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To:
Date: 4/2/2016 10:49:59 AM
Subject: Clips – Saturday, April 2, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Wall Street Journal: U.S., Japan Agree to Nuclear Material Transfer

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-japan-agree-to-nuclear-material-transfer-1459549106>

Yuka Hayashi

The U.S. and Japan unveiled a plan on Friday to ship weapons-grade nuclear materials from Japanese research facilities to the U.S. as part of an effort to prevent rogue nations and terrorist groups from acquiring such materials. Already the two nations have successfully completed the removal of highly enriched uranium and separated plutonium fuel from one of the two sites, and a shipment containing “hundreds of kilograms” has left for the U.S., according to a statement from the U.S. Energy Department. It represents “one of the largest shipments” of such potent nuclear materials ever transported internationally, a department official said. Japanese officials wouldn’t disclose the destination of the cargo, citing security concerns.

Note: Underscoring the difficulty of finding a willing destination in the U.S., Nikki Haley, governor of South Carolina, last month urged the Energy Department to reroute the materials coming to her state from Japan.

Savannah River Site News:

Aiken Standard: Scientist proposes alternative use for MOX facility

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160402/AIK0101/160409923>

Dede Biles

A scientist who spoke at the Savannah River Site’s Citizens Advisory Board meeting in Augusta earlier this week has proposed a new use for the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility at the Savannah River Site, if the MOX program is terminated. In a post published in the Union of Concerned Scientists’ “All Things Nuclear” blog Thursday, Dr. Edwin Lyman recommended turning the MOX complex, which is still under construction, into an international training center for nuclear security guards. Repurposing the MOX complex in this way “would help strengthen global nuclear security and give new life to a facility that otherwise appears destined for the scrap heap,” Lyman wrote.

Aiken Standard: Nuclear material in U.S. swap with United Kingdom not planned for SRS

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160401/AIK0101/160409945>

Thomas Gardiner

The National Nuclear Security Administration announced an agreement Friday that sets up a multinational exchange of Highly Enriched Uranium, or HEU, which is not planned for Savannah River Site. The agreement came on the final day of the Nuclear Security Summit, a congregation of international leaders to discuss nuclear weapons, material security and non-proliferation efforts held in Washington, D.C. This was the fourth and final of Obama’s nuclear summits. According to the deal, the United Kingdom will ship approximately 770 kilograms, about 330 pounds, of HEU from the

Dounreay nuclear site on Scotland's northern coast. In turn, the U.S. will ship an undisclosed amount of HEU to European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) to be processed in France.

Note: That has led to criticism from S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley's office and a request to reroute the Japanese plutonium. The Aiken Standard called and emailed Haley's office for comment but did not receive a response by press time.

Wilson-Pascoe Dispute:

Post and Courier: Attorney General Wilson called head of S.C. GOP and spoke about Pascoe
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160401/PC1603/160409897>

Schuyler Kropf

Attorney General Alan Wilson telephoned the head of the S.C. Republican Party after his press conference this week where he detailed why he fired his special prosecutor in the probe of Statehouse lawmakers. The move has been condemned by the S.C. Democratic Party, which says the contact shows there is a political element to Wilson's handling of the investigation. Meanwhile, Gov. Nikki Haley's office said Friday the governor and Wilson have never talked about the case. The fact Wilson spoke to an official who holds a political title, but about a state legal matter, raised concerns from state Democrats on Friday. "It's evidence this has turned into a political issue for the attorney general," Democratic Party Executive Director Jason Perky said.

Gov. Pat McCrory News:

Associated Press: CEOs, governments speak against North Carolina law

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:fcee09a6a1db4eb897228e508fa68f66>

Company CEOs and municipal officials are joining other government and business leaders opposing North Carolina's new law that prevents specific anti-discrimination rules for LGBT people for public accommodations and restroom use. The Human Rights Campaign and Equality North Carolina released Friday the names of another 10 company executives that have signed on to a letter criticizing the law and seeking its repeal, bringing the number of names to more than 120. New executives include those from Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Qualcomm and EMC Corp. The law, approved by the Republican legislature and GOP Gov. Pat McCrory, responded to a Charlotte City Council ordinance approved in February that would have extended protections to gays and lesbians as well as bisexual and transgender people while at hotels, restaurants and stores. Charlotte also would have allowed transgender people to use the restroom aligned with their gender identity.

News & Observer: TV, film production companies to leave NC over LGBT law

<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/state-politics/article69512537.html>

Colin Campbell

Lionsgate and the A+E network say they won't film TV shows and movies in North Carolina if the state doesn't repeal its new LGBT law. Along with Fox, Miramax and The Weinstein Company, the entertainment producers have voiced opposition to House Bill 2, which replaces local ordinances with a statewide nondiscrimination law that doesn't include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected categories. A production coordinator for Lionsgate told the Associated Press that the company is canceling plans to shoot a comedy show in Charlotte and will instead film in Canada. The production would have involved hiring about 100 workers in North Carolina. Lionsgate is scheduled to film a remake of the movie "Dirty Dancing" in the Asheville area in the coming months, and it has received a \$4 million grant from the N.C. Department of Commerce, which is part of Gov. Pat McCrory's administration. McCrory signed the bill and has actively defended it.

WACH: Controversial sign supports House Two Bill

<http://wach.com/news/local/controversial-sign-supports-house-two-bill>

Leah Holloway

An Upstate man caught a lot of attention this week after showcasing a controversial sign in front of his business in Easley. The sign in front of business read "common sense isn't so common... know your gender". It also has several scripture references from the Bible below that. Business owner Ray Harrison's message shows support for North Carolina's House Bill Two. The new law forces transgender people to only use bathrooms that match the gender on their birth certificate. Harrison feels that everyone has a right to voice their opinion.

General Assembly News:

WACH: Clock is ticking at the State House

<http://wach.com/news/local/clock-is-ticking-at-the-state-house>

Tara Petitt

Next week, lawmakers will return to the State house after a short furlough, and there are some key items up for debate. With only a couple months left before the legislative session ends, time is ticking to fund roads, pass a budget, and reform ethics in South Carolina. The House managed to pass a budget before they left for break, but now it's the Senate's turn to take a look. Next week, the House will get the chance to decide whether they will stick to the Senate's current plan to fund roads or start fresh, and their decision could be the life or death of South Carolina's infrastructure. "I hope the South Carolina Senate next week passes ethics reform once and for all in South Carolina," said South Carolina GOP Chairman Matt Moore. South Carolina ethics was back in the headlines this week. An investigation into corruption at the State house hit a road bump Monday when Attorney General Alan Wilson fired the Solicitor heading the probe.

S.C. Political News:

Post and Courier: Confederate flag to return to Statehouse in July

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160401/PC1603/160409894>

Gavin Jackson

The S.C. Secessionist Party plans to return the Confederate battle flag to Statehouse grounds exactly one year after it was removed in the wake of the shooting at Emanuel AME Church. Touted as "ground zero for the war against our people," the predominately white group will rally near the Confederate Soldier Monument and will raise the divisive symbol to its original location on July 10, according to an event flier. The flag, which originally flew above the Statehouse dome starting in 1961, was relocated next to the monument in 2000 and removed by lawmakers last summer.

Note: Bessenger said he expected a similar number at a Statehouse rally in December, which led security officials to cancel the event, at one point, due to safety concerns. Bessenger threatened to sue, and Gov. Nikki Haley pushed the Department of Administration to uphold the group's right to celebrate the 155th anniversary of South Carolina's secession from the Union. Around 65 supporters attended the event along with six protesters, one of whom was arrested.

WIS: Moore: Talk of running for RNC chair premature

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31624759/moore-talk-of-running-for-rnc-chair-premature>

Samantha Bleiweis

Matt Moore's name is one that has been tossed around in terms of who the GOP's next national party

chair will be. However, the SCGOP chairman said it's too early to discuss a run for that position. "All of that talk is very premature," Moore told WIS. "Our party is focused on winning the White House this fall, and hopefully in 2017 the next Republican president will appoint that next Republican Party chairman." Moore said he's been approached by Republican National Committee members over the past year about possibly running for RNC chairman in the future. When asked why he could be considered, Moore said he thinks people look to South Carolina as a strong conservative state that has produced powerful leaders like Gov. Nikki Haley and Sen. Tim Scott.

Opinion/Editorial:

Island Packet: Our view: New beach nourishment plan makes best of challenging situation

<http://www.islandpacket.com/opinion/editorials/article69583107.html>

The Editorial Board

Yes, a major beach nourishment project like the one to begin soon on Hilton Head Island can be a major inconvenience. We wish the dredgers for the \$20.7 million project were already grinding away and preparing to leave by Memorial Day. At one point, that was the plan for the island's first major beach repair work since 2006. The timeline has changed twice since then. Bad weather and dredging projects running late in other locations have been cited by the contractor. But let's face it: We do not live in a perfect world. And there never will be a perfect time for a project of this magnitude. It involves placing more than 2 million cubic yards of sand on four different segments of the island's beaches totaling more than six miles. We believe the Town of Hilton Head Island's new schedule makes the best of a challenging situation.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Severe weather moves east toward Carolinas after tornadoes

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=r8GzGzfv

Jonathan Landrum Jr.

Strong storms plowed through Georgia on their way to the Carolinas Friday, spawning at least one confirmed tornado, after setting off tornadoes that swirled through Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. More tornadoes and isolated winds remained possible, according to the National Weather Service. Nearly 3,000 people in the Carolinas were already without power by early morning. The weather service confirmed a tornado touched down in central Georgia and did some damage Friday morning.

Post and Courier: New Vietnam to Charleston service part of direct shipment trend

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160401/PC05/160409885>

New service between Vietnam and the Port of Charleston illustrates a growing trend in the shipping industry — the addition of direct-call ports to save costs. Beginning this month, containership alliance Maersk and MSC will provide direct inbound service from the Port of Vung Tau in southern Vietnam to Charleston. The first departure from Vietnam is scheduled for April 15 and the service will operate on a weekly basis, with the Arthur Maersk the first containership to make the trip. Vietnam is one of the fastest-growing markets in Asia, according to Jim Newsome, president and CEO of the State Ports Authority.

Times and Democrat: Long-term aid available for S.C. flood survivors

http://thetandd.com/news/article_172ed2ea-ecc0-5bc3-8270-fae7e0f8b61e.html

Hearts & Hands Disaster Recovery will be providing long-term disaster case management services

throughout South Carolina. HHDR will assist flood survivors in the 24 disaster-declared counties with access to long-term recovery resources. The disaster-impacted counties include: Orangeburg, Calhoun, Bamberg, Dorchester, Clarendon, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Fairfield, Florence, Greenville, Kershaw, Lexington, Newberry, Richland, Spartanburg, Darlington, Georgetown, Greenwood, Horry, Lee, Marion, Sumter and Williamsburg. This program is free to residents in need of flood recovery assistance. This program is made possible by federal funding provided through the S.C. Emergency Management Division.

Local News:

The State: Development boom in Columbia area contributed to dam failures, researchers say

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article69574327.html#storylink=apmobile>

Sammy Fretwell

Booming growth and development in parts of the Columbia area likely contributed to the failure of dams during last fall's devastating floods, researchers at the College of Charleston have concluded. Instead of soaking into the ground, rain that fell during last October's massive storm ran off pavement in areas that have grown dramatically since 2001 – and that increased the force of water working its way toward dams downstream, according to research presented Friday during a conference in Columbia. When runoff-swollen creeks hit the dams, the impact likely contributed to their failure, said Norm Levine, a College of Charleston associate professor who supervised the student research project. The research focused on development upstream of failed dams at lakes Covington and Elizabeth in Richland County and of the broken Old Mill dam in Lexington County.

The State: Beach opens anew at Lake Murray

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article69471092.html>

Tim Flach

Rain didn't delay the annual re-opening Friday of the only public beach on Lake Murray. The beach on the south side of the dam will be available daily for swimming and picnicking through Sept. 9. No lifeguards are on duty. Admission is \$3 per car. The boat launch ramp on the north side of the dam is open through Sept. 5. Both sites are managed by South Carolina Electric & Gas. Co, the Cayce-based utility that oversees the 47,500-acre lake created in 1930 for hydropower.

The Herald: Fort Mill native to run from SC to Los Angeles as fundraiser

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article69459882.html>

Hannah Strong

An emotional group of family and friends gathered Friday in downtown Fort Mill to say their goodbyes as Adrian Jackson began a long journey across the United States – on foot. The 24-year-old independent filmmaker plans to run from York County to Los Angeles over the next three months. He hopes the effort – along with a documentary of the trip that will be filmed along the way – will raise working capital for his film and video production company, as well as raise awareness about the South Carolina film industry. Jackson, a former track and cross-country athlete, said he expects to run between 25 and 30 miles per day to reach his goal. "I am anticipating a lot of pain," Jackson said Friday morning, twirling a lucky rabbit's foot as he waited to get underway.

Post and Courier: Fifth-grader's crusade against child hunger gains national recognition

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160402/PC12/160409940>

Paul Bowers

In the three years since 10-year-old Jackson Silverman co-founded the volunteer organization I Heart

Hungry Kids with his younger brothers Gabriel and Riley, an army of children has packed more than 20,000 bags full of food for Lowcountry students living in poverty. Once a month, about 180 young volunteers travel to the Lowcountry Food Bank's North Charleston warehouse to pack plastic bags full of nonperishable food items for the Backpack Buddies program, which works with select area schools to send food home with children from food-insecure homes on the weekends. According to Kara Moore, the food bank's child and senior hunger program manager, Backpack Buddies currently serves more than 3,100 students a month.

Island Packet: Bluffton's Hispanic population increasing

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/article69457957.html>

Erin Heffernan

The look and feel of our communities is rapidly changing. Newly released census data reveals tangible trends in who's moving in — and who's moving out of Beaufort County. Here are three stories of families reflective of those changes. Families such as the Corderos are the new face of Bluffton, immigrating to the town for a better life. From 2000 to 2014, the number of town residents who identify as Latino or Hispanic rose from just 76 to 2,616 residents, according to U.S. census data. The actual number is likely much higher. Census data tends to underestimate the Hispanic population, said South Carolina State Demographer Michael MacFarlane.

The Herald: Trump protester Rose Hamid speaks at Winthrop

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article69558832.html>

Bristow Marchant

"I never felt anything negative about Winthrop or Rock Hill," Rose Hamid said Friday, on her first trip back to the university campus since her notable appearance almost three months earlier. Until then, Hamid was a fairly anonymous, Charlotte-based writer and activist working on social justice issues and interfaith dialogue outside of her job as a flight attendant. At least, as anonymous as she can be in the headscarf Hamid wears as an expression of her Islamic faith. She stood out even more at the Jan. 8 rally at the Winthrop Coliseum for Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, who only weeks before had announced plans to bar Muslims from entering the United States. Hamid was ejected for silently protesting Trump's appearance, and in the process became a worldwide face of opposition to Trump's proposal, appearing in national and international coverage of the event.

Aiken Standard: Federal lawsuit says Aiken police illegally searched two residents

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160401/AIK0101/160409969>

Maayan Schechter

Two Aiken County residents are suing the Aiken Department of Public Safety and the City of Aiken in federal court, saying in court papers that police performed an illegal cavity search in broad daylight. Elijah Pontoon and Lakey Hicks filed suit on Sept. 21, 2015, with the Aiken County Clerk of Court. The suit was removed to federal court in November. The litigation says the search happened during a traffic stop on Horry Street near Richland Avenue in Aiken in October 2014. Pontoon and Hicks also filed a complaint with the Aiken Department of Public Safety a day after the incident, according to records obtained by the Aiken Standard. Originally filed in Aiken County, the summons and complaint lists the defendants as Chris Medlin; Clark Smith; Jane Doe; John Doe; Charles Barranco, both individually and in his official capacity as the director of the Aiken Department of Public Safety; Aiken Department of Public Safety and the City of Aiken.

Sun News: Bond set at \$10,000 for Horry County Council candidate charged with bribery

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article69008077.html>

Elizabeth Townsend and Claire Byun

An Horry County Council candidate was arrested Tuesday for accepting a bribe from an undercover police officer after asking for money to drop out of the county council race, according to a police report. Richard Withington, 72, of Myrtle Beach is charged with inducement to file for, or withdraw from, candidacy for election, according to J. Reuben Long Detention Center records. He was given a \$10,000 bond Wednesday afternoon and no-contact orders from several of the victims.

Herald-Journal : Ex-con-turned-lawyer tells Spartanburg inmates: 'I'm what I chose to be'

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160401/articles/160409936>

Allison M. Roberts

"I'm not what happened to me. I'm what I chose to be." Former convict-turned-lawyer David Windecher emphasized that message as he spoke to several groups of Spartanburg County inmates at the detention center Friday. Windecher, who works in Atlanta and is also an author, told more than 100 inmates about the long road he took to becoming a criminal defense attorney. A former drug dealer and gang member, Windecher described growing up in poverty in Miami and being immersed in a gang environment. He said he had two choices: join a gang and make a name for himself or run the risk of ending up dead.

National News:

Associated Press: Obama, world leaders urge action on nuclear security, terror

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:03223ea3edb74e5d96c3c7dfaa3f289d>

Josh Lederman and Darlene Superville

World leaders declared progress in safeguarding nuclear materials sought by terrorists and wayward nations, even as President Barack Obama acknowledged the task was far from finished. Closing out a nuclear security summit on Friday, Obama warned of a persistent and harrowing threat: terrorists getting their hands on a nuclear bomb. He urged fellow leaders not to be complacent about the risk of catastrophe, saying that such an attack by the Islamic State or a similar group would "change our world." "I'm the first to acknowledge the great deal of work that remains," Obama said, adding that the vision of disarmament he laid out at the start of his presidency may not be realized during his lifetime. "But we've begun."

Associated Press: Obama says comments like Trump's show ignorance about world

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:862970c89b13460b987557f0c9e466c5>

Darlene Superville and Josh Lederman

President Barack Obama said Friday that suggestions from people like Donald Trump that nuclear weapons would help South Korea and Japan show a lack of understanding of the world. The Republican presidential front-runner told The New York Times last week he would be open to Japan and South Korea having their own atomic arsenals as a deterrent to North Korea. When asked about the issue Friday night, Obama said, "The person who made the statements doesn't know much about foreign policy or nuclear policy or the Korean Peninsula or the world generally."

Associated Press: Imagining a Trump administration? Count on unpredictability

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:3427c1cbbe6c4869bf565a07f5ab31be>

Nancy Benac

Deal-maker Donald Trump has lived his life as one long negotiation, going with his gut and winging it when necessary. Should Trump become president, the White House could well be transformed into the world's highest-profile improv club. It's part of what delights his followers and horrifies his critics.

All of it would run smack up against the stuffy traditions of a government structured to rein in the power of the individual. Among the leadership traits Trump would bring with him to the presidency are impulsivity. Bravado, unpredictability, hype and flexibility.

Associated Press: \$15 minimum-wage movement sets sights on more states
<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:93fec895445049088bcca9c92ecf1eb0>

Jennifer Peltz and David Klepper

California and New York — where almost 1 in 5 Americans live — are on their way to raising their minimum wage to \$15 an hour, and the activists who spearheaded those efforts are now setting their sights on other similarly liberal, Democratic-led states. Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island and Washington are among the states with active "Fight for \$15" efforts, and even economic experts who oppose the increased rate see it gaining momentum. The idea faces headwinds in more conservative and rural states in the South and the Midwest. But activists believe the movement is picking up steam, even if their two big victories so far were achieved in two highly receptive places: trend-setting, liberal, labor-friendly states with a high cost of living and yawning gaps between rich and poor, especially in New York City and Silicon Valley.

New York Times: Thousands Could Lose Food Stamps as States Restore Pre-Recession Requirements

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/02/us/politics/thousands-could-lose-food-stamps-as-states-restore-pre-recession-requirements.html?_r=0

Robert Pear

Hundreds of thousands of people could soon lose food stamps as states reimpose time limits and work requirements that were suspended in recent years because of high unemployment, state officials and advocates for the poor said Friday. Liberal groups said that many unemployed childless adults with low incomes could be cut off, starting this month, as a result of the time limits, which date back to the 1996 welfare law. About 45 million people receive benefits in the food stamp program, now known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a liberal-leaning research and advocacy group, estimates that 500,000 to a million people will lose benefits this year. The federal Food and Nutrition Service said many adults would need to take steps to meet work requirements or risk losing aid.

Associated Press: Justices asked to rule that racial bias trumps jury secrecy
<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:c73d3b7d7b5947b9816735f3283d4fce>

Mark Sherman

The American jury room is a bit like Las Vegas: What happens there is supposed to stay there. But a Supreme Court appeal from a Hispanic defendant in Colorado raises the prospect that a juror's comments during deliberations can be so offensive that they deprive a defendant of a fair trial. The justices could say as early as Monday whether they will take up a case in the fall involving competing tenets of the legal system: a defendant's constitutional right to trial by an impartial jury, and the need for secrecy in jury deliberations.

World News:

Associated Press: Belgian charged with terrorism in new French attacks case
<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:fd91206e74eb4321b8c3524b80b9d2d9>

The Belgian federal prosecutor's office has charged a Belgian with participating in the activities of a terrorist group for his alleged role in a plot to attack France, uncovered after the arrest of a

Frenchman and discovery of a huge cache of weapons and explosives. A statement on Saturday named the 33-year-old suspect only as Y.A. It said he's in custody and has been charged in the case that grew out of the arrest last week of Reda Kriket in the Paris suburb of Boulogne-Billancourt. Paris prosecutor Francois Molins said an "imminent" attack was thwarted with Kriket's arrest and the discovery of the explosives stash in suburban Argenteuil outside of Paris. A third man was arrested in Rotterdam in the case, separate from the deadly attacks in Paris and Brussels.

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