideration.

The State: SC lawmakers to tackle troubled state retirement system

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article92201902.html>

Jamie Self

S.C. House and Senate leaders are forming a committee to review the state retirement system's unfunded obligations of \$16.75 billion. The panel is charged with finding ways for the pension system to meet its obligations in years to come. The move comes three months after Republican S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley pledged to address the pension system's unfunded obligations, adding the fix would "hurt." S.C. House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington, and Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, said Wednesday the bi-partisan committee — of six senators and six representatives — would begin meeting next month. Lucas noted thousands of South Carolinians contribute to the retirement system "with the hope of receiving a positive return in the future" and entrust the state with investing their money "wisely." "We owe it to them (state employees) to honor our commitments," Lucas said. "I'm confident we'll roll up our sleeves, work together and make sure South Carolina honors its obligations in a fiscally responsible way," Leatherman said.

SC Agency News:

Associated Press : 3 SCDOT workers indicted in separate kickback schemes

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=3IRwShmd

Jeffrey Collins

A state grand jury has indicted three former Department of Transportation workers in three different kickback schemes at the agency's Richland County office. The indictments were handed up last month, but only unsealed Thursday. In one scheme, a supervisor formed a secret company with a neighbor and sent DOT work to it. In the second scheme, a director asked contractors directly for money in exchange for work. In the third scheme, an inspector kept DOT equipment off the books and then sold it, keeping the cash, according to court papers. DOT leaders didn't immediately comment on the indictments. A number of lawmakers have pushed back on the agency's request for more money for South Carolina roads, saying they weren't sure they wanted to send more money if the DOT was being mismanaged. South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson's office is prosecuting the cases. A spokeswoman didn't know if the men had attorneys.

Post and Courier: Four tied to SCDOT corruption indicted by state grand jury

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160728/160729406/four-tied-to-scdot-corruption-indicted-by-state-grand-jury->

Gavin Jackson

Three former S.C. Department of Transportation employees and a contractor were indicted by the state grand jury on corruption allegations involving contract work with the agency, according to the state attorney general's office. The former employees were based at the Columbia District 1 SCDOT offices and were indicted last week in three different kickback schemes. The indictments were under seal until Thursday. Attorney General Wilson stressed that all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until they are proven guilty in a court of law. SCDOT officials have not commented on which contracts the former employees handled or what work Ray was doing.

The State: Former S.C. Department of Transportation employees charged with corruption

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article92365127.html>

Tim Flach and Cassie Cope

Three former S.C. Department of Transportation employees were charged with public corruption, after a State Grand Jury investigation, the S.C. Attorney General's office announced Thursday. Five S.C. State Grand Jury indictments were issued June 22, but were under seal until Thursday. The indictments allege...

Walter Scott Case

Associated Press: Judge: Outside tests OK in black motorist shooting death

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=23aLYcm0

SC State Wire

A South Carolina judge says an outside lab can analyze brain tissue of a black motorist shot and killed by a white police officer while running from a traffic stop. Circuit Judge Clifton Newman on Wednesday granted a defense motion to allow a Pennsylvania lab to conduct forensic tests. Attorneys for the former North Charleston police officer charged with murder in the April 2015 shooting death of 50-year-old Walter Scott have said there's no evidence state investigators ever analyzed brain tissue from the autopsy. Defense documents filed with the court include a toxicology report showing traces of cocaine in Scott's blood. The shooting was captured on cellphone video and reignited the national debate over the treatment of blacks by white officers. Thirty-three-year-old ex-officer Michael Slager stands trial in October.

SC after Police Shootings:

Greenville News : Downtown sit-ins 'suspended' after activist meets with mayor, city officials

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/07/28/downtown-sit-ins-suspended-after-activist-meets-mayor-city-officials/87659502/>

Eric Connor

The leader of a local activist group that had promised sit-in protests at downtown businesses says today he will suspend calls to disrupt commerce after meeting with Mayor Knox White and other city officials. Bruce Wilson, founder of Fighting Injustice Together, told The Greenville News that officials were open to his calls for a citizen review board to provide more oversight over Greenville Police interactions with the public. "It looks like I can suspend that for now, because it looks like they will listen to us," Wilson said, pointing to other positive conversations about "more dialogue with youth issues." The call for sit-ins followed hundreds filling downtown streets, including an attempt by the Upstate Black Lives Matter group to shut down Interstate 385 three weekends ago that led to arrests and an alleged assault on an officer.

Post and Courier : Prosecutors to look at policies surrounding officer-involved shootings

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160728/160729409/prosecutors-to-look-at-policies-surrounding-officer-involved-shootings>

Maya T. Prabhu

The state will begin studying the way officer-involved shootings are handled in South Carolina and across the country. The S.C. Prosecution Coordination Commission on Wednesday voted to create the task force, which will look at how law enforcement officers are prosecuted when accused of a crime. "There are a number of issues to be clarified to try to find some consistency in the way we deal

with officer-involved cases," said York Republican Rep. Tommy Pope. "There are a lot of different levels of things." South Carolina had a record 48 police-involved shootings last year, surpassing the previous high mark of 46 set in 2012. The tally included cases that received national attention, including the April 2015 fatal shooting of Walter Scott by a North Charleston police officer who now faces a murder charge. Ninth Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson, who oversees prosecutions in Charleston and Berkeley counties, is overseeing the prosecution of former officer Michael Slager in the shooting death of Scott.

The State: Law enforcement fatalities by gunfire up nationwide; S.C. on par with previous year
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article92210032.html>

Cynthia Roldan

A mid-year report released Wednesday by a nonprofit that tracks officer fatalities nationwide found firearms-related deaths have increased by a whopping 78 percent when compared to the same time last year. The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund reported 32 officers nationwide have died so far of firearms-related fatal assaults through July 20. Of the 32 cases, 14 were "ambush-style attacks" carried out on unsuspecting officers, the report states. In 2015, the number of ambush attacks was three. South Carolina lost one officer to an ambush-style attack in 2016. Greenville police officer Allen Jacobs was involved in a foot chase of a gang member, when the suspect ducked around the corner of a house and sprayed Jacobs with bullets. South Carolina officials said that despite having one officer killed by gunfire in the line of duty so far, that doesn't mean there haven't been attempts on their lives.

Morning News: Forum on shootings to be held today in Florence

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_0ca0bd5e-54f5-11e6-b24b-fb94fa66d5c4.html

Shamira McCray

A forum hosted by Florence pastor and businessman Tony McElveen will be held this evening to talk about killings involving police. The outdoor forum will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Rooms R Us furniture store at 131 Pamplico Highway in Florence. McElveen said the purpose of the forum is to discuss the recent police-involved killings across the nation and be proactive to insure the images seen on TV don't happen in Florence. Recent incidents have occurred in Louisiana, Minnesota and Dallas. A panel of community leaders including Florence Police Chief Allen Heidler, representatives from the Florence County Sheriff's Office and the South Carolina Highway Patrol, a municipal judge and clergy members will speak at the forum. "I thought it was important to have our law enforcement present just to give us an opportunity to express our concerns and what they're feeling across our country," McElveen said last week.

Morning News: First Reliance Bank hosts lunch for law enforcement

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_76ded4ae-54d1-11e6-b8ed-374f91e9287d.html

Jessica Imbimbo

First Reliance Bank hosted a Law Enforcement Appreciation lunch at its West Palmetto Street location on Wednesday. Officers from the Florence Police Department, Florence County Sheriff's Office and South Carolina Highway Patrol attended the lunch. Employees of First Reliance Bank provided boxed lunches, beverages and a shady place to sit and enjoy the meal. Attendees also had an opportunity to enter a drawing where the prize was a riverboat cruise and a two-night stay in Charleston. Before the lunch began, officers were thanked by First Reliance Bank executives. Paul Saunders, vice president and retail banking officer, was the first to address the crowd of more than 30 law enforcement officers. "Thank you for everything that you do for us," Saunders said. "With everything going on in the country today we just want you guys to know we love you, we support you,

this community supports you and that's why we're doing this today."

South Carolina News:

WIS: Security firm rates the top 20 safest cities in South Carolina

<http://www.wistv.com/story/32563751/security-firm-rates-the-top-20-safest-cities-in-south-carolina>

Jeremy Turnage

Do you feel safe where you live in South Carolina? Using FBI Crime Report statistics from 2014 -- the absolute latest stats from the bureau -- the website Safewise narrowed down the cities based on the number of violent crimes and property crimes out of 1,000 people in each city. Does your city rank in South Carolina's top 20?

Local News:

The State: Convicted child molester: 'Twisted way of thinking' is part of his past, not future

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article92364077.html>

John Monk

Convicted sex predator Charles Sullivan spent almost three hours on the witness stand Thursday morning, explaining how he found Jesus and psychological help during his 17 years in prison and won't molest young boys again. "I had a twisted way of thinking that was going on back then -- it's not going on now, I promise," Sullivan testified in a Richland County courtroom under questioning by his attorney, James Falk. "There's no excuse for what I did," the 60-year-old Sullivan said in seeking to persuade a jury that he's ready to be freed. Lacing his testimony with psychological terms and quotes from scripture, Sullivan, who goes by Chuck, told the jury how numerous classes and prison sessions with counselors and group meetings gave him "a new set of eyes" -- a phrase he used repeatedly. Now, he said, he can recognize and deal with the spiritual and psychological failings that led him to be one of the most notorious child molesters in recent state history.

Associated Press: Coroner: Property dispute may have led to fatal shooting

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8ecyp7Ja

SC State Wire

Authorities say a 57-year-old man is dead after an argument between neighbors ended with gunfire. Anderson County Coroner Charlie Boseman told media outlets that Pat Mackey was shot several times around 7:45 p.m. Wednesday at his home in Iva and died a short time later at the hospital. Boseman says witnesses reported the victim and the shooter had an ongoing property dispute. Deputies say they are still investigating what led to the shooting and no charges have been filed.

Associated Press: Investigators: Man found shot in ditch had been there 2 days

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=e6Ebvoz7

SC State Wire

Jasper County authorities are investigating after a man was found dead in a ditch with a dozen bullet wounds near Hardeeville. Jasper County Coroner Martin Sauls tells local media outlets that 23-year-old Javon Vincent Winston of Bluffton was found Tuesday. The victim suffered 12 gunshot wounds and is thought to have been in the ditch for at least two days. The State Law Enforcement Division is assisting with the investigation. No arrests have been made.

Associated Press: Body of elderly woman recovered from Charleston pond

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=v5mZVz8s

SC State Wire

Charleston police say the body of an elderly woman reported missing from an assisted living facility has been recovered from a nearby pond. Charleston County Deputy Coroner Sara Senn tells local media outlets that the body of 90-year-old Bonnie Walker was found in a small pond near the Brookdale Senior Living Center on Wednesday afternoon. Walker had been reported missing earlier in the day. The investigation is continuing and an autopsy has been scheduled to determine the cause of death.

Island Packet: Harbor Island devices at center of turtle debate still in place

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article92325647.html>

Stephen Fastenau

An experimental erosion-control device at the center of controversy over possible effects to turtle nesting is still in place on Harbor Island, a homeowner said Thursday. A state environmental agency had ordered the wave dissipation system removed by Thursday, citing the end of a study period and concerns the structure was inhibiting threatened sea turtles. Three Harbor Island property owners have retained an attorney in an effort to keep the structures in place, said Tricia Gardner, who owns one of the beachfront homes. The removal order followed the threat of a lawsuit by environmental groups who said the structures impede federally protected turtles that nest on the South Carolina coast from May through early August. Attorney Matthew Hamrick, who represents the system's creator, said the turtles had not been hindered and that the area behind the structure wasn't suitable for nesting.

Associated Press: Charleston-area voters may consider \$2 billion for roads

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=yd71CsyK

SC State Wire

Leaders in one of the nation's fastest-growing areas want to ask Charleston-area voters to approve raising taxes for \$2 billion in road projects. Local media outlets report that Charleston County Council gave preliminary approval Wednesday to putting a half-cent sales tax referendum for roads on the November ballot. The proposal does not include money for finishing Interstate 526 through Charleston's western suburbs. But that could be added when the council gives final approval next month. The issue wasn't considered Wednesday because two council members were absent, including one who is attending the Democratic National Convention. U.S. Census Bureau figures show that Mount Pleasant east of Charleston is the tenth fastest-growing community in the nation.

Greenville News: Clemson transit agency wins federal money for electric buses

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2016/07/26/clemson-wins-federal-money-electric-buses/87578064/>

Rudolph Bell

The Federal Transit Administration has awarded the Clemson area's bus system nearly \$4 million to buy more battery-powered buses. The grant, announced Tuesday, is part of \$55 million given to 20 transit providers in 13 states under an FTA program that funds transit buses with zero emissions or low emissions. Clemson Area Transit, or CAT, already operates six battery-powered buses in the city of Seneca that were manufactured in Greenville by Proterra Inc. CAT had sought \$6 million from the FTA to buy 12 40-foot electric buses to replace 12 aging diesel buses it operates on the Clemson University campus and in the city of Clemson. With the actual grant award two-thirds of the total it had sought, CAT will revise its plan and buy seven battery-powered buses for use on the Clemson campus, said Al Babinicz, the agency's general manager and CEO.

Post and Courier: Sullivan's Island rejects proposal for bike taxis

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160728/160729401/sullivans-island-rejects-proposal-for-bike-taxis->

Prentiss Findlay

A bike taxi company wants to cart passengers around Sullivan's Island, but Town Council is opposed. Mayor Pat O'Neil said he doesn't see a need for pedicabs. Narrow streets and public safety are a concern. "If I'm out on the weekend on my old two-wheel bicycle and the ambulance or fire truck needs to come down I'on Avenue while I'm riding on it, I can get out of the way easily," he said. "The same is not true of somebody on a big tricycle with two or three passengers." Town zoning prohibits pedicabs, and O'Neil doesn't believe residents would like to see that change. "It is unlikely that residents would want a commercial activity brought into their neighborhood," the mayor said. But Seth Abramson of Daniel Island Bike Taxi sees things differently. He launched a petition at change.org in support of pedicabs on Sullivan's.

Associated Press: Powering Down: Duracell closing battery plant in Lancaster

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=bYpoSA1c

SC State Wire

Duracell is closing the plant in Lancaster where it has produced household batteries for decades, a move expected to leave most of the plant's 430 workers without jobs. The Herald of Rock Hill reports (<http://bit.ly/2a1ZOhJ>) that the company is consolidating North American production of AA and AAA batteries at one plant in LaGrange, Georgia. The company said the Lancaster plant will be phased out during the next three years. The company has manufactured batteries there for 35 years. The announcement comes just two years after the Lancaster County Council approved an agreement to cut property taxes at the plant for the next three decades. County Administrator Steve Willis says the county was working with the plant as recently as November to provide tax incentives to upgrade machinery.

The Herald: Duracell to close Lancaster plant; 430 jobs at risk

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article92198787.html>

David Thackham

The Lancaster Duracell plant will shut its doors over the next three years, the company said Wednesday, putting most of its 430 employees out of work. Just two years after the Lancaster County Council approved an agreement to cut Duracell's property taxes for the next three decades, Duracell announced Wednesday the plant will reduce production slowly before shutting down in mid-2019. Lancaster County Administrator Steve Willis said the county was working with the local plant as recently as November to provide tax incentives for machinery upgrades. "I heard it was coming down from corporate, that the decision was made there," Willis said. "It definitely wasn't anything with the local support or the local employees." The plant, which has produced AA batteries for more than 35 years, is the seventh-largest employer in the county. The shutdown will begin in stages in March, the company said.

National News:

Associated Press: Man convicted in Chandra Levy's death won't be retried

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a4d84db9383b4281bf8acc355c0a0d56>

Prosecutors say they will not retry a man convicted of killing Washington intern Chandra Levy. The U. S. Attorney's office said in a statement Thursday that the office has moved to dismiss the case charging Ingmar Guandique with Levy's 2001 murder. According to the statement, prosecutors concluded they can no longer prove the murder case against Guandique beyond a reasonable doubt,

"based on recent unforeseen developments that were investigated over the past week." The statement does not elaborate. "After investigating this information and reviewing all of the evidence in this case, the government now believes it is in the interests of justice for the court to dismiss the case without prejudice," prosecutors wrote in a one-page motion.

World News:

Associated Press: Turkey creates 'Traitors' Cemetery' for dead coup plotters

<http://bigstory.ap.org/c61b431ab4f14d90855a71b966a1fef>

Elena Becatoros and Cinar Kiper

Tucked in the back corner of a construction site for a new dog shelter in eastern Istanbul lies a freshly dug, unmarked grave — the first in the new "Traitors' Cemetery," created specifically to hold the bodies of coup plotters who died in the July 15 abortive putsch. In the week following the attempted coup in Turkey, which killed about 290 people, the municipality announced it intended to set up a cemetery specifically for those involved — people that officials have branded as traitors undeserving of a proper burial. About 24 coup plotters are believed to have been killed that night. Authorities would "reserve a spot and call it a traitors' cemetery. Passers-by will curse them," Istanbul Mayor Kadir Topbas said in remarks carried by the Dogan News Agency. "May every passer-by curse them and let them not rest in their tombs." The creation of the cemetery comes amid a widespread crackdown in the aftermath of the coup. Nearly 16,000 people have been detained, including about 10,000 military personnel; displays of patriotism abound, with many Turks flying national flags from the windows of their apartments or cars; and nightly pro-government rallies are held in cities across the country.

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