

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, July 27, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

WCIV: Gov. Haley: Daimler expansion a 'huge thing for SC'

<http://abcnews4.com/news/local/haley-daimler-expansion-a-huge-thing-for-sc>

The ceremony for the Daimler groundbreaking in North Charleston was packed wall-to-wall Wednesday. There was also big news on production and jobs. The \$500 million plant will build Mercedes-Benz and Freightliner vans. It will also bring 1,300 jobs. But the good news doesn't stop with the plant. The Daimler North Charleston facility is expected to also create a need for more than 400 jobs with suppliers. Company officials said 2015 was their best year ever with 321,000 vans sold. They said they expect the North Charleston plant to lead the company into the future. Company officials said the U.S. is the second-largest market in the world for the types of business/transport vans the plant will manufacture.

NOTE: "It's a huge thing for South Carolina to be chosen as the only North American site for a new facility," Governor Nikki Haley said at the ceremony Wednesday. Haley was one of many state level and local leaders in attendance at the event. She thanked current workers for Daimler who made the expansion a possibility, and she said it's South Carolina's job to "wrap our arms around this company and not let go."

WCSC: Mercedes-Benz Vans to break ground on North Charleston plant

<http://www.live5news.com/story/32549632/mercedes-benz-vans-to-break-ground-on-north-charleston-plant>

Aaron Maybin

Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC will write automotive history when it breaks ground on a \$500 million sprinter van plant in North Charleston Wednesday. Officials say the Sprinter plant will be one of the most advanced automobile production sites in North America. "[The plant] represents a big leap to the future of production of Mercedes-Benz Vans in the U.S.," the company said in an emailed statement. A spokesperson says the plant will be an additional 1.1 million square feet, double the size of the existing reassembly facility. It will feature a completely new body shop, paint shop and assembly line. The company also predicts that up to 1,300 positions will need filling by the end of the decade the plant opens. South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley is expected to join higher ups at Mercedes-Benz Vans for the groundbreaking. The event begins at 1 p.m. off of Palmetto Commerce Parkway.

Index-Journal: Election officials certify McCormick County Council petition candidate

<http://www.indexjournal.com/news/Election-officials-certify-McCormick-County-Council-petition-candidate-17512854>

Connor Hughes

Timothy White has been certified as a petition candidate for McCormick County Council after turning in 103 signatures, election officials said Tuesday. White, 49, is challenging incumbent Charles Jennings, a Democrat and current council chairman, for the District 4 seat. White, a small business

owner in McCormick, said he was inspired to run when Gov. Nikki Haley visited the county and encouraged people to get involved with local government. During a luncheon in November, Haley said "the problem with McCormick is you need new county leadership" and explained why the state Department of Commerce rescinded a \$1.2 million grant awarded to the county to build a spec building. "I want to help McCormick become more business friendly," White said. White said he wants to help the county use its natural resources, such as Lake Russell, more effectively. White and his wife, Cynthia, have an 18-year-old daughter, Michelle. Election officials are still certifying two other Lakelands petition candidates -- LeRoy Martin, who is running for McCormick County sheriff, and Willie Callahan Jr., who is running for Abbeville County sheriff.

Huffington Post: Gun Safety Ticket Marks New Era In National Politics

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/john-feinblatt/gun-safety-ticket-marks-new-era-in-national-politics_b_11217122.html

John Feinblatt

Try to imagine — twelve, eight, or even four years ago — a candidate for president citing “fought for common-sense gun reform” and “took on the gun lobby” as the qualifications she or he was looking for in a running mate. Then imagine that potential veep doubling down, and promising not to rest until America closed the loopholes that allow dangerous people to buy guns without a background check. That was the scene last Saturday in Florida, as Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine together sent a clear political signal. For the Clinton-Kaine ticket, saving lives from gun violence is a winning issue. And this new calculus amounts to nothing less than a sea change in how candidates talk about gun safety on the campaign trail. You might remember how nominees and running mates, in both parties, used to talk about this issue. We don't need stronger laws, they said. “We have to enforce the laws we've already got.” The best way to prevent violent crime? Forget the loopholes that let dangerous people buy guns. Instead, “Teach people good discipline, good character.”

NOTE: After Oregon enacted a background check law, a gun lobby attempt to recall four lawmakers who supported it fizzled. Over a dozen states — including Nikki Haley's South Carolina and Wisconsin's Scott Walker — passed strong gun and domestic violence laws with bipartisan support.

Democratic National Convention:

Associated Press: Smaller protests, no marches on convention's Day 3

<http://bigstory.ap.org/80a612afdd6f4946b3d726b9299a9ec5>

Geoff Mulvihill and Megan Trimble

Small protests popped up around downtown Philadelphia on Wednesday and no marches were planned, making for quieter streets on Day 3 of the Democratic convention. Bernie Sanders supporters gathered at a plaza near City Hall, about 4 miles from the convention site, for daylong rallies and speeches. A few hundred had assembled by early afternoon, blasting tunes by “Lean on Me” singer Bill Withers. A few blocks away, police detained 10 protesters at Comcast's corporate headquarters for holding a sit-in accusing the cable giant and NBC owner of not reporting the truth. Officers zip-tied them and briefly closed the 975-foot skyscraper to all but Comcast employees. The demonstrators were ticketed and released. Another group of about a dozen anti-Israel demonstrators protested at a hotel where a number of delegations to the four-day convention were staying. They called for a free Palestine. The absence of marches was a marked change from earlier in the week.

Associated Press: It's Clinton's show, but Trump does his best to steal it

<http://bigstory.ap.org/6ef704cb278b45bd965f7f7fd3f17eeb>

Kathleen Hennessey and Calvin Woodward

It's Hillary Clinton's show, but rival Donald Trump is doing his best to steal it. The Democrats' historic handoff to Clinton is arriving with affection from one ex-president and an endorsement from an outgoing one. But also with a warning: That last glass ceiling isn't shattered yet, and the Republican nominee is a formidable and unpredictable foe. Clinton formally captured the Democratic nomination Tuesday night and declared the barrier keeping women from the presidency nearly broken. Her husband, former President Bill Clinton offered a personal testimonial, and President Barack Obama was on deck to make the case for electing his former secretary of state. But Wednesday morning, Clinton's rival touched off a firestorm with his encouragement of Russia to meddle in U.S. politics. Specifically, he said, "Russia, if you're listening," he'd love to get a look at the thousands of emails Clinton has said she deleted from her tenure as secretary of state.

Associated Press: Trump to Russia: Uncover, release deleted Clinton emails

<http://bigstory.ap.org/3fa49d188cef4c6fb02b45fdad3d9a19>

Eric Tucker and Jack Gillum

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump encouraged Russia to meddle in American politics Wednesday, with a stunning recommendation to uncover and make public hacked emails that might damage his opponent, Hillary Clinton. Shortly after Trump's remarks, his running mate, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, took a different tack and warned of "serious consequences" if Russia interfered in the election. The developments came as Democrats met on the third day of their presidential convention in Philadelphia, where Clinton will claim the party's nomination Thursday night. Trump's extraordinary comments raised the specter of whether he was condoning foreign government hacking of U.S. computers and the public release of information stolen from political adversaries — actions that are at least publicly frowned upon across the globe.

Associated Press: Kaine's mission: Win over skeptical liberals in VP speech

<http://bigstory.ap.org/2075c41fd6324c098e770e821d1729ed>

Ken Thomas and Catherine Lucey

Facing a backlash from the left, Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine is facing pressure to affirm his liberal credentials in his first prime-time speech as Hillary Clinton's running mate. Kaine was speaking Wednesday to the Democratic National Committee as supporters of Clinton's one-time Democratic rival Bernie Sanders warned that Kaine had yet to forcefully oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal. Kaine, a former Virginia governor, was introduced by Clinton last weekend in Miami, where he switched easily between English and Spanish and spoke of his time as a Catholic missionary in Honduras, his work as a civil rights attorney and an education-focused governor who managed a state through tough times. Addressing his home state delegation Wednesday morning, Kaine called the campaign "a civil rights election," panning Republican Donald Trump for mocking disabled people and using "demeaning and offensive language" about women.

The State: Former SC Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer back in the spotlight on CNN

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article92136367.html>

Bristow Marchant

SC viewers tuning in to watch convention coverage on CNN have noticed a familiar face in an unfamiliar place. Andre Bauer, already well-known to Palmetto State residents from his eight years as lieutenant governor, followed by runs for governor and Congress, has reappeared on the cable news network to offer his views of the proceedings as a Republican analyst. It's a role the former politician clearly enjoys. "I'm having a ball," Bauer said in a phone interview before appearing on the network's nightly coverage of the Democratic National Convention – or "occupied territory" as Bauer sees it. "I

can offer a different perspective, a different viewpoint," he said. But at least one Democrat is in Bauer's corner; former SC state Rep. Bakari Sellers, who began appearing on CNN himself last year.

The State: SC Democratic delegates make the front page of the New York Times

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article92118632.html>

Bristow Marchant

Some South Carolina delegates got national attention at the Democratic convention when their photo was chosen to lead Wednesday's New York Times. The Times' photographer captured three women cheering the nomination of Hillary Clinton as the Democrats' presidential choice. Christale Spain, the executive director of the state Democratic Party, Columbia attorney Marguerite Willis and state Sen. Margie Bright-Matthews, D-Colleton. The photo was the talk of social media the morning it appeared.

Post and Courier: How three South Carolina delegates wound up on the front page of The New York Times

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160727/160729464/how-three-south-carolina-delegates-wound-up-on-the-front-page-of-the-new-york-times>

Emma Dumain

On Tuesday afternoon, S.C. Democratic Party Executive Director Christale Spain produced a stack of signs for delegates to wave during that day's session of the Democratic National Convention. Marguerite Willis was drawn to a placard that looked homemade, almost as if it were drawn by a young girl, scribbled in red and blue marker. It only said two words: Girl Power. "I said, 'I want that sign' " Willis, a delegate from 7th Congressional District, recalled Wednesday morning. "I said, 'That's my sign. That's why I came here.' " Willis — a tall, slender woman with close-cropped hair, tortoiseshell glasses and ladybugs embroidered on her shoes — positioned herself in her assigned seat in the Wells Fargo Arena, which is in the front row of the risers and runs flush to the main thoroughfare on the convention floor. As excitement built around the roll call vote to nominate Hillary Clinton as the party's presidential nominee, reporters, photographers and other delegates passing through from one point to another stopped to admire the sign. At least a dozen journalists interviewed Willis. Several dozen pictures were taken. And that's how Willis and her sign ended up on the front page of Wednesday's editions of The New York Times, accompanying the headline, "Democrats Make Clinton Historic Nominee." The Post and Courier also featured the photo on the front page.

The State: Trump's 'red flag' rhetoric: 'Everybody in the South knows what it means'

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article92120492.html>

Steven Porter

Democratic delegates from South Carolina and Louisiana gave a particularly enthusiastic response Wednesday morning to New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, who spoke during breakfast about red-flag rhetoric in Donald Trump's presidential campaign. Landrieu said his ears perk up whenever Trump says he wants to restore America to what it once was. "That's not a dog whistle, that's a train coming down the track. Everybody in the South knows what it means to say, 'Let's be great again,'" Landrieu said. "The first question I have is, 'Exactly when were you talking about? And where were you living when things were so good?'" The crowd clapped and cheered as Landrieu said he'd rather build a better future for Americans than return them to a purported golden era of the past. "I want you to come with me. I want you to come with Hillary Clinton. And let me tell you where we're going: we're going that way," Landrieu added, pointing emphatically. "We're going to the future. We're going to where America's best days are ahead." Before he could finish his remarks amid thunderous

applause, the crowd was standing and shouting in agreement.

The State: 'Black Lives' and the glass ceiling highlight Day 2 at the convention

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article92105987.html>

Beverly Frierson

The fact that "Black Lives Matter" was visually emphasized when "Mothers of the Movement" appeared on stage dressed either in black and white or all black, Tuesday evening. Each mother's outfit was accented by a huge red rose. To me, those roses symbolize the blood that has been shed and will be shed in the future until we acknowledge what the mother of Sandra Bland said, "A loss of any life diminishes all of us." The mother of Jordan Davis offered a part of the solution: "We must keep building communities where police officers and the community work together." Trayvon Martin's mother offered another part of the solution: "We must adopt common sense gun legislation." Wednesday morning, one of South Carolina's breakfast speakers spoke about how the term "Black Lives Matter" makes some people uncomfortable. She offered this analogy, "Yes, it is true that all lives matter, but if you live in a house that catches on fire and you ignore the fire, soon when you look to your left and to your right, those houses will be on fire too."

The State: Clinton's SC organizer now helping run her Florida campaign

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article92131027.html>

Avery G. Wilks

The organizer who engineered Hillary Clinton's landslide S.C. primary victory in February now is working on the Democratic nominee's campaign in swing-state Florida. Clay Middleton, a former aide to U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-Columbia, has been named the regional political director for Clinton's north Florida campaign. "It's no secret that South Carolina has a different role in the general election compared to the primary," Middleton said. "For me, going to a battleground state like Florida and being able to help is a plus." Middleton was Clinton's S.C. state director, helping the former secretary of state defeat U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont by nearly 50 percentage points.

Post and Courier: South Carolina Democrats ready for Day 3 of DNC, live from Philadelphia

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160727/160729459/south-carolina-democrats-ready-for-day-3-of-dnc-live-from-philadelphia>

Emma Dumain

12:30 p.m.: The South Carolina delegation was abuzz on Wednesday morning with the discovery that the New York Times ran a front-page, above-the-fold photo of three Palmetto State delegates to the Democratic National Convention: S.C. Democratic Party Executive Director Christale Spain, Marguerite Willis and State Sen. Margie Bright Matthews. The photo was taken on the floor of the Wells Fargo Arena on Tuesday night after Hillary Clinton officially became the first woman to be nominated to lead a major party ticket. At the South Carolina and Louisiana delegation breakfasts, speakers included Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, and former Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter. South Carolinians will reconvene at 4 p.m. when the third session of the DNC commences. This evening, Polly Sheppard and Felicia Sanders, two survivors of the Mother Emanuel AME Church massacre, will speak on the DNC main stage. They are scheduled to speak sometime between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m., after actress Angela Bassett and before Gabby Giffords and her husband Mark Kelly. Giffords, like Sheppard and Sanders, had her life changed by gun violence. Then a U.S. Democratic Congresswoman from Arizona, she was almost killed by a gunman during a district event in 2011 and is still in recovery.

SC Political News:

The State: SLED chief, SC senator clash over legalizing medical pot

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article91957527.html>

Cassie Cope

S.C. Law Enforcement Chief Mark Keel told a highway safety conference Tuesday that he opposes the legalization of marijuana — for medical or recreational use. Legalizing marijuana leads to more traffic fatalities, crime, emergency room admissions, teen use and disciplinary problems at schools, Keel told Transportation Department employees and law enforcement officers. Keel's stance puts him at odds with a libertarian state senator who is pushing for South Carolina to legalize medical pot. Keel said legalizing medical pot leads to abuse as consumers search out doctors willing to prescribe the drug, pay a fee and, with minimal consultation, get a prescription. It is difficult to control how a legal product is diverted once it is in the hands of the purchaser, the SLED chief added.

Associated Press: Poll log shows former NC lawmaker didn't vote in SC too

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=D6tpd7PQ

SC State Wire

Officials in South Carolina say a poll worker's mistake made it appear former North Carolina Rep. Charles Jeter voted twice in the November 2004 election. The South Carolina Election Commission released the poll log from Jeter's Greenville County, South Carolina, precinct. It shows a Helen Jeter signed her name on the line for Charles Jeter, while Charles Jeter's signature is not on the list. Charles Jeter had moved to Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, but his name had not been taken off the South Carolina voter rolls. Election records from North Carolina show Jeter voted there in 2004. Jeter denied voting in both states on Monday, the same day he announced he was resigning from office and removing his name from this fall's ballot to spend more time with his family.

WIS: Secessionist group wants to rent land to place flags on state highways

<http://www.wistv.com/story/32555268/secessionist-group-wants-to-rent-land-to-place-flags-on-state-highways>

Jeremy Turnage

A group of pro-secession South Carolinians is seeking ways to rent land alongside state highways in hopes of dotting "South Carolina with the proud symbol of [their] Confederate forebears." On a post on their Facebook page, the South Carolina Secessionist Party says they want to rent this land to place Confederate flags on state highways in protest of the state's removal of the flag from the State House grounds last year. To make this happen, the group has started a \$10,000 fundraiser. "This is not a cheap endeavor, and we need your help to get the job done," the fundraising page says. So far, they have raised only \$285.

SC after Police Shootings:

The State: Commission creates task force to study how prosecutors nationwide investigate cop crimes

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article92115787.html>

Cynthia Roldan

South Carolina's solicitors have voted to create a task force to study how prosecutors nationwide investigate and prosecute cases in which a law enforcement officer is suspected of a crime. South

Carolina Commission on Prosecution Coordination Chairman Duffie Stone said Wednesday prosecutors have been discussing for a while wanting to know the ways each of the state's solicitors and prosecutors nationwide investigate police-related crime. The goal is to determine whether there should be a statewide uniform approach on investigating any case in which an officer is the suspect, not just officer-involved shootings. "I think that it's important for everybody to know what the process is more than just dealing with the individual cases," Stone said. Commission members agreed to create four task force subgroups to tackle whether legislators are filing bills or plan to submit legislation involving police and crime; the current process of how solicitors in South Carolina and nationwide investigate cases; potential conflicts and liability solicitors face when investigating cases in which a law enforcement officer is the suspect; and how prosecutors handle the cases.

Associated Press: A look at recent police deaths involving black men

<http://bigstory.ap.org/3a5834d3ef4b4700a77b6e804aac37ca>

Freddie Gray, a young black man, entered a police van in April 2015 — shackled, but alive. He died a week later, his neck snapped during what turned out to be a deadly 44-minute ride that sparked riots and a nationwide debate over race and policing. However, prosecutors said Wednesday that they were dropping charges against the remaining Baltimore police officers awaiting trial, ending their case without a conviction against any of the six who were initially charged. Gray's family agreed to a \$6.4 million settlement with the city over his death in September 2015. Here is a look at other cases involving officers charged in the deaths of black men...

NOTE: Michael Slager faces up to 30 years in prison if convicted of murder in the shooting death of Walter Scott, who was shot and killed running from a traffic stop in North Charleston, South Carolina, in April 2015. Scott was unarmed. The shooting was captured on cellphone video by a man passing by and reignited the debate over how blacks are treated by law enforcement officers. Slager, 34, who is white, was fired by the North Charleston Police Department and stands trial in October.

Opinion/Editorial:

Washington Post : What it's like to be long-term unemployed

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/what-its-like-to-be-long-term-unemployed/2016/07/27/5c7422a6-540c-11e6-b7de-dfe509430c39_story.html

Opinion

Columnists get complaints. After my most recent column (which argued that maybe the economy is better than we say), I got one from Alice Lang of Spartanburg, S.C. She accused me (politely) of ignoring the long-term unemployed, of which she is one. After our conversation, I asked her to put her thoughts in an email. Here's what she wrote, slightly edited. It's a powerful counterpoint for me and, I think, for readers. (Note: Lang, an advocate for the long-term unemployed, made similar complaints to a Forbes columnist in 2015.) It's hard not to be moved. But it's also worth remembering that the employment situation has improved. The basic statistics are these: In June, there were nearly 2 million workers who had been unemployed for more than 27 weeks — the usual definition of "long-term" joblessness, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That was about a quarter of the 7.8 million unemployed. Both figures were down from their peaks. In April 2010, the long-term unemployed totaled 6.8 million, about 44 percent of the 15.3 million then unemployed. Still, the numbers are meaningless if you can't find a job.

South Carolina News:

The Herald : State OKs plan to drain Whitewater Center water into Catawba River

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article92088557.html>

Bruce Henderson and Fred Clasen Kelly

State environmental officials announced Wednesday they have approved a plan that would take water from the U.S. National Whitewater Center suspected in the death of a teenager and drain it into the Catawba River. Under the plan, authorities would treat about 6 million gallons of water that contains the potentially deadly *Naegleria fowleri* amoeba with chlorine. Then they would remove the chlorine once the parasite is inactivated and dump the water into the Catawba River. "We are confident that the extensive monitoring requirements in the discharge plan will protect water quality in the Catawba River," said Tom Reeder, assistant secretary of the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality. "It's important to remember that the amoeba is naturally occurring in lakes and rivers, but after review by many stakeholders we believe this plan offers the best possible protections for public health and the environment." Some local government officials and residents have expressed worries about putting the water in local waterways because the amoeba can cause deadly infections. Infections are extremely rare but nearly always fatal.

Greenville News: Zika funds help SC monitor for virus

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/07/27/zika-funds-help-sc-monitor-virus/87618124/>

Liv Osby

South Carolina will use the \$1.4 million in Zika virus funds just awarded by the federal government to conduct surveillance and control of mosquitoes, to monitor pregnant women and enhance laboratory capabilities. The funds, from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, are welcome since the state Department of Health and Environmental Control had no extra money to combat Zika, said Dr. Linda Bell, state epidemiologist. "The funds are welcome because this is an emerging infection and we did not have existing funding to do all these enhanced surveillance activities," she told The Greenville News Wednesday. "This will enhance our capacity to do all those activities."

Local News:

Associated Press: Deputies still investigating child who found gun, shot self

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=S9Vqh6vy

SC State Wire

Lexington County deputies continue to investigate after a 3-year-old who shot herself at a home died in the hospital five days after she was wounded. Lexington County Coroner Margaret Fisher identified the girl as Brooklyn Samiya Davis. She died Saturday. Deputies have released little information about the July 18 shooting. An incident report includes no details about what happened. The department has only said it was an accidental shooting and they continue to try to figure out how the child got the gun. No arrests have been made.

Associated Press: Time is money: Delays in teacher appeals costing taxpayers

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5eaJQ5MO

SC State Wire

Delays in hearing teacher appeals by the Charleston County School Board are costing taxpayers in South Carolina's second-largest school district hundreds of thousands of dollars. During the past three years, the district has spent almost \$650,000 because of delays hearing state-mandated appeals for 15 teachers whose contracts were not renewed. That prompted the school board to vote Monday night to continue to use third-party hearing officers to stand in for board members during the appeals. "I think it's been a great change," school board member Kate Darby told The Post and Courier of Charleston (<http://bit.ly/29YtsV2>). A majority of the nine-member board must gather to hear

the appeals and sometimes months went by before enough members could gather. Board members would only receive their standard per-meeting pay of \$25 for the hearings that resemble court proceedings with lawyers for both sides and witnesses testifying and can take several hours.

The State: Baseball Digest names new Columbia stadium Baseball Park of the Year

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article91959082.html>

Jeff Wilkinson

Spirit Communications Park, home of the Columbia Fireflies, has been named Ballpark of the Year by Baseball Digest. "Spirit Communications Park is not only our Ballpark of the Year, it's also one of the best ballparks opened in the last decade," Ballpark Digest Publisher Kevin Reichard said. In a few months, the baseball played at Columbia's new \$37-million, mostly taxpayer funded park could be augmented by football. Fireflies president John Katz told The State on Tuesday that the team is negotiating with several high school teams for single-game events this season. The park's right field wall stretches to 330 feet from home plate – "rather long for a minor league park," he said – to accommodate both football and soccer fields. "The goal is for multiple schools to play a game here," Katz said. "And some form of soccer in the spring. It's also designed for concerts, and we're working on that, too." "The goal is for multiple schools to play a game here," Katz said. "And some form of soccer in the spring. It's also designed for concerts, and we're working on that, too."

Associated Press: Riding the rails: \$10M grant to upgrade Carolinas short line

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

SC State Wire

A \$10 million federal grant will be used to upgrade a short line railroad connecting Horry County, South Carolina, and Columbus County, North Carolina. U.S. Rep. Tom Rice announced in a news release Tuesday that the money from the U.S. Transportation Department has been awarded to Horry County. The railroad connects Mullins, South Carolina and Chadbourn, North Carolina, and was bought by the R.J. Corman Railroad Group last year. It was previously operated as the Carolina Southern which had to shutter operations five years ago because bridges along the line failed to meet federal standards. Corman vice president Bill Henderson told The Sun News of Myrtle Beach (<http://bit.ly/2a4fAUU>) that the improvements will allow the railroad to work with local economic development officials to attract more business for the line.

The State: How should Columbia spend \$20 million flood recovery grant?

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article92112497.html>

Sarah Ellis

The public will help decide how Columbia might spend nearly \$20 million on projects to help the city recover from October's historic flooding. The city is hosting a pair of public input meetings for residents to voice their opinions on how to spend \$19.9 million awarded to the city by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for ongoing flood recovery. The meetings are: Thursday, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Edisto Discovery Park, 1914 Wiley St. Aug. 25, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Drew Wellness Center, 2101 Walker Solomon Way. The HUD grant can be used to help resolve unmet housing, economic development and infrastructure needs in the wake of the flood. HUD requires that 70 percent of the overall benefit of the grant must go toward low- to moderate-income households.

Post and Courier: Boeing's second-quarter loss, tied to Dreamliner charge, beats analysts' predictions

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160727/160729507/boeings-second-quarter-loss-tied-to->

[dreamliner-charge-beats-analysts-predictions](#)

David Wren

Boeing Co. on Wednesday reported a second-quarter loss of 44 cents per share on revenue of \$24.8 billion, beating analysts' expectations despite a \$2.05 billion charge the company announced last week related in part to its 787 Dreamliner program. Analysts had predicted a loss of 92 cents per share. All told, the aerospace giant recorded a \$419 million loss for the quarter compared with a nearly \$1.7 billion gain for the same period a year ago. Operating cash flow declined by 2 percent year-over-year to \$3.2 billion. "The underlying operating performance of the company remains solid with our commercial and defense teams again delivering strong revenues and operating cash flow," Dennis Muilenburg, Boeing's chairman, president and CEO, said in a statement. "Actions taken during the quarter that impacted our earnings were the right, proactive steps to reduce risk and strengthen our position for the future. Our strong cash generation also supported our ongoing commitment to invest in product innovation and in our people, and return substantial cash to shareholders through stock repurchases and dividends."

National News:

Associated Press: Prosecutors drop all remaining charges in Freddie Gray case

<http://bigstory.ap.org/2c54b7b0e68741e09a04683b86ede5f7>

Juliet Linderman

Prosecutors on Wednesday dropped all remaining charges against the three Baltimore police officers who were still awaiting trial in Freddie Gray's death, blaming police for a biased investigation that failed to produce a single conviction. The decision means that no one will be held criminally responsible for the death of Gray, a 25-year-old black man whose neck was broken while he was unrestrained in the back of a police van in April 2015. A judge had already acquitted three other officers, including the van driver who prosecutors considered the most responsible and another officer who was the highest-ranking of the group. A mistrial was declared for a fourth officer when a jury deadlocked. Gray's death added fuel to the growing Black Lives Matter movement, set off massive protests in the city and led to the worst riots that Baltimore had seen in decades.

Associated Press: Judge: Reagan shooter can leave hospital to live in Virginia

<http://bigstory.ap.org/4ed1aa2dac79437b87f80b42e9aabc24>

Ben Nuckols

More than 35 years after he tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan in an effort to impress actress Jodie Foster, John Hinckley Jr. will be allowed to leave a Washington mental hospital and live full time with his mother in Virginia, a federal judge ruled Wednesday. Judge Paul Friedman wrote that Hinckley — who currently spends more than half his days at his mother's home — is ready to live full time in the community. Friedman granted Hinckley leave from the hospital starting no sooner than Aug. 5. Doctors have said for many years that Hinckley, 61, who was found not guilty by reason of insanity in the shooting, is no longer plagued by the mental illness that drove him to shoot Reagan. Three others were wounded in the March 30, 1981, shooting outside a Washington hotel, including Reagan's press secretary, James Brady, who suffered debilitating injuries and died in 2014. The shooting endangered Reagan's life, but he recovered after undergoing emergency surgery. He died in 2004 at age 93.

World News:

Associated Press: Chilling details of France church attack as hostage speaks

<http://bigstory.ap.org/f526a44373a740c29e05253ea6788acb>

Sylvie Corbet

More horrifying details emerged Wednesday about an attack on a French village church even as the country's main religious leaders sent a message of unity and solidarity after meeting with President Francois Hollande in Paris. Two attackers took five hostages Tuesday at the church in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray in northwest France and slit the throat of the elderly priest saying morning Mass. A nun at the Mass slipped out to raise the alarm and both attackers, one of them a local man, were then killed by police outside the church. Emotions in France that were raw after a July 14 truck attack in Nice that killed 84 people became more frazzled after the church in Normandy was attacked. Both deadly attacks were claimed by the Islamic State group. With the attack threat for the country ranked extremely high, Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said France is working to protect 56 remaining summer events and may consider cancelling some. Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said 4,000 members of the Sentinel military force will patrol Paris, while 6,000 will patrol in the provinces. They are being bolstered by tens of thousands of police and reservists.

Associated Press: Turkey fires 1,700 officers, closes dozens of media groups

<http://bigstory.ap.org/f1f5752056e7430eba4af64a5be4dd18>

Christopher Torchia

Turkey's state run news agency says close to 1,700 officers have been formally discharged from the military following the country's failed coup. Anadolu Agency also says the government has decided to close down dozens of media organizations, including 45 newspapers and 16 television stations. The government says a U.S.-based Muslim cleric is behind the failed uprising by a faction within the military that led to some 290 deaths on July 15. Thousands have been detained for suspected links to the coup. Tens of thousands have also been purged from state institutions.

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Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044