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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, July 20, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

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

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

Seanna Adcox

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

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

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

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

Maya T. Prabhu

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

NOTE: Haley's office said the governor was following the previous pattern of governors showcasing the university football team. "Like previous administrations, the office of Gov. Nikki Haley has used the University of South Carolina's executive suite for state-related purposes, including economic

development and business recruitment, because there's no better way to showcase the great things going on in our state," Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams said.

USA Today: S.C. Gov. Haley urges defeat of Clinton without mentioning Trump

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/onpolitics/2016/07/20/sc-gov-haley-urges-defeat-clinton-without-mentioning-trump/87342054/>

Deirdre Shesgreen

If there's a way to tiptoe toward an endorsement of Donald Trump, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley found it on Wednesday when she arrived in Cleveland to attend the Republican National Convention. Speaking to the Palmetto State's delegates, Haley never uttered Trump's name. But she urged the Republican Party faithful to vote for him by vilifying his likely Democratic foe, Hillary Clinton.

"President Obama was awful the last eight years — a President Clinton would be disastrous," Haley told the delegates, who murmured in agreement over their bacon-and-eggs breakfast. Haley urged the South Carolina contingent to help get the message out that "a no vote in November is a vote for Hillary Clinton." Haley did not address her own misgivings about Trump, but it's no secret that she is not a fan of the brash New York real estate mogul. The South Carolina governor has repeatedly cautioned against Trump's racially tinged rhetoric. In her most high-profile remarks — the GOP rebuttal to President Obama's State of the Union speech in January — Haley recounted her own story as the daughter of Indian immigrants. She called on Americans to reject "the angriest voices," a clear rebuke to Trump's anti-immigrant statements and positions. "No one who is willing to work hard, abide by our laws, and love our traditions should ever feel unwelcome in this country," she said in that speech.

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

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160720/160729947/haley-and-mcmaster-represent-gops-struggle-for-unity-in-presidential-election>

Emma Dumain

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

WIS: Haley to SC GOP delegates: Support the Republican Party

<http://www.wistv.com/story/32492359/haley-to-sc-gop-delegates-support-the-republican-party>

Charles Molineaux

Governor Nikki Haley is calling for unity behind GOP nominee Donald Trump. The Palmetto State's chief executive met with state delegates, alternates, and guests in Cleveland at a breakfast Wednesday morning. "He's our guy," said Eddie Taylor. "Senator Scott actually endorsed him. Said it's time for those folks that are not necessarily behind him at first to rally." The delegates, who have gone to several different convention events throughout the week, sent video to WIS of Haley

speaking at the breakfast. She was joined by Trump endorser Sen. Tim Scott and Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, who helped put Trump's name into nomination, also spoke with South Carolina delegates today. "They were talking about all the reasons that we need to get unified now so that we can win in November," said Cindy Costa. "They were encouraging and motivating." Gov. Haley urged voters to get to the polls. She warned delegates that a "no" vote would be a vote for Hillary Clinton. "Nikki Haley never mentioned the name Donald Trump," said Jerry Rovner. "But she said support the Republican Party. So, it was noted by everybody that she didn't say his name." Gov. Haley told state delegates that bringing about change means being part of the solution and that means making sure everyone understands the importance of voting.

Post and Courier: RNC draws Tim Scott, Nikki Haley and 'Top Chef,' live from Cleveland

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160720/160729966/rnc-draws-tim-scott-nikki-haley-and-top-chef-live-from-cleveland>

Emma Dumain

9:30 a.m.: U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, Gov. Nikki Haley, Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, Attorney General Alan Wilson and U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford all addressed the S.C. GOP delegation at breakfast Wednesday morning. Scott left quickly after remarks but the others lingered following the speaking program, with Haley taking photos and shaking hands with most everyone who asked. Haley plans to visit the convention floor either tonight or tomorrow, or maybe both. She will be participating in some Republican Governors Association events.

8:10 a.m.: Gov. Nikki Haley, U.S. Sen. Tim Scott and U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford have arrived in Cleveland for the Republican National Convention, joining U.S. Reps. Joe Wilson and Tom Rice, who have been here all week. Haley will headline the Wednesday morning breakfast meeting of the South Carolina GOP delegation.

Dallas Morning News: Texans not excited by Pence, but they think he's safe, which may be even better

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/politics/headlines/20160720-texans-on-pence-to-the-gop-ticket-safe-and-that-s-a-good-thing.ece>

Katie Leslie and Robert T. Garrett

The verdict is in from Texans in Cleveland: Indiana Gov. Mike Pence is not exciting. But in a year of bombast and rancor, that's actually good. "He's not flamboyant, but he's not dangerous. There's a comfort level there," David Barton said about Donald Trump's running mate. "I don't think he's going to say anything that's going to get him in trouble." Barton, a prominent Texas conservative who ran a pro-Sen. Ted Cruz Super PAC and knows Pence personally, sees Pence as a Sherpa — someone who can guide Trump through the labyrinth of D.C. politics and policy. But Barton says it'll be up to the campaign to determine whether Pence can move the needle with conservatives wary of Trump. "How they use him, where they use him, what they do with him, what message they have him carry." Voters will get a glimpse of that Wednesday night, when Pence is set to take the stage at the Republican National Convention and introduce himself as Trump's vice presidential pick.

NOTE: "People will think, 'This guy could be president from day one,'" said Grant, 29, a ninth-grade geography teacher. But Grant, who is black, was one of a few delegates who said Trump missed a chance to broaden the GOP's appeal to racial minorities. "I would have been overjoyed if he had gone with someone like Nikki Haley," he said, referring to the South Carolina governor, a child of immigrants from South Asia's India.

Wilson Times: CSX terminal to bring jobs, development to tri-county region

<http://www.wilsontimes.com/stories/RAIL-HUB-ON-TRACK,70022>

Corey Friedman and Brie Handgraaf

CSX will bring a rail-to-truck shipping terminal to Edgecombe County, connecting eastern North Carolina to state ports and creating a projected 1,500 jobs throughout the state, Gov. Pat McCrory and railroad executives said Tuesday. The Carolina Connector hub built along CSX rail lines will fill an estimated 500 to 550 acres of land between Battleboro and College roads south of U.S. 301 in Rocky Mount. Jennifer Lantz, executive director of the Wilson Economic Development Council, said the project will also benefit to Wilson County. "This is great news for North Carolina and great news for the Rocky Mount area," McCrory said during a news conference following a public announcement at N.C. Wesleyan College's Dunn Center. "The Carolina Connector is something we wanted in North Carolina, and we finally achieved that goal. It's going to be a game-changer for North Carolina and especially eastern North Carolina."

NOTE: The governor said other locations in the Tar Heel State were considered for the intermodal hub and officials held off competition from South Carolina to secure the project. McCrory alluded to a friendly rivalry for economic development projects with fellow Republican Gov. Nikki Haley. "We wanted this major intermodal facility in North Carolina," McCrory said. "It's going to be extremely important not only to the Rocky Mount area, it's also going to be important to the rest of eastern North Carolina, to Wilmington and also to Charlotte. There's a connectivity here between the west and the east that's going to be extremely important."

RNC Convention in Cleveland:

Post and Courier: Sanford at first Trump rally: 'He's definitely a showman'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160720/160729966/sanford-at-first-trump-rally-hes-definitely-a-showman>

Emma Dumain

2:50 p.m.: South Carolina GOP delegates stumbled upon a rally Wednesday afternoon to welcome Donald Trump and Mike Pence to Cleveland. Though the fire marshal had determined the field in between the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Cleveland Browns football stadium at capacity, U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford was able to make his way to the event. The Trump helicopter made several loops before landing as the theme music to the Harrison Ford movie "Air Force One" swelled over loud speakers. The Trump helicopter made several loops before landing as the theme music to the Harrison Ford movie "Air Force One" swelled over loud speakers. Sanford, who had never attended a Trump rally before, described it as "most interesting." "I'd say once again it proves he's definitely a showman," he continued. "You had the dramatic, multiple flyby's with the helicopter before landing to seemingly build suspense and anticipation. I'd say that particular style is a very long way from a style that I'm used to or comfortable with. Way too showy for my taste. But it is what it is and it has certainly served him well in the real estate business and we'll see if it serves him well going forward in this presidential contest."

Associated Press: SC delegates describe fractured, frustrated GOP convention

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=fuL2dCO5

Meg Kinnard

The Republican Party may have nominated Donald Trump, but some South Carolina delegates are discouraged by what they describe as enduring divisiveness and negativity at the Republican National Convention. Without some quick healing in the confab's closing days, they fear, the party that has been fractured by a brutal primary season may have a hard time winning the general election - or surviving. "We are not going to win simply by demonizing Hillary, as much as she warrants derision," state Sen. Tom Davis, a libertarian-leaning lawmaker, told The Associated Press from

Cleveland. "We need to offer a positive message on what we are about, too." Davis spoke a day after impassioned floor speeches from the likes of New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who on Tuesday night effectively put Hillary Clinton through a trial-by-delegates "for her performance and her character."

Greenville News: Easley pastor's partisan prayer, comments raise eyebrows at Republican National Convention

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2016/07/20/easley-pastors-partisan-prayer-comments-raise-eyebrows-republican-national-convention/87350796/>

Ron Barnett

In a booming voice that might have sent any demons in greater Cleveland area scurrying across Lake Erie, Pastor Mark Burns of Easley declared to the delegates at the Republican National Convention that Donald Trump is a man of God and that the "enemy" is "Hillary Clinton and the Democratic Party." Burns, pastor of the Harvest Praise & Worship Center and co-founder and CEO of an Easley-based religious TV network, called down some wrath upon himself, however, with his comments and benediction, from critics who said he had crossed the line in injecting God into partisan politics. In his prayer at the conclusion of Monday's proceedings, he thanked God for giving Trump "the words to unite this party, this country, that we together can defeat the liberal Democratic Party." "Because we are the United States of America, and we are the conservative party under God," he continued. "Give him the words, give him the peace, give him the power and the authority to be the next president of the United States of America, in Jesus' name. If you believe it, shout Amen!"

Post and Courier: RNC delegate spotlight: Elliott Kelley

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160720/160729993/rnc-delegate-spotlight-elliott-kelley>

Emma Dumain

Elliott Kelley is 20 years old, which means he probably won't be attending many of the cocktail receptions at the Republican National Convention this week. But the rising junior at Bob Jones University, second vice chairman of the Pickens County GOP and one-time leader of "Millennials for Ted Cruz" has every intention of using his week in Cleveland as a networking opportunity. "The first thing I'm looking forward to is making really great connections with my own delegation," Kelley said. "A lot of people I've met once or twice who are just from different parts of the state." Kelley said he got involved in politics five years ago, working to help elect a friend seeking a position with the Spartanburg GOP. From there he joined the speech and debate team, which landed him the chance to attend the Youth Legislative Training Conference in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the American Association for Christian Schools. "It was a week of hearing from different speakers who could make a difference in our country, just by getting involved," Kelley recalled.

Post and Courier : Not sure about Melania speaking on national security night

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160720/160729994/not-sure-about-melania-speaking-on-national-security-night>

So one full day is in the books and it was an interesting one. On Monday afternoon and evening we were witness to both the contentious convention rules vote and Melania Trump's anticipated speech. The rules debate in the hall was a less than ten minute distraction that was resolved to the satisfaction of at least 80 percent of the attendees and seems likely to result in nothing more than an historic convention footnote. Melania's late night speech was incredibly well received by most of the delegates (note that no one was live checking her prose inside Quicken Loans Arena). She has delivered few remarks publicly so delegates were interested to see how she performed. And while the cable news echo chamber may have been critical (for good reason), that sentiment was not shared in the "Q" during her speech. It was questioned by some delegates why Melania was scheduled on a

night where the theme of each and every single other speaker on "Make America Safe Again" night was safety and security.

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

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

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

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

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

Wednesday

8-10:30 a.m.: Breakfast honoring Gov. Nikki Haley and S.C. congressional delegation

Noon-3 p.m.: Luncheon with Georgia and Alabama delegations, sponsored by AT&T, the Dallas-based telecommunications giant

7-11 p.m.: Convention business session

10 p.m.-1:30 a.m.: Salute to the Innovation Economy benefit country music concert, featuring Pat Green and Lee Brice, a Sumter native

Thursday

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

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

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

Post and Courier : Charleston Republicans holding Trump acceptance speech party in North Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160720/160729963/charleston-republicans-holding-trump-acceptance-speech-party-in-north-charleston>

Schuyler Kropf

The Charleston County Republican Party is hosting a GOP convention final night viewing party Thursday in North Charleston to watch Donald Trump accept the presidential nomination. The site is Smokey Bones at the North Rivers Shopping Center, 7250 Rivers Ave., in North Charleston. The event will run from 8 to 11 p.m.

SC Political News:

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

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

Seanna Adcox

Political candidates can use donations to pay their company or a family member, as long as the campaign services are legitimate and the cost is reasonable, the State Ethics Commission said Wednesday. The board's unanimous opinion applies only to future spending. It is not retroactive. Basically, donor-paid services "can't be a sham," said agency attorney Michael Burchstead. The advice should be common sense, but it's important to give guidance to candidates the agency oversees, he said. At issue is a law barring candidates and officeholders from using donations for personal benefit. While noting the law isn't specific, the opinion presumes legislators did not intend an outright ban on payments to candidates' businesses, family businesses or individual family members.

"If read too stridently, it can lead to some absurdities in application," the opinion reads. "If a candidate or his family owns a printing shop, a catering business, or a cleaning service, we do not read the ethics act as forcing the candidate to employ the services of a competitor." But the commission also recognizes such payments are ripe for abuse.

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

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

Maya T. Prabhu

Candidates running for office in South Carolina can continue to use campaign funds to pay for work done through their own companies or businesses run by family members, the State Ethics Commission ruled Wednesday. The ruling comes after Attorney General Alan Wilson in December issued a non-binding opinion also allowing the expenses. Ethics Commission attorney Michael Burchstead said the ruling is was meant to give guidance to those who are under the group's jurisdiction. The commission covers those working or running for office at any level outside of the General Assembly, including governor, lieutenant governor, lobbyists and other elected positions. Burchstead stressed that candidates must use legitimate businesses and pay market value for services.

Associated Press: Ex-lawmaker is disbarred as lawyer while in prison

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=FIU37dTh

SC State Wire

A former South Carolina House member spending three years in federal prison for money laundering has been disbarred. The state Supreme Court on Wednesday revoked Thad Viers' law license. It had been suspended since 2012, when Viers was charged with harassing an ex-girlfriend. In 2015, Viers pleaded guilty to money laundering for helping a construction company owner hide assets. Viers is currently in federal prison. He can apply to get his law license back once he completes his prison sentence. The Supreme Court would have to approve his application. Viers served in the House for a decade and was a rising Republican star before his harassment arrest.

The State: SC lawmaker to lawbreaker to non-lawyer: Republican Thad Viers now disbarred

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article90762662.html>

John Monk

The S.C. Supreme Court on Wednesday disbarred former state Rep. Thad Viers, a Republican from Horry County, for charges he faced in 2012 in connection with his ex-girlfriend as well for a federal money laundering charge in 2014. Viers is now serving time in a federal prison in Hopewell, Va., on money the laundering charges, which were unrelated to his personal problems. He is due to leave prison in June 2017. Once Viers, 38, of Myrtle Beach, had punched all the right tickets to ascend the Republican ladder of success. As a young teen, he was a page to the late Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., graduated from The Citadel in 1999, did research for the conservative Heritage Foundation think tank and was elected to the S.C. House of Representatives in 2003.

Associated Press: Christie stands by friend guilty in airline bribery scheme

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=496aFd6y

SC State Wire

Republican New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is standing by his friend and mentor who pleaded guilty to a bribery scheme involving the powerful transportation agency Christie appointed him to lead. Christie

said Wednesday that David Samson, who acknowledged using his position to pressure United Airlines to reinstate a flight that benefited him, is an "extraordinary person" and is "my friend and always will be." Christie made his remarks in Cleveland, where he's supporting presidential nominee Donald Trump at the Republican National Convention. Samson is a former New Jersey attorney general who headed Christie's transition team. Christie appointed him chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which runs area bridges, tunnels and transit hubs, in 2011. Samson admitted last week that he pressured United to reinstate a weekend flight between Newark, New Jersey, and South Carolina, near his second home. His sentencing is scheduled for October.

Dylann Roof Case:

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

Andrew Knapp

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

SC Agency News:

Associated Press : State says child abuse and neglect deaths up last year
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=aHOOhtn

SC State Wire

The number of South Carolina children dying from abuse and neglect increased last year, according to the state Department of Social Services. DSS reported Tuesday that there were 28 deaths from abuse or neglect in 2015 compared with 22 deaths in 2014 and 25 in 2013, The Greenville News reported (<http://grnol.co/29V3Gzb>). "Anyone who has worked in child welfare knows that the hardest part of a caseworker's job is learning of and responding to child fatalities that result from abuse and neglect," DSS Director Susan Alford said in a statement to The Greenville News. The state agency also said that the number of children served by the agency as a result of an indicated report of abuse or neglect increased to more than 20,000 last year. That was up from nearly 17,000 in 2014. According to department officials, most of the increase is because of a new, centralized reporting system.

Greenville News: DSS: South Carolina child abuse and neglect deaths up
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/07/19/dss-south-carolina-child-abuse-and-neglect-deaths-up/87280766/>

Tim Smith

The number of South Carolina children dying from abuse and neglect increased to 28 last year, the state's child welfare agency reported Tuesday. The State Department of Social Services also says that the number of children served by DSS as a result of an indicated report of abuse or neglect increased to 20,309 in 2015 from 16,794 for 2014. The number of fatalities as a percentage of all children served by the agency remained about constant from 2014 to 2015, DSS reported.

Tuesday's numbers, posted to the agency's website, compare to 22 children who died in 2014, 25 in 2013 and 14 in 2012, according to DSS. The agency, until Thursday, had reported 24 deaths in 2013 but said that number was in error.

The State: SC prison inmate charged with stalking

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article90593742.html>

Rachael Myers Lowe

A man being held at the Manning Correctional Institution in Columbia has been charged with stalking and threatening a Jasper County woman, the State Law Enforcement Division said in a news release. Joseph Singleton, Jr., 36, is accused of sending about 20 letters threatening to kill the victim, the warrant states. Singleton was in prison on a burglary charge and harassment charge. He was moved to the the Columbia facility in April and placed in pre-release status, the SC Department of Corrections website showed. He was set to be released next month. Stalking is a felony and if convicted, Singleton could face 15 years in prison plus a \$10,000 fine.

Island Packet: SLED charges inmate with stalking Jasper County resident

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article90758137.html>

Caitlin Turner

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division charged a state inmate with stalking after he allegedly sent threatening letters to a Jasper County woman from prison. Joseph Singleton Jr., 36, was charged with the the felony Friday after he allegedly sent approximately 20 letters to the woman threatening to kill her, according to a SLED news release. He sent the letters from Manning Correctional Institution in Columbia. Singleton has a prior harassment conviction dating back to Feb. 11 that involved the same woman, the release said. Records from the S.C. Department of Corrections state Singleton is serving time on second-degree harassment and burglary convictions. If convicted of the stalking charge, Singleton could face up to 15 years in prison, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both. The case will be prosecuted by the 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office, the release said.

SC after Baton Rouge Shootings:

Post and Courier: Violent protests are no way to hold the moral high ground

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160720/160729991/violent-protests-are-no-way-to-hold-the-moral-high-ground>

Brian Hicks

Last week, someone threw a brick at a Charleston police officer during an anti-violence protest. Think about how mind-numbingly hypocritical that is. What's worse, the reaction from most people was a relieved "Thank God he wasn't shot." This is what we've come to — and it's a long way from where Charleston was last year, when the world marveled at how we calmly handled more tragedy in three months than most communities could endure in a decade. It seems the whole country has gone nuts, and we don't need to follow suit. Officer Joseph Jacobs is doing fine and healing after someone lobbed a brick or piece of concrete that bounced off his protective vest and hit him in the face. He was lucky, considering what's happened in Dallas and Baton Rouge. But that shouldn't be the standard of measurement. The fight for civil rights wasn't won with violence, and neither will our current struggles. Some people need to review the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s six principles of nonviolence. Of course, some people also need to review irony. Because blaming all police officers for the actions of a few is exactly the same thing as racial profiling. Unfair.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: RBC extends sponsorship with PGA Tour event through 2023

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Uy3V0eYJ

SC State Wire

RBC will remain the title sponsor of the PGA Tour event on Hilton Head Island through 2023. RBC, the PGA and the Heritage Classic Foundation announced the six-year contract extension Wednesday. The Canadian banking giant rescued the tournament in 2012 after officials used money from the foundation to host the tournament without a title sponsor in 2011 after Verizon pulled out. RBC Heritage tournament director Steve Wilmot says at this year's tournament the parties extended the agreement into 2017, hoping to reach a long-term agreement. Dave McKay, RBC's president and CEO, says the company's extended agreement with Harbour Town Golf Links shows its growing commitment to its U.S. operations. Wilmot says contract talks with Boeing are continuing in hopes of extending their deal, which ends after next year's tournament.

Island Packet: Pairing of RBC, Heritage to extend for many more years

<http://www.islandpacket.com/sports/golf/rbc-heritage-tournament/article90825392.html>

Jeff Shain

Title sponsorship for the PGA Tour's annual visit to Hilton Head Island is now secure through 2023, as banking giant RBC announced a six-year extension Wednesday that will allow the tournament to celebrate its 50th edition and beyond. The deal guarantees seven more years of sponsorship tranquility with RBC, with next year's tournament already secure from a previous extension. Title sponsorship for the PGA Tour's annual visit to Hilton Head Island is now secure through 2023, as banking giant RBC announced a six-year extension Wednesday that will allow the tournament to celebrate its 50th edition and beyond. The deal guarantees seven more years of sponsorship tranquility with RBC, with next year's tournament already secure from a previous extension.

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

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

Derrek Asberry

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

Local News:

Associated Press: The Latest: SC woman discusses alleged assault by deputy

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4ljt9bcn

SC State Wire

A South Carolina woman says she begged a sheriff's deputy to stop as he forced her into a sex act earlier this summer, adding he threatened to jail her boyfriend if she refused. And until the now-former officer was charged with misconduct on Wednesday, the woman's attorney says she's been worried that no one believed her harrowing allegation. The Associated Press recently sat down for an interview with the woman and her boyfriend. The AP isn't identifying the couple due to the allegations.

of sexual abuse. But, in the exclusive interview, they described their chilling experience and said they wanted their story told in hopes of shedding light on an abuse of power scenario they wouldn't wish on anyone. Bond was set at \$10,000 Wednesday for Dereck Johnson on a charge of misconduct in office. He appeared in court without an attorney, and there was no answer at phone listing for him.

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

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

Meg Kinnard

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

The State: Former Orangeburg County deputy arrested on misconduct charges

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article90818782.html>

Cynthia Roldan

A former Orangeburg County Sheriff's deputy is facing misconduct charges after a woman filed a sexual assault complaint against him. The State Law Enforcement Division arrested Dereck Johnson, 35, on Wednesday for misconduct in office, a charge that carries up to 10 years in prison if convicted. Johnson was fired by Sheriff Leroy Ravenell while SLED's investigation was underway. According to the arrest warrant, Johnson responded to a domestic dispute on June 12. While in uniform and on duty, Johnson engaged in a sexual act with the woman whose name is withheld in the warrant. The woman's attorney, state Rep. Justin Bamberg, said, however, the act was not consensual. Johnson allegedly told the woman he would arrest her boyfriend, if she didn't comply with his request, said Bamberg, a Democrat who represents Bamberg, Barnwell and Colleton counties. Her boyfriend was in the patrol car while the alleged assault took place. Bamberg applauded SLED's arrest, but announced he's considering proposing legislation that would mimic an existing Georgia law that criminalizes sexual acts by officers while on duty.

Post and Courier: Richard Valenti denied 19th bid for parole in Folly Beach teen murders

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160720/160729924/richard-valenti-denied-19th-bid-for-parole-in-folly-beach-teen-murders>

Melissa Boughton

A state parole board on Wednesday denied convicted murderer Richard Valenti's 19th bid for parole. Valenti, now 73, is serving two life sentences at Lee Correctional Institution in Bishopville. He was convicted of killing Sherri Clark, 14, and Alexis Ann Latimer, 13, in 1973. Their bodies were found in two shallow graves on Folly Beach more than 10 months after their disappearance. Sherri Clark's sister, Paula Clark Marion, presented a petition with 8,000 signatures to the parole board Wednesday, according to Pete O'Boyle, a spokesman for the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services.

Sun News: Sidney Moorner retrial scheduled for end of August

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article90762352.html>

Elizabeth Townsend

Sidney Moorer, charged in connection with the kidnapping of Heather Elvis, will be retried in August after a hung jury led to a mistrial in June. A scheduling order recently signed by Judge R. Markely Dennis Jr., who presides over the case, reveals Moorer will stand trial again Aug. 29 when jury qualifications begin and the trial then gets under way, according to the court document. Elvis, who was 20 years old when she went missing, disappeared Dec. 18, 2013, and her locked car was soon after discovered at Peachtree Boat Landing – her last known whereabouts, according to testimony at the previous trial. According to the order filed Tuesday, 800 juror summons and questionnaires were mailed Friday and should be sent back by Aug. 15, the document states

Independent Mail: Clemson seeks dismissal of student's lawsuit

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/clemson-seeks-dismissal-of-students-lawsuit-38137d18-77a5-495c-e053-0100007fd3f3-387684311.html>

Kirk Brown

Clemson University is urging a federal judge to dismiss the lawsuit that a student filed last month in an effort to overturn his suspension for sexual misconduct and violations of other rules. In his lawsuit (which you can view by clicking here), a freshman from Charleston identified only as John Doe claims that he was unfairly punished after having consensual sex with a female student who later filed a complaint with university officials. In a response submitted this week, two lawyers for Clemson list 36 reasons why the suit should be dismissed. The student suing Clemson admitted that the female student "was highly intoxicated" when their sexual encounter took place last October, according to the response from Greenville attorneys Charles F. Turner Jr. and Wilson S. Sheldon. The student described the female "at the bad end of being drunk" and he "knew or should have known the risk of his behavior," according to the university's response.

Island Packet: Church pays \$4.5 million to settle Jasper County priest sex abuse suit

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/crime/article90737932.html>

Lucas High

Nearly 30 years ago, a Savannah priest allegedly sexually abused a 13-year-old boy in Jasper County. Now the Roman Catholic Diocese of Savannah is paying \$4.5 million to settle a lawsuit filed by the victim there. Multiple incidents of abuse, allegedly perpetrated by former priest Wayland Brown, happened in Jasper County between August 1987 and May 1988, according to court documents. "Brown transported (the victim) by vehicle to Jasper County, South Carolina, where (he) coerced the minor into sexual touching and intercourse," according to the suit. The alleged victim was a student at St. James Baptist Church and School in Savannah at the time. The suit, filed last year in Jasper County's 14th Circuit Court, alleges that the victim was abused both in South Carolina as well as Chatham County, Ga., until May 1988.

Associated Press: Police: Day care worker had boy take drug test for adult son

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

SC State Wire

Police say they are investigating a day care employee who told an 8-year-old boy to give a urine sample so her adult son could use it to pass a drug test. The Rock Hill Police report said the boy told his mother that he was awakened from a nap last week and told to urinate in a cup. Investigators say the mother called the worker at New Beginnings Childcare, who apologized several times and told her that her son had just got out of jail and couldn't find a job. Police spokesman Mark Bollinger says no charges have been filed, but investigators are reviewing a state law that makes it illegal to defraud

a drug test. No one answered the phone Wednesday at New Beginnings Childcare.

The State: How fast can 911 get to you? The answer is changing in Lexington County

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article90781932.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

Ambulance workers in Lexington County will be getting to some calls faster – and to others, slower – due to a new 911 system being rolled out. The dispatch system, called “ProQA,” aims to standardize questions that dispatchers ask callers, and direct emergency responders to more urgent calls first. This is a change from the previous way of handling things, where 911 calls were addressed in the order they were received, officials said at a news conference Wednesday. What does this mean for a caller? For those suffering from emergencies such as a heart attack, officials say the system will save precious seconds and get an ambulance there more quickly. Those who call with what the system classifies as less urgent matters, such as the common cold or flu symptoms, will have to wait longer. This is an effort to address a continuous increase in call volume. Responders have seen a 20 percent increase in scene calls over the past five years, according to numbers from the county.

Post and Courier: Hospital bans ‘Pokemon Go’ from campus citing patient safety, privacy

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160720/160729956/hospital-bans-pokemon-go-from-campus-citing-patient-safety-privacy>

Lauren Sausser

At least one South Carolina hospital is working with the creators of “Pokemon Go” to disable the game on campus and inside its buildings. An internal email sent to Bon Secours St. Francis employees in Greenville indicates gamers are wandering into the hospital from off the street in search of virtual creatures. They are compromising patient safety and privacy, the hospital argues. The email, recently posted by an employee on Reddit, said Bon Secours St. Francis has banned the game. The restriction applies to hospital employees, patients, visitors and “other individuals who have no legitimate need to be on the campus.” Staff have been asked to report rule-breakers.

Associated Press: Sumter casket company fire causes \$1.5 million in damage

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=BRoM7woV

SC State Wire

A massive fire at a company that makes caskets in South Carolina has caused \$1.5 million in damage. Sumter Fire Department Division Chief Brian Christmas told The Sumter Item (<http://bit.ly/29VaDAc>) that it took firefighters more than 24 hours to extinguish all the hot spots at the Sumter Casket Company after Monday's fire. Christmas says the cause of the fire has not been determined. No one was hurt. Christmas says the company was insured and suffered \$750,000 of damage to the building and \$750,000 in damage to the caskets and other items inside. Sumter Casket Company was founded in 1894.

The State: Animals killed, building total loss in Huntington Beach State Park Nature Center fire

<http://www.thestate.com/news/state/south-carolina/article90740912.html>

An early morning blaze at a Huntington Beach State Park nature center caused the death of animals inside and destroyed the property, authorities said. Midway Fire Rescue crews were called out about 2:34 a.m. Wednesday and found the three-story building engulfed in flames at Huntington Beach State Park at 16148 Ocean Highway, according to Chief Doug Eggiman with Midway Fire Rescue. Fire crews were still on scene investigating and battling hot spots hours after the blaze, authorities said. Several animals, including snakes and small alligators, were inside the center during the big blaze, and Eggiman said there was no way they could have survived the fire.

The State: Water quality problem clearing up, West Columbia says

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article90853212.html>

Tim Flach

The latest problem plaguing West Columbia water is on the way to being corrected, city officials said Wednesday. Initial tests during the past week showed the level of a contaminant has declined to less than half of the maximum allowed by federal standards, city spokeswoman Anna Huffman said. The clean-up under way since July 13 is being overseen by an outside firm brought in to review and solve the situation and is doing daily checks on water quality taken, she said. The job is being handled by Black & Veatch. The water was always safe to drink, officials said. But they warned people with "a severely compromised immune system" to seek medical advice about switching to other sources. West Columbia supplies water to about a fifth of Lexington County's 280,000 residents, officials estimate.

The State: Columbia water workers win national recognition for response during October flood

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article90874317.html>

Rachael Myers Lowe

Four members of the City of Columbia Metro Wastewater treatment plant were recognized for heroic actions that prevented an even larger catastrophe from hitting the city during the October 2015 flood. Ashley Dove, James Foust, Adrian Martin, and Brandon Wilcox were awarded the 2016 Water Heroes Award by the Water Environment Federation (WEF) for actions that prevented raw sewage from pouring "into the river, surrounding neighborhoods and city streets," the news release said. The three day 1,000 year rainfall in October stressed city infrastructure beyond the breaking point in many instances.

National News:

Associated Press: Cruz backers chant 2020 as 2nd White House run possible

<http://bigstory.ap.org/6e535db1301f47789f253be2e94256ef>

Thomas Beaumont and Steve Peoples

To chants of "2020, 2020," Republican Sen. Ted Cruz on Wednesday left open the possibility of a second White House run even as Donald Trump arrived in Cleveland to accept the GOP presidential nomination. "I don't know what the future is going to hold. I don't know what's going to happen," Cruz told his rowdy supporters, many of them cheering another bid. "But what I do know what remains unshakable is my faith in the men and women here." The freshman lawmaker with Texas-size political ambitions has stopped short of a full-throated endorsement of Trump, his bitter primary rival who often mocked him as "Lyn' Ted." Cruz was slated to deliver a prime-time convention speech, but no endorsement was expected. At a rally with some 900 delegates, donors, GOP officials and supporters at a lakeside restaurant, Cruz never mentioned Trump's name during an appearance billed as a "thank you" event for supporters.

Associated Press: The Latest: Secret Service investigating Trump supporter

<http://bigstory.ap.org/f634aaac5b99456883cad03081357bff>

The Secret Service is investigating a prominent Donald Trump supporter who said Hillary Clinton should be "shot for treason." Secret Service spokesman Robert Hoback says the agency is aware of comments made by New Hampshire state Rep. Al Baldasaro. Hoback says the Secret Service "will conduct the appropriate investigation." Baldasaro said Clinton — a former secretary of state who's the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee — should be "put in the firing line and shot for

treason" over the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya, that killed four Americans. Trump campaign spokeswoman Hope Hicks tells NH1 News that Baldasaro doesn't speak for the campaign.

Associated Press: Trump's VP pick takes the stage; Cruz to 'suggest' support

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a91aa3899e5746299b66c2c68c038fe5>

Julie Pace and Jill Colvin

Straining to shore up Republican unity, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence will vouch for Donald Trump's conservative values Wednesday night as he makes his national convention debut as Trump's running mate. But much of the attention will be on Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, a favorite of the right who is yet to endorse Trump. Meanwhile, Trump's campaign was still trying to quiet a plagiarism controversy involving Melania Trump's convention address two nights earlier. A Trump Organization writer took blame for including lines from a Michelle Obama speech in Mrs. Trump's well-received remarks — after 36 hours of campaign denials that there was anything wrong with the overlap. The gulf between Pence's hearty embrace of Trump and Cruz's reluctance was emblematic of the turmoil still roiling the GOP. A day after Trump formally became the presidential nominee, some delegates at state gatherings around Cleveland were still struggling to come to terms with their unorthodox new standard-bearer.

Associated Press: Trump speechwriter apologizes for Melania Trump's speech

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_GOP_2016_CONVENTION_MELANIA_TRUMP?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Stephen Ohlemacher

With Donald Trump's campaign reeling from charges of plagiarism, a speechwriter for his company took the blame and offered to resign over nearly identical passages from Melania Trump's Republican convention speech and Michelle Obama's remarks eight years ago. The speechwriter, however, made it clear that Melania Trump knew that the passages she read to an enthralled convention Monday night had come from Michelle Obama. "A person she has always liked is Michelle Obama," the speechwriter, Meredith McIver, said of Mrs. Trump in a statement Wednesday from the campaign. "Over the phone, she read me some passages from Mrs. Obama's speech as examples. I wrote them down and later included some of the phrasing in the draft that ultimately became the final speech." The controversy hung over the opening days of the GOP convention, overshadowing Mrs. Trump's performance, which was warmly received by those in the convention hall. It also distracted from an event designed to unify Republicans behind the billionaire businessman, while introducing his family to the nation.

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

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

Josh Lederman and Erica Werner

Liar. Garbage. Lock her up. Republicans at their national convention are putting Hillary Clinton on mock trial, declaring her guilty and issuing sentences that include death by firing squad, in a remarkable display of political rhetoric gone wild. Even some Clinton haters say the vitriol has gone too far. The focus on Clinton has sometimes upstaged what's supposed to be a weeklong celebration and promotion of Donald Trump. Instead of extolling the virtues of their nominee, Republicans have turned to increasingly crass slurs against his opponent.

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

to professionalism, manners and humanity in our politicians and citizens?"

Associated Press: Federal immigration court backlog tops 500,000 pending cases

<http://bigstory.ap.org/7b1dc1cdb32740d18ad9c658ebce5f43>

Alicia A. Caldwell

The backlog in the federal immigration court system has eclipsed half a million pending cases, The Associated Press has learned. The Justice Department's Executive Office for Immigration Review said Wednesday there are now 500,051 pending immigration cases in the agency's courts. The backlog has been steadily rising in recent years as the number of unaccompanied children and people traveling as families have been caught crossing the Mexican border illegally. Since 2011 more than 200,000 cases have been added to the court's docket and backlog is likely to continue growing. More than 51,000 people traveling as families and more than 43,000 unaccompanied children, mostly from Honduras, El Salvador or Guatemala, have been caught crossing the border illegally since the start of the budget year in October. Cases of newly arrived immigrants facing deportation have been made a priority, but the backlog still means that many immigrants are likely to face years long delays before a judge makes a final decision on their cases. And while people are waiting to go before a judge, their case could dramatically change, for good or bad.

World News:

Associated Press: Turkey declares 3-month state of emergency after failed coup

<http://bigstory.ap.org/87c9b49d21da45a58c7192b0f05d43ed>

Suzan Fraser And Christopher Torchia

Turkey's president on Wednesday declared a three-month state of emergency following a botched coup attempt, declaring he would rid the military of the "virus" of subversion and giving the government sweeping powers to expand a crackdown that has already included mass arrests and the closure of hundreds of schools. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who was accused of autocratic conduct before the insurrection, said the measure would counter threats to Turkish democracy. Possibly anticipating investor jitters, Erdogan criticized Standard & Poor's for downgrading its credit rating for Turkey deeper into "junk" status and said the country would remain financially disciplined. The president did not announce details, but the security measure could facilitate longer detentions for many of the nearly 10,000 people who have been rounded up since loyalist security forces and protesters quashed the rebellion that started Friday night and was over by Saturday.

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