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Subject: Morning Clips – Friday, July 29, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Forbes: A Third-Generation Bike Business Is Trying To Bring Manufacturing Back To The U.S.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestreptalks/2016/07/28/a-third-generation-bike-business-is-trying-to-bring-manufacturing-back-to-the-u-s/#177531951969>

Amy Feldman

Nearly two years ago, Kent International CEO Arnold Kamler opened a bicycle factory in Manning, S. C., the first major bike plant built in the U.S. in decades. Bike makers, including Kent, one of the nation's largest with revenues of more than \$200 million, fled this country for Asia in the 1980s and 1990s. Kent makes mass-market bikes, most of which sell for \$69 to \$199, at Walmart, Target, Toys R Us and Amazon. Kamler, 66, says that when he left the U.S. in 1991, he thought he'd never come back. But times changed as Walmart – which accounts for roughly half the more than 15 million bikes sold in this country – pushed its “buy American” campaign and the costs of manufacturing in China kept rising. For now, Kent's Bicycle Corporation of America division is assembling the bikes in South Carolina, but Kamler hopes long-term to manufacture the frames, forks and handlebars in the U.S. as well. In a conversation that's been edited and condensed, I spoke with Kamler about his hopes for the South Carolina factory, his struggle to get parts made in the U.S. and why he bought out Mark Cuban's stake in a balance bike startup that had appeared on “Shark Tank.”

NOTE: Feldman: You didn't think it would happen? **Kamler:** I didn't really think it would, but I'm always willing to consider new possibilities. Then I got an email from the bicycle buyer, and he said, “Arnold would you like to meet the governor of South Carolina, Nikki Haley?” So I had a meeting with Governor Haley, and she's very dynamic, a salesman's salesman. We were talking for a few minutes, and she looks at me and says, “Arnold, we have an airplane factory in South Carolina and a couple of car factories and truck tire factories. I want to tell the kids we have a bike factory in South Carolina.” And then she wrote down her cellphone number.

The State: Millions in tax credits available in SC school-choice program

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article92467232.html>

Jamie Self

More than \$7 million in S.C. tax credits are up for grabs in the state's private-school choice program. Taxpayers are eligible for the credits if they donate to a state program to help children with disabilities pay private-school tuition or if they pay that tuition out of their own pocket. As of Thursday, a new nonprofit, recently formed by the state, had received about \$3.8 million in donations for the school-choice grants. Taxpayers who donate to the nonprofit can claim a tax credit reducing their state taxes owed by up to 60 percent. The state offers up to \$10 million in credits for donations to the program. The state also is offering \$2 million in credits to taxpayers who pay private-school tuition out of pocket for children with disabilities. As of Thursday, taxpayers had claimed about \$790,000 in those credits.

NOTE: Senate Finance chairman Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, appoints two members with the advice of the S.C. Independent Schools Association. And Gov. Nikki Haley appoints one member

with input from the Palmetto Association of Christian Schools. The board still must appoint an executive director who will drive fundraising efforts.

Democratic National Convention:

Associated Press: Promoting national unity, Clinton also seeks to build trust

<http://bigstory.ap.org/8bf4e9545336409aa411b5f692271317>

Lisa Lerer

Hillary Clinton capped off a four-day convention celebration with a plea for national unity and tolerance. Now, one of the most divisive and distrusted figures in American political life must convince voters that she rather than Republican rival Donald Trump can bring a deeply divided nation together. "I know that at a time when so much seems to be pulling us apart, it can be hard to imagine how we'll ever pull together again," Clinton said to a rapt Democratic convention audience. "But I'm here to tell you tonight - progress is possible." After a convention speech aimed squarely at undercutting Trump, the first female presidential nominee heads off on a bus tour through two Rust Belt battlegrounds, Ohio and Pennsylvania. The shoot-from-the-hip billionaire believes he can make headway in those states with blue-collar white men, a demographic that has eluded Clinton and was unlikely to be swayed by a convention that heavily celebrated racial and gender diversity.

Associated Press: Police, protesters at DNC praised for restraint, courtesy

<http://bigstory.ap.org/42ca7e33e2a24416a189ec0e7930221f>

Geoff Mulvihill and Kristen De Groot

They came. They protested. They got their message out. And now that they're headed home, thousands of protesters who came to Philadelphia for the Democratic National Convention say they're leaving in peace thanks to a hands-off approach by police that led to fewer than a dozen arrests over four days of demonstrations. "This is what it looks like when you just let people get their message out: lots of expression and very little conflict," said Mary Catherine Roper, deputy legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania. The police, instead of hauling demonstrators off to jail as they did 16 years ago when Republicans gathered in the city, issued those who crossed the line \$50 tickets for disorderly conduct and released them with complimentary bottles of water. Demonstrators, who largely turned out to support Bernie Sanders, were careful to pick up after themselves and wore hats embroidered with a dove to remind everyone to remain peaceful.

Associated Press: Minority Dem delegates frustrated with 'Bernie or Bust'

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=yYNzf9JE

SC State Wire

As most Democrats rally around Hillary Clinton, the lingering "Bernie or Bust" movement is stirring frustration at the party's convention among delegates of color, who say they're upset at the refusal of the Vermont senator's most fervent backers to fall in line. "I am so exhausted by it," said Danielle Adams, a black Clinton delegate from North Carolina. "I think there are undercurrents of privilege that concern me." Adams is among those who say the "Never Hillary" crowd, a group that is largely younger and white, isn't considering the struggles black Americans still face every day. And, they argue, how the nation's ethnic and racial minorities may be affected by a Donald Trump presidency.

NOTE: Maryland Rep. Elijah Cummings, an African-American and close ally of Clinton, was telling the story of his late father - a share-cropper in South Carolina - on the convention's first day when Sanders supporters started chanting "No TPP" and holding up signs opposing the trade pact.

NOTE: "At the end of the day, (Sanders') coalition looked too much like a modern day Woodstock, and not enough like the Obama coalition it takes to win the primaries and the general," said Boyd

Brown, a Democratic National Committeeman from South Carolina who supported former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley.

McClatchy DC: Clyburn: Make America great again – by electing Clinton

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/election/article92493332.html>

Vera Bergengruen and Steven Porter

The final night of the Democratic National Convention on Thursday featured heavy representation from the Palmetto State, with U.S. Rep Jim Clyburn, South Carolina Democratic Party Chairman Jaime Harrison and former state Rep. Bakari Sellers making the case for Hillary Clinton just hours before she stood on stage herself. "As a father of three daughters and grandfather of two adorable granddaughters, I am proud to stand before you as we prepare for the ultimate opportunity, to smash the glass ceiling by nominating for president of the United States the person who is the most qualified, experienced than anyone ever up for the job," Clyburn told the crowd of cheering delegates. "If there is one thing I know about Hillary Clinton, it is this: She is a fighter," he said. "In my home state of South Carolina, we often say that you can best tell what a person will do by looking at what he or she has done," he said. "Hillary Clinton has always worked to advance our nation's pursuit of a more perfect union." He also praised Clinton for recognizing the need to take "effective action" on income inequality, embracing the Congressional Black Caucus' 10-20-30 plan to target impoverished communities. It calls for at least 10 percent of rural development investments to go to communities where 20 percent or more of the population have lived below the poverty line for the past 30 years.

WACH: SC Democratic Chair to focus on "New South" in DNC address

<http://wach.com/news/local/sc-democratic-chair-to-focus-on-new-south-in-dnc-address>

Brian McConchie

South Carolina Democratic Party chairman Jaime Harrison says he intends to tell the American people about his vision of the "New South" during a Thursday address at the Democratic National Convention. Harrison is scheduled to speak at the convention Thursday evening. Congressman Jim Clyburn and former state lawmaker Bakari Sellers are also scheduled to address the convention on its final day. The party chair says the focus of his speech will be on the Democratic Party's vision of the New South. Without revealing the details of his speech, Harrison says that vision is in stark contrast to Republican Governor Nikki Haley's view. Here is the full transcript of Harrison's speech at the DNC...

Island Packet: Case of the blues: SC's red-state status a challenge for liberals

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/state/south-carolina/article92497107.html>

Brianna Spause

When the lights turn low, a star-studded lineup of speakers inspires passion and over 50,000 Democrats join forces to unite their party, there's no place Melissa Watson would rather be. "It's intimate," the South Carolina delegate said about the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia this week. "When you're in a red state, you need this." Watson, an Army Reserve veteran and 2nd vice chair of the S.C. Democratic Party, said she and her fellow South Carolinians are heading home from the convention to face a familiar challenge — being blue in a red state. Watson said she has always stood on the minority side — as a woman, an African-American and a Democrat in the state of South Carolina, which has been under Republican-majority control since 2003. "It's always hard to stand out and say that I have a different set of values," Watson said. "But you have to do what you have to do because it feels right, and at the end of the day, it comes out in the wash."

NOTE: The party has had a little success negotiating budget impasses, like the roads bill from the past legislative session that is awaiting Republican Gov. Nikki Haley's signature. The \$4 million bill

allocates funds to replace 400 bridges, repair the Midland's "Malfunction Junction" and give Haley more control of the Transportation Department. The budget accounts for 10 percent of the funds needed to repair the state's public roads. "We're tired of this," Harrison said. "These are basic necessities that the people of South Carolina are not enjoying at this time. All of those things could be solved if we had visionary leadership to do it."

Greenville News: Some SC Dems will campaign for Clinton in swing states

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/07/28/some-sc-dems-campaign-clinton-swing-states/87658464/>

Brian Tumulty

Some of the South Carolina Democrats who helped nominate Hillary Clinton at their party's national convention this week plan to campaign for her in North Carolina and other neighboring battleground states ahead of the November election. "I will go wherever we need to go to win," said Mal Hart of St. Matthews in Calhoun County, a semi-retired marketer and a Clinton delegate. Some of Hart's fellow South Carolina Democrats, though, believe that staying home to campaign for Clinton could help turn the Palmetto State turn from red to blue this election. The last Democratic presidential candidate to win in South Carolina was Jimmy Carter in 1976. The state is not among the 14 listed as battleground states by the polling website RealClearPolitics. But it is considered a "pink state" that could vote Democratic if Clinton wins by a lopsided margin nationwide. South Carolina Democratic Party Chairman Jaime Harrison expects to take both approaches, "We'll go to battleground states, but we'll also be in our own state, which is also going to be a battleground," Harrison said. "We have a lot of contested races, particularly on the local level." At the same time, South Carolina Democrats "will try to help our brothers and sisters in North Carolina, Georgia and Florida," he said.

Post and Courier: Several S.C. speakers share spotlight

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160728/160729363/several-sc-speakers-share-spotlight>

Emma Dumain

For close observers of South Carolina Democratic politics, Thursday night's lineup at the Democratic National Convention couldn't have been more perfect. First up on the main stage was Bakari Sellers, a former state representative, 2014 candidate for lieutenant governor, attorney and prolific on-air contributor to CNN. Directly following him was Jaime Harrison, chairman of the S.C. Democratic Party and the only state party chairman to address the convention this year. And later that evening was U. S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, the 76-year-old South Carolina Democrat and political legend who both Sellers and Harrison could someday succeed. Sellers, 31, and Harrison, 40, were surprised to learn they were scheduled back to back on the final night of the convention, and they dismissed the idea that there was any competition between them. "People try to make Jaime and I out to be some sort of rivals for the state and the party and the future, but I don't think they truly understand my admiration for Jaime and our brotherly friendship," Sellers said earlier Thursday. "I'll probably pause as soon as I walk off the stage just to enjoy his words."

Aiken Standard: Aiken residents reflect on emotional night at Democratic National Convention

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160728/160729523/aiken-residents-reflect-on-emotional-night-at-democratic-national-convention>

Dede Biles

Two survivors of a shooting that claimed the lives of nine black participants in Bible study class at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston last year spoke during the Democratic National Convention on Wednesday night. Polly Sheppard and Felicia Sanders discussed the healing power of forgiveness and the importance of taking steps to stop gun violence after actress Angela Bassett introduced them

in the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia. "For them to be given that platform to talk about what was in their hearts was beautiful," said Aiken's Ra Shad Gaines, who is a South Carolina delegate. "I hope that every South Carolinian who watched it on television was just as proud as I was to be a South Carolinian at that moment." Aiken City Council member Lessie Price, who is a member of the convention's Credentials Committee, also was deeply moved. "It was a time of sadness, but also there was joy in seeing the victims' families, who had suffered such a tremendous loss, honored in this way," she said. "People were touched by it, naturally. There were a lot of tears in the room."

SC Political News:

Post and Courier: State representatives' call to prayer event brings together diverse crowd, addresses gun reform

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160728/160729361/state-representatives-call-to-prayer-event-brings-together-diverse-crowd-addresses-gun-reform>

Melissa Boughton

If there's one thing a black Democrat and a white Republican can agree on, it's the power of prayer. State Reps. Wendell Gilliard, D-Charleston, and Chip Limehouse, R-Charleston, joined forces Thursday night to bring the community together for a call to prayer in Marion Square. It was spurred by the recent killings of police officers and black men. "There can be no social change without economic justice for all," Gilliard said. "That's what we have to preach and teach. No police officer that wears a badge has a right to lose their life unjustly. No black man, no matter what he's doing, has the right to lose their life unjustly. We are all one in the eyes of God." There were about 60 people of all ages and races at the event, many holding signs to bring attention to gun violence and wearing shirts declaring their political beliefs. Several community leaders spoke about common sense gun reform, such as closing what has become known as the "Charleston loophole," and banning semi-automatic high-capacity magazine weapons. They also prayed and spoke about the mass shooting last year at Emanuel AME Church.

SC Agency News:

Post and Courier : S.C. DOT corruption probe snares four

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160728/160729380/sc-dot-corruption-probe-snares-four>

Gavin Jackson

Three former S.C. Department of Transportation employees and a contractor were indicted by the state grand jury on corruption allegations involving contract work, according to the state Attorney General's Office. The former employees were based at the District 1 DOT offices in Columbia and were indicted last week in three different kickback schemes. The indictments remained under seal until Thursday. DOT Secretary Christy Hall acknowledged the indictments of the former employees following a lengthy investigation. "DOT has zero tolerance for wrongdoing of any kind and wishes to express its appreciation for the hard work of both the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) and the SC Attorney General's Office," Hall said in a statement. DOT District 1 is based in Columbia and encompasses Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Richland, Sumter counties.

Greenville News: Former SC DOT officials indicted on corruption charges

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/07/28/former-sc-dot-officials-indicted-corruption-charges/87665246/>

Tim Smith

Three former state Department of Transportation officials received bribes, kickbacks or otherwise

financially benefited from their jobs, state indictments unsealed Thursday alleged. State Attorney General Alan Wilson announced five indictments against four men as part of a corruption probe at DOT. Three of those indicted held positions at the agency, while the fourth, according to the indictments, was a neighbor of one who agreed to set up a private company that then did business with DOT. The acts alleged in the indictments stretched back for years. The state grand jury indicted the men on June 22 but the indictments were kept under seal until Thursday. "SCDOT has zero tolerance for wrongdoing of any kind and wishes to express its appreciation for the hard work of both the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) and the SC Attorney General's Office," Secretary of Transportation Christy Hall said in a statement.

Aiken Standard: Christy Hall: SCDOT has 'zero tolerance for wrong doing' following grand jury indictments

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160728/160729548/christy-hall-scdot-has-x2018zero-tolerance-for-wrong-doingx2019-following-grand-jury-indictments->

South Carolina's Attorney General Alan Wilson announced Thursday a state grand jury has indicted four people in connection to allegations of corruption that occurred at the S.C. Department of Transportation. The indictments were issued on June 22, but were under seal until Thursday, according to a statement from the Attorney General's Office. In a statement posted to their website, DOT said the agency acknowledges the indictments of three former employees. Secretary of Transportation Christy Hall said, "SCDOT has zero tolerance for wrongdoing of any kind and wishes to express its appreciation for the hard work of both the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) and the SC Attorney General's Office."

Associated Press: Major Upstate bridge reopens more than 2 weeks early

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1chcl5F1

SC State Wire

Transportation officials say a major bridge over the Broad River in the Upstate is re-opening more than two weeks ahead of schedule after repairs. The Department of Transportation said in a news release that state Highway 9 bridge that crosses the river in Chester and Union counties was reopened at 4 p.m. Thursday. The bridge was closed July 18 to repair some of the steel structure. DOT officials say the repairs had to be done immediately even though new bridges are scheduled to be built in a few years. Crews originally planned to reopen the bridge by Aug. 14. Traffic had to use a 35-mile detour while the bridge was closed. About 5,000 vehicles use the bridge every day. A quarter of them are trucks.

SC after Police Shootings:

Greenville News: City could alter police review process, activist suspends downtown protests

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

Eric Connor

The city of Greenville will look at changing some aspects of its method for reviewing citizen disputes with police, though the process now in place will remain largely intact, Mayor Knox White said Thursday. The mayor's comments during an interview with The Greenville News followed a meeting earlier in the day with a local activist who had threatened large-scale disruptions of downtown businesses in response to police shootings across the country. The meeting with Bruce Wilson, founder of Fighting Injustice Together, "was very constructive from the beginning," White said. Following the meeting, Wilson said that his group would suspend calls for sit-ins. "It looks like I can

suspend that for now, because it looks like they will listen to us,” Wilson said, pointing to other positive conversations about “more dialogue with youth issues.” The city will consider making the purpose of its current review process more clear and to make filing a complaint less daunting, White said. The call for sit-ins followed protests three weekends ago that brought hundreds to march downtown streets, including an attempt by the Upstate Black Lives Matter group to shut down Interstate 385. The attempt led to arrests and an alleged assault on a police officer. Wilson's group works with Black Lives Matter when interests align.

Post and Courier: Charleston NAACP hosts conversation about police violence

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160728/160729360/charleston-naacp-hosts-conversation-about-police-violence>

Adam Parker

The Charleston branch of the NAACP put aside its regular business Thursday night to host a public discussion on police violence and its symptoms in black communities. About 30 people participated — three Charleston police officers, representatives of the police department’s Illumination Project and residents. NAACP President Dot Scott said it was important to air community concerns about killings by and of police in the wake of several high-profile incidents that left black men dead, including the April 2015 shooting of Walter Scott in North Charleston. Scott said the NAACP is concerned about both public safety and civil rights. “We want justice, whether it’s an officer being killed or a citizen being killed, we want justice to be served,” she said. “The NAACP doesn’t condone any kind of killing. Too often, the community is too quiet about the killing of African-American males.”

Post and Courier: Speaker: With ‘racism prevalent,’ time to improve North Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160728/160729404/speaker-with-racism-prevalent-time-to-improve-north-charleston>

Brenda Rindge

Thursday’s North Charleston City Council meeting had a decidedly different tone from last week’s committee meeting where a Black Lives Matter leader was arrested. This week, 10 speakers signed up to talk during the 30-minute public comment time at the end of the meeting. Council does not typically respond to comments. While five Black Lives Matter representatives each read portions of a statement reaffirming their reasons for requesting a citizen oversight committee and what the committee should look like, it was another speaker who stole the spotlight during her comments and garnered a rousing applause from the audience. “Haven’t we heard enough of pretext and investigatory and profile stops in the past year?” said North Charleston resident Kay Haun. “Are our citizens of all colors not demanding, begging, negotiating for changes in police practices here in our city? Can’t we see that racism is prevalent, and powerful and penetrating all our families and city systems? Can our city not become the model for the nation, beginning right now? Put away the guns. Put away the mindless fear. Improve the daily lives of all citizens in North Charleston.”

Associated Press: Prosecutors to study handling of officer-involved shootings

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

SC State Wire

South Carolina prosecutors plan to study how their colleagues in the state and across the country handle officer-involved shootings. The State newspaper in Columbia reports (<http://bit.ly/2aDdeP7>) the S.C. Prosecution Coordination Commission voted Thursday to create a task force that will review prosecutions of law enforcement officers. Commission Chairman 14th Circuit Solicitor Duffie Stone said the study will try to find the best practices for prosecutors who must handle officer-involved shootings. South Carolina had 48 police-involved shootings last year, including the April 2015 fatal

shooting of Walter Scott by a North Charleston police officer, who now faces a murder charge. Stone says the group will make preliminary recommendations in November, in time to help guide potential bills that could be introduced when the legislative session begins in January.

Opinion/Editorial:

Greenville News: Editorial: Democrats more positive, but still lacking

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2016/07/29/editorial-democrats-more-positive-but-still-lacking/87668820/>

Editorial

Democrats had a low bar to meet when it comes to staging a more inspiring national convention than the Republicans. They succeeded in one area last week in Philadelphia: Keeping the tone a little more positive than the GOP. Perhaps it is a commentary on the state of American politics that, rather than being shown a road map to how either major party will conduct its business, voters instead heard mostly attacks on the opponent over the last two weeks. That was the strategy Republicans followed, and Democrats often walked in the same footsteps. The times they weren't attacking Donald Trump, Democrats spent building up a damaged candidate and attempting to unify a splintered party that began its convention with a mini-revolt by Bernie Sanders' stalwart supporters. When Democrats were successful were the moments when their tone was positive. Consider these statements... Of course, through the week, Democrats had their own elephant in the room that they chose largely to ignore. On the eve of the convention the party was hit with its second email scandal of the year, this one involving the Democratic National Committee's favoritism of Clinton over rival Bernie Sanders. It led to the ousting of DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz and gave the GOP something to crow about as Democrats gathered.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press : Soldier dies after 2-mile run during fitness test

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

SC State Wire

Army officials say a non-commissioned officer has died at Fort Jackson at the end of a physical fitness test. Fort Jackson spokesman Patrick Jones said in a news release that the soldier finished the final event in the test - a two-mile run - just before collapsing Thursday. He died at the hospital a short time later. Jones says the soldier was from Delta Company, 120th Adjutant General Battalion and was attending a senior leadership course. His name has not been released. The Army is investigating the death.

The State: Fort Jackson officer dies after fitness training run

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/military/article92419572.html>

Jeff Wilkinson

A senior non-commissioned officer at Fort Jackson collapsed and died after finishing a two-mile run Thursday morning, according to fort officials. The drill sergeant from Delta Company, 120th Adjutant General Battalion, had just completed the final event of a semi-annual Army physical fitness test. He was taken to Providence Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead at 7:56 a.m., they said. The drill sergeant worked in the reception area of the fort, where recruits are inducted prior to basic training, according to Fort Jackson spokesman Pat Jones. He is the third soldier to die at the fort since 2009, he said. A recruit died in 2009 and another in 2012 during physical training. "It's a very rare occurrence for two reasons," Jones told The State. "One, it's very routine for soldiers to do

physical training and they are accustomed to it. And two, we initiate physical training for future soldiers very slowly.” The officer was not publicly identified pending notification of relatives. The death is under investigation.

Local News:

The State: Convicted Columbia child molester will not go free, jury decides

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

John Monk

Serial child molester Charles “Chuck” Sullivan will be confined in a specialized state mental health treatment facility – not freed to live and go where he pleases, a unanimous jury decided Thursday. It took the seven-woman, five-man jury an hour and 15 minutes to agree that Sullivan, after 18 years behind bars, had not reformed his behavior enough to live in his sisters’ Columbia area homes and renew a romance he said he had with a long-time fiancée. Sullivan’s attorney, James Falk, got permission from Judge Tanya Gee to poll the jury to verify the verdict. One by one, each juror replied in firm tones that permitted no doubt: “Yes.” Parents and friends of Sullivan’s numerous victims had been in court since Monday. After the verdict, they were relieved.

The Herald: Clowney’s father sacks plea deal in Rock Hill strip club shooting, could get 75 years in prison

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andrew-dys/article92485772.html>

Andrew Dys

Balking at a plea deal that would have sent him to prison for as long as 20 years, the convicted felon father of Rock Hill NFL star Jadeveon Clowney appears ready to risk life in prison if convicted of a strip club shooting last summer. If he wins on a self-defense claim that he was the victim who was shot while protecting himself, David “Chilli Bean” Morgan would be a free man. To lead his defense, Morgan and Clowney have hired high-powered Columbia defense attorney Todd Rutherford, a state legislator and Democratic leader in the S.C. House. Morgan, who spent a dozen years in prison while Clowney was growing up, showed up in court Thursday afternoon wearing shorts and an electronic monitor on his ankle that is part of his bail. The hearing lasted less than 10 minutes. It opened with Matthew Hogge, assistant 16th Circuit solicitor, stating as he looked at Morgan: “The offer has expired.”

The State: Families: Soldiers shot at bar were driven to protect others

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article92449842.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

The two soldiers who died this week being Good Samaritans were wired to step in and protect others, relatives said Thursday. Sgt. 1st Class Jonathon Prins has been a rescuer to his sister Courtney Jernigan since her teens, said Jernigan, who is a year younger than her 29-year-old brother. They grew up in North Carolina. When she was 13 and visiting a friend’s house someone stabbed her in the face with a fork, Jernigan said. Prins rushed to help. That was tipping point in their relationship after their early years when she said they were not all that close. “We always knew that there was going to come a day that Jonathon was going to get involved in something like this,” said Jernigan, who had become listed as her brother’s emergency contact. “And I knew that was how he was going to go.”

Associated Press: Charleston to review treatment of carriage horses, mules

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ItrYy4RI

SC State Wire

Charleston officials say the city plans to review rules governing the treatment of carriage horses and mules after it received complaints about the animals working in the heat. A city tourism official tells The Post and Courier of Charleston (<http://bit.ly/2a7LNKP>) the South Carolina city received about 50 complaints in June and July about the animals. Dan Riccio of the Department of Livability and Tourism says a committee will evaluate whether the temperature at which the animals are pulled from the street is too high and whether the loads they pull are too heavy. Carriage horses now are pulled from the street when the temperature reaches 98 degrees or when the heat index reaches 125 degrees. Riccio says some cities bring in horses when the temperature hits 90 degrees.

Post and Courier: City to review how hot is too hot for carriage horses

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160728/160729391/city-to-review-how-hot-is-too-hot-for-carriage-horses>

Diane Knich

Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg says the city intends to take a fresh look at rules governing the treatment of carriage horses and mules. Dan Riccio, the director of the Department of Livability and Tourism, said a committee is being formed because the city recently received a lot of complaints — about 50 in June and July — about horses working in the heat. The committee will first evaluate whether the temperature at which the animals are pulled from the street is too high, and then whether the loads they have been pulling are too heavy, Riccio said. The city's previous administration more than a decade ago also formed a committee that spent three years creating guidelines for the carriage tour industry. But those guidelines never satisfied many people who expressed concerns about the animals.

Associated Press: Nearing 200: 3 more turtles being released from aquarium

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=LX8tDBXT

SC State Wire

Three more sea turtles are being released following treatment at the South Carolina Aquarium to bring the facility close to a milestone. The number of turtles treated at the Charleston aquarium since it opened 16 years ago is now approaching 200. Two green sea turtles named Grace and Swash are being released on the Isle of Palms on Friday along with an endangered Kemp's ridley turtle named Cherry. The three bring the number of sea turtles treated and released from the aquarium's sea turtle hospital to 198.

National News:

Associated Press: Sandy Hook school opening to public, 4 years after massacre

<http://bigstory.ap.org/c8def31120c34b228741f661556ab8a4>

Pat Eaton-Robb

When the public gets its first glimpse Friday of the school built to replace the one where 20 first-graders and six educators were massacred, they'll see a building designed to be attractive, environmentally friendly, conducive to learning, and above all, safe. The old Sandy Hook Elementary School was torn down after the gunman's rampage in December 2012. The new \$50 million, 86,000-square-foot school was built on the same property but not in the old footprint, and is scheduled to open next month. A media tour will precede a public open house on Friday. Local officials hope that allowing everyone a look at the school this week will give students a "quiet, respectful, and appropriate opening as teachers and students return to the new school year," on Aug. 29, Superintendent Joseph Erardi said.

Associated Press: Officer says prosecutors silenced him in Sandra Bland case

<http://bigstory.ap.org/21220a001df849babf43d9a5ecc52476>

Nomaan Merchant

A police officer in the small Texas town where Sandra Bland was pulled over and jailed says the county's top prosecutors threatened to end his career if he came forward with what he says is evidence of wrongdoing, an accusation the prosecutors deny. Among the things Prairie View officer Michael Kelley said this week that he wanted to tell a grand jury: Bland appeared to have marks on her forehead after a confrontation with state trooper Brian Encinia, who pulled her over last July for allegedly failing to signal while changing a lane; Encinia was on the phone with a supervisor after arresting her because he didn't know what charge she should face; and the police report Encinia ultimately submitted left out key details. Kelley said he was never contacted by special prosecutors handling the case, and the Waller County district attorney's top assistant said there would be repercussions if he spoke to a Bland family attorney. Prosecutors have strongly denied Kelley's allegations.

Washington Post: U.S. economy grew at pace of 1.2 percent in second quarter

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/business/wp/2016/07/29/u-s-economy-grew-at-pace-of-1-2-percent-in-second-quarter/>

The U.S. economy grew at a pace of 1.2 percent in the second quarter of 2016, worse than analysts' expectations of 2.5 percent. The slow results for the April-June period raise new warnings signs about the strength of the U.S. economic expansion.

World News:

Associated Press: Pope visits Auschwitz in silence, meets survivors

<http://bigstory.ap.org/48b1e4d6e73d41b2929b2de41cea17f4>

Frances D'Emilio and Vanessa Gera

Pope Francis paid a somber visit in silence to the Nazi German death camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau on Friday, becoming the third consecutive pontiff to make the pilgrimage to the place where Adolf Hitler's forces killed more than 1 million people, most of them Jews. Francis entered the camp on foot, walking slowly in his white robe beneath the notorious gate at Auschwitz bearing the cynical words "Arbeit Macht Frei" (Work will set you free). After Auschwitz he moved to nearby Birkenau, where people were murdered in factory-like fashion in gas chambers. Altogether it was a deeply contemplative and private visit of nearly two hours that Francis passed in total silence, except for a few words he exchanged with camp survivors and Holocaust rescuers.

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