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To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Tuesday, August 30, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Clemson clash: Governor, coach at odds over helmet law
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=OgQVPEVs
SC State Wire

Clemson football coach Dabo Swinney and Gov. Nikki Haley, a Clemson graduate, are on the opposite sides of the field about a helmet law for South Carolina. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports (<http://bit.ly/2bRvoNU>) that Swinney wants a law requiring everyone who rides a moped or motorcycle to wear a helmet. Earlier this month Clemson freshman defensive end Xavier Kelly was not wearing a helmet when he was injured in a moped accident. Swinney calls it the "dadgumnest thing I've ever seen" that people can drive motorcycles 80 mph with no helmets. Haley in June vetoed a helmet law saying adults should be able to decide about wearing helmets for themselves. North Charleston Republican Bill Crosby, also a Clemson grad, plans to reintroduce the helmet bill in January.

WYFF4: Dabo Swinney calls helmet law 'dadgumnest thing' he's ever seen
<http://www.wyff4.com/news/dabo-swinney-calls-helmet-law-dadgumnest-thing-hes-ever-seen/41433004>

Clemson football coach Dabo Swinney calls South Carolina's current law regarding helmets the "dadgumnest thing I've ever seen." Swinney wants a law requiring everyone who rides a moped or motorcycle to wear a helmet. His call came after Clemson freshman defensive end Xavier Kelly was injured in a moped accident and was not wearing a helmet. Gov. Nikki Haley in June vetoed a helmet law that would require everyone under the age of 21 to wear safety equipment while riding a moped. She said adults should be able to decide about wearing helmets for themselves. The Post and Courier reached out to Haley about Swinney's comments and the paper said she declined to comment. North Charleston Republican Bill Crosby, also a Clemson grad, plans to reintroduce the helmet bill in January.

Greenville News: Simpsonville Police collect funding for body cameras
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/golden-strip/2016/08/30/simpsonville-police-collect-funding-body-cameras/89573092/>
Scott Keeler

The South Carolina Public Safety Coordinating Council and the South Carolina Department of Public Safety has awarded a grant of \$58,148 to the Simpsonville Police Department for the purchase of body cameras. The process began more than a year ago when Gov. Nikki Haley signed a bill requiring all uniformed police officers in the state to wear body cameras. The bill was signed last June in North Charleston, where Walter Scott was shot in the back and killed by then-North Charleston police officer Michael Slager. After video of the incident surfaced, Slager was charged with murder. Tasked with how to pay for equipping an entire police department with body cameras, many municipalities have sought available grants. Simpsonville began seeking the grant in January. "Practically everybody in the state has tried something to get funds from the state," interim Simpsonville Police Chief Steve Moore said. "They had a formula to determine how much money they were going to give each agency."

SC Political News:

Post and Courier: S.C. lawmakers tackle ballooning pension problem

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160830/160839944/sc-lawmakers-tackle-ballooning-pension-problem>

Gavin Jackson

A new committee of state lawmakers began work on addressing the state's underfunded pension program or "the state's biggest problem of the decade," co-chairman Sen. Kevin Bryant, R-Anderson, said Tuesday. The more than \$20 billion problem has been years in the making, affected by underperforming investments, higher costs and more retirees drawing benefits. A declining number of state employees are paying into the pot, as well State employees, including teachers and police officers, represent the bulk of the 558,000 current and former employees. Wall Street has also been an issue. Michael Hitchcock, director of the Retirement System Investment Commission, said neither he nor the seven-member commission that dictates investment strategy can control financial markets. Instead, the commission and staff have re-evaluated its investment strategy, which took effect in July. "We've learned painful lessons," Hitchcock said. "Over the period of time we have underperformed our peers — that's something we're cognizant of, that's something we've worked on over the past year to rectify and improve upon that rate of return."

Associated Press: Lawmaker: South Carolina mug shot law needs more work

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=xvlcU12V

SC State Wire

A Lowcountry lawmaker says South Carolina's new mug shot law designed to help people who have been arrested and cleared of charges still needs more work. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports (<http://bit.ly/2bsZzL>) the law allows people who have been cleared or had charges dismissed to contact companies that publish mug shots online asking them to remove their photos from websites. If the photos are not removed within a month of receiving notice, the person can sue. But Charleston state Sen. Paul Thurmond says some companies are difficult to contact and most are located out of state or in foreign countries. Thurmond says if information about an arrest lingers in a data base, it can affect the ability of people to find jobs or conduct business.

The State: Richland elections board sides with school board candidate Murphy

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article98827347.html>

Clif Leblanc

The Richland County elections board voted Tuesday to allow controversial school board candidate Kim Murphy to continue her quest to be re-elected to a split-county school board. The elections board voted 3-1, with its chairwoman abstaining, to reject a complaint from two members of the Lexington-Richland District 5 school board that Murphy lives in Lexington County, not Richland County. That would make the anti-tax crusader ineligible to represent Richland County residents on the Lexington-Richland board. The Richland election board's decision temporarily derails efforts to block Murphy's attempt to seek another term after the school board ousted her from the seat in a residency dispute. But Mike Montgomery, the attorney representing school board members who oppose Murphy's candidacy, said moments after Tuesday's vote that a legal challenge is likely. The divided elections board decided that because Murphy has been registered to vote in Richland County for years and has paid property taxes in that county for years, she should not be banned from the Nov. 8 ballot to unseat Robert Gantt, who spearheaded the effort to remove Murphy from the board.

Associated Press: Clyburn calls on GOP to denounce Trump's 'hateful rhetoric'

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

Meg Kinnard

South Carolina's only congressional Democrat on Tuesday said Donald Trump isn't being genuine about soliciting support from black voters, and he called on his Republican colleagues to denounce

what he called "hateful rhetoric" by the GOP nominee. During a call for the news media organized by the Hillary Clinton campaign, U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn said that House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell should "disavow the kind of hateful rhetoric that we're hearing" from the Republican nominee. Clyburn said Trump is using the same kind of hate speech employed by a suspect in an online manifesto before police say he gunned down nine black parishioners in a Charleston church in June 2015. Clyburn's constituents include families of the victims. Politics, Clyburn acknowledged, should have a "spirited context." "But it does not have to be vengeful." Clyburn is the third-highest-ranking House Democrat. Joining him on the call were two other Democratic House members, Xavier Becerra of California and Nita Lowey of New York.

Post and Courier: U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn: 'No self-respecting African-American would dignify (Trump's) campaign'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160830/160839959/us-rep-jim-clyburn-no-self-respecting-african-american-would-dignify-trumps-campaign>

Emma Dumain

U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn told reporters Tuesday that "no self-respecting African-American would dignify" the presidential campaign of GOP nominee Donald Trump. On the same conference call with reporters, the third-ranking Democrat in the U.S. House and the most senior black lawmaker on Capitol Hill also condemned fellow South Carolinian Mark Burns, a black pastor and Trump surrogate who recently re-tweeted a cartoon of Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton in blackface. Burns, the pastor of the Harvest Praise and Worship Center in Easley, has since apologized for the tweet, which also depicted Clinton wearing a T-shirt that reads "no hot sauce, not peace" and a speech bubble proclaiming, "I ain't no ways tired of pandering to African-Americans." Clyburn called Burns' actions "beyond the pale." "When you do that," Clyburn said, "you do not erase the impact that that still has on individuals."

The State: Biden in SC for Congress campaign stop

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article98767482.html>

Bristol Marchant

Vice President Joe Biden will be making a campaign appearance in South Carolina next month, but not on behalf of Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton. Instead, Biden will appear at a fundraising event in Fort Mill for Fran Person, the Democratic candidate for Congress in South Carolina's Fifth Congressional District, who also happens to be a former Biden aide. Biden will be appearing with Person at the White Homestead at noon on Monday, Sept. 12, according to the York County Democratic Party. Person, a graduate of the University of South Carolina and a former Gamecock football player, previously worked in Biden's Senate office starting in 2006 and then followed the Delaware Democrat when he became vice president in 2009. Person left Biden's staff in 2014 and lives in Tega Cay. Person is running against three-term Republican incumbent Mick Mulvaney. Fundraising in the race has been tight, and Democrats consider the district centered in the northern portion of the state to be a tempting target.

Associated Press: VP Biden coming to SC to stump for former aide's House bid

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=KU8EW38t

SC State Wire

Vice President Joe Biden is coming to South Carolina to support a former aide's congressional bid. The York County Democratic Party says the vice president is appearing at a fundraising lunch event Sept. 12 for Fran Person in Fort Mill. Person worked for Biden in the U.S. Senate and continued on as a staffer for the vice president until 2014. Tickets for the event are available online and start at \$250 per person. Gold sponsorships are \$2,700. Person is challenging three-term incumbent U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney in South Carolina's 5th District.

The Herald: Vice President Biden coming to Fort Mill

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/politics-government/election/article98792312.html>

Andrew Dys

The first high-profile salvo in the race for South Carolina's Fifth Congressional District seat is expected to come Sept. 12 in Fort Mill, where Vice President Joe Biden is scheduled to speak at a fundraiser for his former aide Fran Person, the Democrat challenging incumbent Republican U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney. The public won't get to see or hear the candidate without shelling out \$250 – the cost per person to attend the fundraiser at the White Homestead on S.C. 160. Person, a former University of South Carolina football player who lives in Tega Cay, was a longtime aide to Biden. Jim Thompson, chairman of the York County Democratic Party, said Biden's visit will get voters "excited and enthused," and that he believes both the congressional race and presidential race are winnable by Democrats – despite Republicans' having won both in South Carolina for years. "This is an important election," Thompson said, "and up and down the ticket we believe we can carry South Carolina."

Post and Courier: Summerville man one of 111 granted commutation by President Barack Obama
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160830/160839945/summerville-man-one-of-111-granted-commutation-by-president-barack-obama>

Melissa Boughton

A Summerville man who was sentenced to life in prison will be released in December after President Barack Obama on Tuesday issued another round of commutations for nonviolent drug offenders. Joseph J. Campbell, whose age and address were not released, was one of 111 people whose sentences Obama commuted. He was convicted in 2006 of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine and cocaine base, distribution of cocaine and cocaine base and unlawful use of a communication facility to facilitate drug trafficking activity. Four other South Carolina drug dealers also had their sentences commuted. Obama has granted 673 commutations, more than the previous 10 presidents combined, according to White House Counsel Neil Eggleston. More than a third of those were life sentences. The president has long called for phasing out strict sentences for drug offenses, arguing they lead to excessive punishment and incarceration rates unseen in other developed countries. Eggleston said the commutations also underscore Obama's commitment to give deserving individuals a second chance through clemency authority.

SC Agency News:

The State: West Nile virus found in people, but SC occurrences not unexpected, state officials say
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article98698642.html>

Sammy Fretwell

South Carolina health officials say they have documented the first cases of West Nile Virus in humans this summer and have found the disease in mosquitoes in at least four counties, including Sumter. State officials had no details Monday on the human cases, but the occurrence would not be the first time a person has become infected with West Nile in South Carolina. The virus has been detected in people as far back as 2002 in South Carolina, according to state Department of Health and Environmental Control statistics. Mosquitoes at Shaw Air Force base near Sumter have been identified as carrying West Nile, along with those at a joint military base in Charleston, according to DHEC. West Nile also has been found in mosquitoes in York and Oconee counties this year, the agency says. West Nile Virus can be dangerous to people infected, but chances of a fatality are rare, according to DHEC. In most cases, humans infected with the virus show no symptoms or signs of illness. Those who do can get ill within two weeks after being bitten by a mosquito. People experiencing illness can run fevers, have headaches, joint and muscle pain and become nauseated.

Dylann Roof Case:

Associated Press: Feds get more time to respond to church shooting lawsuits
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Yoc2LqS8
SC State Wire

A judge has granted the federal government more time to respond to wrongful death lawsuits in the South Carolina church shootings that claimed the lives of nine black parishioners. Fifteen lawsuits have been filed, alleging that the FBI negligently conducted a background check on 22-year-old Dylann Roof, which enabled him to buy the gun used in the June 2015 shootings at Charleston's Emanuel AME Church. Justice Department attorneys asked on Monday that a Sept. 6 deadline be extended until Oct. 14. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel granted the request on Tuesday. The government says the South Carolina U.S. Attorney's Office is no longer handling the case, which is now assigned to the Justice Department's civil torts branch, whose attorneys need more time.

Post and Courier: Media attorney: Fair trial for Dylann Roof possible without shutting court doors
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160830/160839969/media-attorney-fair-trial-for-dylann-roof-possible-without-shutting-court-doors>

Andrew Knapp

A news media attorney said in a federal court filing Tuesday that Dylann Roof's right to an impartial jury can be ensured without "conducting crucial elements of the case behind closed doors." Columbia lawyer Jay Bender, who represents The Post and Courier, drafted the memo reiterating the newspaper's opposition to barring the public from a planned Thursday morning hearing about whether certain evidence should be excluded from Roof's death penalty trial. Bender and an attorney for WCBD-TV in Charleston are expected to argue for an open courtroom during a separate proceeding at 10 a.m. Wednesday in downtown U.S. District Court. During the trial slated to begin Nov. 7, the jury would decide whether Roof, 22, of Eastover, should be executed if he's convicted of certain charges in the June 2015 slayings of nine black worshippers at Charleston's Emanuel AME Church. He is charged with 33 federal counts.

Michael Slagger Case:

Associated Press: White ex-cop charged in black motorist's death back in court
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kNTldXEj

Bruce Smith

A white former police officer charged in the shooting death of a black motorist is returning to a federal courtroom in South Carolina. A hearing is set for Tuesday in Charleston on the civil rights charges brought against 33-year-old Michael Slager in the April 2015 death of Walter Scott. The 50-year-old Scott was shot fleeing a traffic stop in an incident caught on cellphone video. The shooting reignited the national debate over the treatment of blacks by white police officers. It's Slager's first appearance in federal court since his May arraignment. The former North Charleston patrolman is charged with depriving Scott of his civil rights and using a weapon while doing so. Slager also faces a murder charge in state court in a trial beginning in October.

Associated Press: Judge sets 2017 trial for ex-officer who shot black motorist
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kNTldXEj

Bruce Smith

A federal judge has decided that the trial for a white ex-police officer in the shooting death of a black South Carolina motorist will be held early next year. U.S. District Judge David Norton said during a brief hearing Tuesday that he will hold the trial of 33-year-old Michael Slager during a term of court beginning in January. No specific date was set. Slager, a former North Charleston officer, faces federal civil rights charges in the April 2015 shooting of 50-year-old Walter Scott who was fleeing a traffic stop. The incident, caught on a dramatic cellphone video, reignited the national debate over treatment of blacks by white police officers. Separately, Slager faces a murder charge in state court. That trial is set to begin on Oct. 31.

Post and Courier: Feds will revisit the scheduling of Michael Slager case early next year
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160830/160839974/feds-will-revisit-the-scheduling-of-michael-slager-case-early-next-year>

Andrew Knapp

UPDATE: Former North Charleston police officer Michael Slager trial is set for Oct. 31 and could last several weeks. The federal government will revisit scheduling of its trial after the beginning of the year. Prosecutor Eric Klumb: It would be “unnecessarily disruptive to try to squeeze a federal trial ... before ... state case.” Former North Charleston police officer Michael Slager is expected Tuesday to appear in federal court for the first time since he was arraigned on a civil rights charge in Walter Scott’s shooting death. Slager, 34, was indicted in May on counts of violating Scott’s rights under the color of law, lying to investigators and using a firearm in a violent crime. He faces up to life in prison if he’s convicted of the civil rights charge. A pretrial conference is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. in U.S. District Judge David Norton’s courtroom in downtown Charleston.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: Do you expect legislators to buy you dinner? They think you do

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article98784932.html>

Cindi Ross Scope

WHEN I FIRST moved to Columbia, I spent several Saturday afternoons each fall in the Upstate, keeping stats and doing post-game interviews to help my soon-to-be-husband cover Clemson home football games for the Associated Press. Our seats were on the 50-yard-line, in air-conditioned comfort, and the sports information staff put out a spread of deli sandwich fixings and the most amazing blondies I have ever encountered. The Associated Press allowed its sportswriters to accept the meals because they had no reasonable alternative during the six to eight hours they were chained to the press box, and I wasn’t actually a sports writer and so really didn’t have a potential for a conflict. Still, I was always uncomfortable with the meal arrangement. Not uncomfortable enough to pass on those blondies, mind you, but uncomfortable. You see, reporters don’t accept free meals. Or gifts. Or favors of any sort from people they aren’t completely certain would be their friends even if they weren’t reporters. Unlike most of the business world, business hospitality is not expected, encouraged or even accepted. To the contrary, except when it cannot be reasonably avoided, it is frowned upon and even prohibited.

Greenville News: Editorial: No malice in Travelers Rest flag decision

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2016/08/30/editorial-no-malice-travelers-rest-flag-decision/89580594/>

Editorial

Amid this past week’s uproar over students being asked to not display the American flag at a Travelers Rest High School football game against Berea High School, the obvious needs to be stated: Display of the American flag should not be prohibited. The flag, after all, is the very emblem of our country’s most deeply held rights, including the right to free expression. But, as we know in our increasingly boisterous culture, there is nuance in nearly every situation. And, although Travelers Rest High School Principal Lou Lavelly was right to make it very clear on Monday that students would be allowed to bring American flags to future athletic events, his decision on Friday night to have students put away their flags is defensible, if imperfect. The rationale for Lavelly’s decision, according to Greenville County schools spokeswoman Beth Brotherton was that there had been past incidents in which students “used the U.S. flag, in conjunction with verbal taunts, to target Hispanic members of the Berea community in a manner that was both unsportsmanlike and also a misuse of our flag.”

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: North Carolina beaches thin out ahead of tropical weather

<http://bigstory.ap.org/363fedc5cef849cda7539093625fe5cb>

Ben Finley and Jonathan Drew

Crowds thinned Tuesday on the beaches of North Carolina's Outer Banks ahead of a tropical weather system that threatened to bring strong winds and heavy rains that could flood low-lying areas.

Elsewhere, a powerful hurricane threatened to pass "dangerously close" to Hawaii and another tropical depression churned in Gulf of Mexico waters with the potential to bring rain and wind to Florida. On North Carolina's Hatteras Island, a slow stream of dozens of cars from places including Maryland, New York and Ohio headed north toward a bridge to the mainland — but other vacationers stayed and some surfers dove in for taller waves. Several Outer Banks businesses reported cancellations and slower foot traffic. Some beaches were all but empty during a morning of gray skies and misty rain. Near Rodanthe, a couple and their 11-year-old son had the shore to themselves for a walk. Joe and Kelley Walker of Markham, Virginia, said their family plans to wait out the rain with movies or card games.

Local News:

Morning News: Latta Police Chief Crystal Moore returns to work following suspension

http://www.scnw.com/news/article_33d10730-6ec2-11e6-92b1-5b966ab3b606.html

Jessica Imbimbo

Police Chief Crystal Moore has returned to her post Tuesday morning after being suspended for five days for reasons that have yet to be released. Moore said she is happy to be back but would not disclose why she was suspended. Moore said her lawyers are continuing to work on her case and plan to release information regarding her suspension in due time. "It'll come out," Moore said. "Be patient." Latta Mayor Earl Bullard confirmed the Moore was indeed suspended last Tuesday morning on Aug. 30. Assistant Police Chief Derrick Cartwright acted as interim police chief during Moore's five-day suspension. Town officials would not disclose reasons behind Moore's suspension, but Town Administrator Jarett Taylor said it was the town council's decision to suspend her. "There was nothing random about it," Taylor said referring to Moore's suspension.

Associated Press: Body of missing 6-year-old found in Pickens County pond

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kc2axCGs

SC State Wire

The body of a missing 6-year-old boy has been recovered from a Pickens County pond. Chief Deputy Creed Hashe tells local media outlets that the boy's body was found Monday night in a pond in some woods. The boy had been reported missing six hours earlier. Coroner Kandy Kelley said in a statement that the victim was Benjamin Jacob Jones. Deputies had gotten a call at around 5:30 p.m. that the boy had wandered away from his home. Hashe says the child's mother says she let him outside to play and couldn't find him when she called him inside for dinner. Authorities are still investigating, but Hashe says he thinks the child may have slipped into the water.

Sun News: Judge grants bond to Little River man accused of storing girlfriend's dead body in a closet

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article98821187.html>

Elizabeth Townsend

A Little River man who allegedly stored his 29-year-old dead girlfriend's body in a bedroom closet while her children were living in the home was granted bond at a Tuesday morning hearing in Conway. Circuit Court Judge Larry B. Hyman Jr. called the murder charge for Leon Edward Collier III a "very, very, very serious offense" after hearing from both sides on the case as he weighed whether he would grant bond for Collier. "It would appear there is substantial evidence here," said Hyman, who granted a "high" bond of \$250,000 for Collier during the hearing held at the Horry County Courthouse. Collier, 46, was arrested Dec. 1 in connection with the murder of his girlfriend Christian Hope Phipps of Little River after Horry County police received a call about a suicidal man at a Little River-area apartment building at 4250 Pinehurst Circle, police said. The caller reported that the man at the residence was threatening to harm himself and making comments that he "may have hurt his girlfriend," according to a police report. Officers reported a "foul odor" coming from the house, authorities said.

Associated Press: 2 dead in crash near the Berkeley County town of Pineville

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=zzddr7Mg

SC State Wire

Authorities say a couple from the Berkeley County community of Pineville has died in a car accident near their home. Local news outlets report the accident happened about 10 p.m. Monday on state Highway 45. The South Carolina Highway Patrol says a compact car swerved off the highway and hit a tree, killing the driver and a passenger. Coroner Bill Salisbury says the wreck killed 48-year-old Sharlen Robinson and her 68-year-old husband James Robinson. Sharlen Robinson was driving and was not wearing a seat belt. Her husband was wearing a seat belt. Pineville is about 20 miles north of Moncks Corner on the opposite side of Lake Moultrie.

Sun News: Surfside Beach wants family to demolish lower level of house, so couple fights back with lawsuit

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article98809942.html>

Chloe Johnson

A local couple has filed a suit against the town of Surfside Beach and its newest councilwoman, Julie Samples, saying that they and other parties owe damages after the couple bought a house that does not align with the town's flood violations. Julian and Shirley Lazar bought a house on North Myrtle Drive for \$460,000 in January 2015. The house includes an enclosed lower level that the suit claims was filled with furniture at the time the house was shown to the couple, which Samples confirmed. Shortly after the property was purchased, however, the Lazars were informed by Surfside that the bottom-level enclosure violates flood regulations, that it could not be used and that they would have to remove any drywall, heating and cooling systems and electricity present. The property was assessed at \$305,930 for tax purposes in 2015, according to Horry County records. Samples, the wife of former Surfside Mayor Doug Samples who will be officially seated Sept. 13, was the Realtor representing the sellers of the home. She said the sellers had never been told that the house, which was modified in 2013 to enclose the bottom portion, was out of compliance.

Associated Press: Deputies: Mother made children steal items from store

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=OYH6Opr0

SC State Wire

Authorities say a Richland County woman who deputies say made her children steal items from a store has turned herself in to face charges. Local news outlets reported Monday that the Richland County Sheriff's Department says that 27-year-old Ramanda McMillan instructed her three children, between the ages of six and 11, to steal several items from an Old Navy store on three separate occasions. Deputies say McMillan told the children to walk into the store and leave with unpaid merchandise. Investigators say the family walked away with almost \$1,800 worth of items across the three incidents. Surveillance video captured the incident, and helped authorities identify who she was. McMillan is charged with unlawful conduct toward a child. It wasn't known if she had a lawyer.

The State: 19 Irish Travelers plead 'not guilty' Tuesday in Columbia to federal racketeering charges

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article98825672.html>

John Monk

Nineteen Irish Travelers and associates pleaded not guilty Tuesday morning to federal racketeering charges alleging they are part of a major organized financial fraud crime ring. Federal Magistrate Judge Shiva Hodges allowed each of the 19, who are from the Aiken area, to go free on a \$25,000 unsecured bond. But she warned them they could be sent to prison if they violated terms of their release, which included not breaking any local, state or federal laws. During a two-hour hearing at the U.S. courthouse in downtown Columbia, Hodge spent 27 minutes reading out loud nearly every word in a 17-page federal indictment made public Aug. 16. She also told them that all the charges carry a maximum \$250,000 fine and a 20-year prison sentence. That sweeping 45-count indictment Hodges read spelled out the kind of financial crimes allegedly uncovered by an FBI investigation that has lasted more than a year: money laundering, illegal banking transactions, food stamp and medicaid fraud and a mix of other alleged crimes.

Post and Courier: 'Irish Travelers' federal racketeering case brings out big-name defense attorneys

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160830/160839952/irish-travelers-federal-racketeering-case-brings-out-big-name-defense-attorneys>

Maya T. Prabhu

Nineteen members of a group known as the "Irish Travelers" pleaded not guilty to federal racketeering and fraud charges as they appeared in court Tuesday. A federal judge released the 19 accused — made up of 11 women and eight men of various ages — on \$25,000 unsecured bond each. Magistrate Judge Shiva Hodges also required six of the men who leave the North Augusta area, where they live, for work purposes to be monitored by a GPS tracking device. The remaining 13 must stay in South Carolina and Georgia, unless approved by the court. Hodges sternly warned the 19 sect members the terms of their bond are such that breaking any federal, state or local laws while they are on release could land them in jail. "You will not only face additional charges, but it would also be a violation of bond, which means I can put you in prison until this issue is resolved," Hodges said.

Aiken Standard: Defendants in Irish Traveler fraud case plead not guilty

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20160830/160839988/defendants-in-irish-traveler-fraud-case-plead-not-guilty>

Maayan Schechter

Nineteen of the 22 defendants indicted on fraud and racketeering charges stemming from the Irish Traveler community of Murphy Village were in Columbia on Tuesday morning. All pleaded not guilty and six received GPS monitoring systems since they work out of state. The defendants who did not get GPS systems received unsecured bond, meaning they don't pay but if they violate, they have to pay \$25,000. Jack Swerling, who represents one of the defendants, said he wouldn't be surprised in his time as an attorney if there is an informant inside the secretive community. The U.S. Attorney's Office declined to comment.

Associated Press: Man accused of threatening mental hospital nurses extradited

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=9Ksh6gP5

SC State Wire

Authorities say a man accused of threatening two nurses at gunpoint to spring his girlfriend from a mental health care hospital has been returned to Pennsylvania from South Carolina to face charges. Cornwall Borough police chief Bruce Harris said Tuesday that 18-year-old Elliot Ravert is in Lebanon County prison after extradition. He was arraigned on robbery, aggravated assault and terroristic threat charges and his bail was set at \$150,000. Ravert is accused of ordering two nurses to let him into the locked ward at Philhaven Hospital on Aug. 9 and taking 21-year-old Alicia Buzzard out of the facility. The two were arrested on shoplifting charges Aug. 12 at a Wal-Mart in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Defense attorney Michael Asbell didn't immediately return a call seeking comment Tuesday.

Associated Press: Man charged in shooting at massive off-campus Clemson party

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=rTgXMAu5

Authorities say a 21-year-old man has been charged with attempted murder for shooting someone during a fight at a party that may have had 1,000 people at an off-campus apartment complex near Clemson University. Pickens County Chief Deputy Creed Hashe said in a news release that Jackson Rowland was arrested late Monday. Hashe says Rowland and several other people got into a fight early Sunday at Cottages of Clemson about three miles from campus. Investigators say Rowland shot a 21-year-old man in the neck, but the victim is expected to survive. Rowland faces up to 30 years in prison if convicted of the felony. He is awaiting a bond hearing. It wasn't known if he had a lawyer.

Greenville News: Second man arrested after shooting near Clemson

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/08/29/one-arrested-after-student-shot-near-clemson/89540696/>

Elizabeth LaFluer

A Chapin man is in custody in Pickens County after his arrest Monday in Lexington County, according to deputies. The arrest follows a two day investigation into the shooting of a Tri-County Technical College student. Jackson Quaid Rowland, 21, was taken to Pickens County Monday night where he is currently being held in the Pickens County Detention Facility. He's charged with attempted murder and possession of a weapon during a violent crime, according to warrants. The gunfire erupted during a party that was attended by as many as 1,000 people, authorities said. The 21-year-old victim, from Pomaria, was taken to a local hospital and is expected to survive, according to the Pickens County Sheriff's Office. Deputies were dispatched to "The Cottages of Clemson" on Smoke Rise Drive at about midnight after reports of gunfire in the complex, according to the Sheriff's Office. Witnesses reported the victim and shooter were at a party in the complex when a fight broke out between several men including the victim, according to the Sheriff's Office.

Associated Press: Jailhouse Art: Old Beaufort jail to become arts venue

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

SC State Wire

There is a new plan for the old Beaufort County Jail in downtown Beaufort that has been vacant almost a quarter century. The Beaufort Gazette reports (<http://bit.ly/2bxrexL>) the old jail will become the city's newest arts venue. The Beaufort Arts Council and Mather Academy have purchased the building for almost \$400,000. They plan to create offices for the council with an art gallery and studio space. It will also have space to host larger community events. The jail is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was built in 1938. It's been vacant since 1992. Over the years there have been other proposals to rehabilitate the property, most recently a plan for to develop homes and apartments at the site.

Greenville News: Power restored at GSP Airport after outage

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2016/08/30/gsp-airport-backup-generators-after-outage/89592074/>

Anna Lee

The power is back on at Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport after an area wide outage. The airport had been running on backup generators after more than 100 Duke Energy customers in Spartanburg County lost power just after 2 p.m. Tuesday, according to the utility's outage map and airport spokeswoman Rosylin Weston. A tree interfered with utility lines, causing the outage, Duke officials said. Weston said utility crews restored power about 3:10 p.m. However, Weston recommended that passengers still arrive early in case there are delays.

Associated Press: South Carolina packaging firm Sopacko lays off 116 workers

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=b4lcxeVv

SC State Wire

More than 100 employees of the South Carolina food packaging firm Sopacko have been laid off work. The Morning News of Florence reported (<http://bit.ly/2bz8OGI>) that 116 workers were laid off Friday. The firm packages foods in pouches and meal kits that can be stored for up to five years. The newspaper reported that South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce spokesman Bob Bouyea said the firm contacted the agency last week. Bouyea said the layoffs were permanent. The firm opened a facility in 2009. President Lonnie Thompson told the newspaper the firm had added a frozen food product line last year and had increased staff then to 280 employees.

Greenville News: Dealers upset as Michelin moves into online sales

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2016/08/30/dealers-upset-michelin-moves-into-online-sales/89122514/>

Rudolph Bell

The objections came fast and furious when Michelin North America announced earlier this month that it would start selling tires directly to consumers over the Internet for the first time. Independent Michelin dealers across the country complained on the website of Modern Tire Dealer that the

Greenville-based tire maker was now competing against them. "This is your typical big guy taking a piece of the little guy's pie," wrote Mary McLaughlin, owner of Independent Tire & Auto in North Andover, Massachusetts. "Thanks for nothing Michelin," wrote Blake Breeden, owner of Boulevard Tire & Service in Kansas City, Kansas. Michael R. Smith, owner of Mike Smith Tire Pros in Lumberton, Texas, said he'd be taking a second look at his association with Michelin. The uproar underscored the continuing threat that e-commerce poses to brick-and-mortar retail outlets of all kinds.

The State: USC's takes in record \$250 million in grants

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/education/article98792447.html>

Avery G. Wilks

The University of South Carolina brought in more than \$250 million in outside research funding last year, setting a new school record for research grants. Last year's haul was a 3 percent more than the previous year, USC said Tuesday. The money pays for a variety of research efforts. Two of the largest awards, for instance, will pay to research recovery from a stroke-related communication disorder and for research into ways to convert agricultural waste into fuel.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: State: Benghazi emails involving Clinton recovered by FBI

<http://bigstory.ap.org/e9d432f94d6c4dd8811ccda30ef6f24d>

Eric Tucker and Michael Biesecker

The State Department says about 30 emails that may be related to the 2012 attack on U.S. compounds in Benghazi, Libya, are among the thousands of Hillary Clinton emails recovered during the FBI's recently closed investigation into her use of a private server. Government lawyers told U.S. District Court Judge Amit P. Mehta Tuesday that an undetermined number of the emails among the 30 were not included in the 55,000 pages previously provided by Clinton. The State Department's lawyer said it would need until the end of September to review the emails and redact potentially classified information before they are released. Mehta questioned why it would take so long to release so few documents, and urged that the process be sped up. He ordered the department to report to him in a week with more details about why the review process would take a full month. The hearing was held in one of several lawsuits filed by the conservative legal group Judicial Watch, which has sued over access to government records involving the Democratic presidential nominee. The State Department has said the FBI provided it with about 14,900 emails purported not to have been among those previously released.

National News:

Associated Press: Intoxicated in the air: drunk pilots make news but are rare

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a00875820cb740c48c7e2e63d5befbd2>

Scott Mayerowitz and David Koeing

Every few months, a pilot somewhere in the world is stopped before a jet takes off because of suspicion of drunkenness. It makes headlines and gives nervous travelers another reason to avoid flying. Despite their notoriety, such cases are extremely rare. Each day, there are 90,000 flights around the world, carrying more than 8 million people. And the overwhelming majority of pilots in those cockpits are sober. Pilots take being fit to fly seriously and act accordingly," says former US Airways pilot John M. Cox, now CEO of the consulting firm Safety Operating Systems. "Pilots know they are one of the most carefully monitored professions and therefore, are very conservative." There are occasional lapses. The latest incident occurred Saturday morning when two United Airlines pilots were pulled from their flight — and arrested — as they prepared to fly 141 passengers from Scotland to the United States.

Associated Press: 2 more universities furl Confederate-themed Mississippi flag

<http://bigstory.ap.org/eecb41b5955443ee988dea6c1f8c7d5c>

Jeff Amy

Two more Mississippi universities have stopped flying the state's flag, which prominently features the Confederate battle emblem. Mississippi State University and the Mississippi University for Women confirmed Tuesday that they had taken down the state's flag from outdoor flagpoles over the summer. The universities' actions came after state lawmakers failed to act on changing the flag this year. "The university community supports a flag that unites everyone in the state behind it," said Jim Borsig, president of the Mississippi University for Women. Delta State University is the only public Mississippi university still flying the flag. A statement from that school Tuesday opened the door to removing it if the university cabinet votes to do so. The changes at both schools came quietly while many students and faculty were away. MSU spokesman Sid Salter said Tuesday that President Mark Keenum approved campus leaders' plans to remove the flag from four locations on the Starkville campus in June and July. Salter said the state flags have been replaced with larger American flags, to mirror the large American flag that has flown alone in MSU's central quad for at least 15 years. He said 21,000-student MSU removed Mississippi flags from athletic arenas "several" years ago.

Associated Press: The Latest: Ex-aide replaces convicted attorney general

<http://bigstory.ap.org/b3c24c83249541ffa2fb209ce55e25b0>

Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf says his nominee to replace Pennsylvania's convicted ex-attorney general has the experience and skills to begin healing an office racked by infighting and scandal. Bruce Beemer was confirmed speedily and unanimously Tuesday by the state Senate, and sworn in privately in Wolf's offices. Beemer was Kathleen Kane's top deputy, but he later clashed publicly with her and provided testimony that helped prosecutors to convict her. Wolf says Beemer is trusted by rank-and-file employees of the state's top law enforcement office and understands "better than anyone" how to restore public trust. Kane was convicted of leaking secret grand jury information to smear a rival and lying under oath to cover it up. She resigned Aug. 17 and faces prison time. Beemer left his post last month to become Wolf's inspector general. He'll fill the remaining five months of Kane's term until a successor picked by voters is sworn in Jan. 17.

Associated Press: Poll: Man jailed in sex case leads race for Richmond mayor

<http://bigstory.ap.org/2a83309e4776459889d30ebb2a3de355>

Alan Suderman

A flamboyant former Virginia lawmaker who was jailed in a sex scandal involving a 17-year-old girl is the current front-runner in the crowded race for Richmond mayor, a new poll shows. The poll from Christopher Newport University says Joseph Morrissey has support from 28 percent of the city's voters, putting him far ahead of seven other candidates. Morrissey holds a large advantage in three of the city's nine precincts. He must win a majority in five of them to avoid a runoff election. CNU professor Quentin Kidd said the real contest looks to be for second place behind Morrissey if he fails to win the election outright, setting up a runoff election. Other candidates include Jack Berry, who runs an economic development organization, and Levar Stoney, the former Virginia secretary of the commonwealth who has close ties to Gov. Terry McAuliffe.

World News:

Associated Press: IS buried thousands in 72 mass graves, AP finds

<http://bigstory.ap.org/7b538929486f493da85e84d7ee7470a5>

Lori Hannant and Desmond Butler

Surrounded by smoke and flames, the sound of gunshots echoing around him, the young man crouched in the creek for hours, listening to the men in his family die. On the other side of the mountain, another survivor peered through binoculars as the handcuffed men of neighboring villages were shot and then buried by a waiting bulldozer. For six days he watched as the extremists filled one grave after another with his friends and relatives. Between them, the two scenes of horror on Sinjar mountain contain six burial sites and the bodies of more than 100 people, just a small fraction of the

mass graves Islamic State extremists have scattered across Iraq and Syria. In exclusive interviews, photos and research, The Associated Press has documented and mapped 72 of the mass graves, the most comprehensive survey so far, with many more expected to be uncovered as the Islamic State group's territory shrinks. In Syria, AP has obtained locations for 17 mass graves, including one with the bodies of hundreds of members of a single tribe all but exterminated when IS extremists took over their region. For at least 16 of the Iraqi graves, most in territory too dangerous to excavate, officials do not even guess the number of dead. In others, the estimates are based on memories of traumatized survivors, Islamic State propaganda and what can be gleaned from a cursory look at the earth.

Associated Press: Islamic State group says spokesman killed in Syria

<http://bigstory.ap.org/f1354956e00247d88258463982d077a5>

Zeina Karam

The Islamic State group's spokesman and chief strategist, who laid out the blueprint for the extremist group's attacks against the West, has been killed while overseeing operations in northern Syria, the group announced Tuesday. The IS-run Amaq news agency said Abu Muhammed al-Adnani was "martyred while surveying the operations to repel the military campaigns in Aleppo," and vowed to avenge his death. It did not provide any further details on when or how he died. If confirmed, it would be a major blow to the extremist group, which has been on the retreat in Syria and Iraq, where the borders of its self-declared Islamic caliphate have been steadily eroded in recent months. Al-Adnani, whose real name is Taha Sobhi Falaha, persistently called for attacks against the West, which paid off in bloody notoriety with the Nov. 13 coordinated attacks in Paris that hit a concert hall, a stadium and restaurants and bars, leaving 130 people dead and hundreds wounded. Al-Adnani is a Syrian who was born in the northern province of Idlib and is believed to be in his late 30s. He crossed the border and joined al-Qaida in Iraq, a precursor to IS, after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion.

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