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**Subject:** Morning Clips – Thursday, March 24, 2016

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## Morning Clips – Thursday, March 24, 2016

Governor Nikki Haley News:

Greenville News: 'Ownership' fight over roads funding could KO bill, Haley says

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/03/23/ownership-fight-over-roads-funding-could-ko-bill-haley-says/82163760/>

Tim Smith

Gov. Nikki Haley says she is pleased both legislative chambers have agreed to spend about the same amount of money on roads but is pushing the House to agree to the Senate roads bill to ensure restructuring of the state's highway commission happens. But if the House agrees with the Senate's road plan, one House leader says that would negate what the House did in hours of work on its budget Tuesday night.

Note: "We needed them to concur with the Senate on the funding piece of it," she said. "They put over \$400 million into roads which is exactly what we needed them to do and we thanked them for that." But she also told the leaders that "none of this matters if they don't concur with the Senate and make sure they also have that reform piece."

Note: Haley said there is "political horse trading" by highway commissioners "and the dollars aren't going where they need to," a practice that would end if she is allowed to appoint all the commissioners. "Roads are maintained based on deals made in the commission," she said. "We have said to the House, 'If you concur, we can move forward. If you don't concur, we will likely see the roads bill die again this year,'" she said.

WIS: Haley, House agree on budget, but roads still a thorny issue

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31550700/haley-house-agree-on-budget-but-roads-still-a-thorny-issue>

Will Whitson

The largest budget in South Carolina history -- \$7.5 billion -- has passed the House of Representatives and is on its way to the Senate. The big question with the budget this year is where all the money needed for roads would come from, and according to Gov. Nikki Haley, the House delivered, but she says when it comes to passing the roads bill the House is only meeting her half way. When it comes to what's in the budget, Haley and the House are on the same page.

WAGT: Gov. Nikki Haley and Rep. Chris Corley fight over roads funding on social media

<http://nbc26.tv/2016/03/23/gov-nikki-haley-and-rep-chris-corley-fight-over-roads-funding-on-social-media/>

Uyen Le

It's a tough week for South Carolina lawmakers as they try to allocate money to fix South Carolina's roads, but a Facebook fight between Governor Nikki Haley and Rep. Chris Corley is causing even more tension in the statehouse. Improving South Carolina infrastructure, for some time that issue has been a bump in the road among lawmakers. But recently it's become a pothole. It most recently started to crack when Gov. Nikki Haley posted this statement on her Facebook page, which reads, "The House is about to take money from the roads that need repair most to pay for local pet

projects...Makes zero sense." But Aiken Representative Corley was not going to let her statement go quietly.

S.C. General Assembly News:

The State: Students advocate proposed 'Sierra's Law' in honor of slain teen

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article67834657.html#storylink=apmobile>

Glen Luke Flanagan

Students at Ridge View High School teamed up with the Richland County Sheriff's Department on Wednesday to advocate for Sierra's Law – proposed legislation aimed to protect minors from abusive relationships. The proposed legislation is named for Sierra Landry, an 18-year-old found shot to death in Lancaster County in December 2013. Her boyfriend, Tanner Crolley, pleaded guilty one year later to killing her. Though Landry was 18 when slain, the two dated for nearly two years before the killing. The proposed legislation would allow teens to get an order of protection against an abusive partner, Sheriff Leon Lott said. Lott praised the students for taking the helm on this effort.

Greenville News: As drones become more popular, lawmakers debate rules to use them

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/03/23/drones-become-more-popular-lawmakers-debate-rules-use-them/82161570/>

Tim Smith

Tom Fernandez said he began using drones as a hobby to give his mind a break from law school. Two years ago the hobby turned into a Lowcountry business, and Fernandez is now CEO of Skyview Aerial Solutions, which offers mapping and other real estate services provided by small drones. He came to the Statehouse Wednesday, drone in hand, along with other drone operators to talk to a Senate panel about a bill that would regulate drones in South Carolina, provide penalties for those who send drones over other's property without permission and require search warrants for law enforcement's use of drones.

Independent Mail: S.C. Senate passes refugees bill

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/sc-senate-passes-refugees-bill-2ebddfc-944c-64da-e053-0100007f9091--373297571.html>

Kirk Brown

A bill the state Senate passed Wednesday would make groups that resettle foreign refugees in South Carolina civilly liable for crimes committed by the refugees. The measure was approved by a 39-6 vote after two Republican senators — Kevin Bryant of Anderson and Chip Campsen of Charleston — crafted a compromise amendment that ended what was shaping up to be a lengthy debate on the legislation. The amendment included the provision that victims of serious crimes committed by refugees could file lawsuits seeking damages from the sponsoring organizations that helped the refugees resettle in South Carolina.

WOLO: Mental Health Advocacy at State House

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/2016/03/23/mental-health-advocacy-at-state-house/>

Ben Hoover

The State House on Wednesday hosted Mental Health Advocacy Day. Representatives with the South Carolina chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness as well as members of several law enforcement agencies met with lawmakers. NAMI advocates say when it comes to those living with mental illness education can lead to understanding. NAMI SC Executive Director Bill Lindsey tells ABC Columbia, "Today is about really bringing attention to the issues to those with mental illness.

Access to treatment is really the main thing.”

#### S.C. Politics News:

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: Lindsey Graham cracks jokes, discusses support of Ted Cruz on ‘Daily Show’

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160324/PC1603/160329711>

Maya T. Prabhu

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., made waves on social media during his two-segment appearance on “The Daily Show” Wednesday night where he discussed the presidential race and his recent support of Texas Sen. Ted Cruz. Graham ended the appearance by shooting a game of pool with show host Trevor Noah where each time one missed a missed shot he had to read a “compliment” about Republican frontrunner Donald Trump, like saying wispy hair is desirable in certain dog breeds.

#### SC Elections:

Independent Mail: Senate race has implications for other seats in Anderson County

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/senate-race-has-implications-for-other-seats-in-anderson-county-2ebeddfc-944e-64da-e053-0100007f9091-373298921.html>

Kirk Brown

Jockeying for the vacant South Carolina Senate District 4 seat may have implications for at least three other elected posts in Anderson County. State Rep. Mike Gambrell of Honea Path and Williamston Town Councilman Rockey Burgess will meet in an April 5 runoff. They were the top vote-getters in Tuesday's Republican primary for the seat that longtime Sen. Billy O'Dell held until he died in January with one year left in his term. Gambrell collected 46 percent of the votes Tuesday, while Burgess received 32 percent in a contest that included five candidates. The winner of the runoff is not expected to face any opposition in a May 17 special election.

#### Opinion/Editorial:

Post and Courier: South Carolina still lagging in literacy

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160324/PC1002/160329720>

Opinion

Last week, more than 150 people consisting of educators, elected officials, nonprofits and members of the business community came together for a town hall focused on one of the most important policy challenges facing the state of South Carolina today — significantly improving the percentage of South Carolina students who can read at grade level by the end of third grade — and whether the Read to Succeed Act is working to achieve that result. Right now, only 34 percent of all fourth graders in our state read at grade level. Nationally, we rank 39th in literacy. That means that too many South Carolina children go through their days without fully understanding materials presented in class, and without gaining the reading skills necessary to advance in school and succeed in the workforce.

Post and Courier: Falling short on highway reform

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160324/PC1002/160329715>

Opinion

Both the House and Senate recognize the necessity of providing additional funding for state highways. And given the wretched condition of so many roads and bridges, the problem is hard to

miss. But neither body has been willing to insist on the best source for additional revenue for the S.C. Department of Transportation — a hike in the state gas tax. There was strong support for a gas tax increase during Tuesday night's House debate on the budget, particularly among Democratic members who decried the General Assembly's willingness to let roads and bridges continue to deteriorate year after year.

Aiken Standard: Guest Column: The MOX Project to save more than \$5B

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160324/AIK02/160329734>

Opinion

The Plutonium Disposition Program, or PDP, was launched in 2000 with the signing of the Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement, or PMDA, between the U.S. and Russia. The PMDA, which was amended in 2010, required each country to dispose of 34 metric tons of surplus weapons-grade plutonium by irradiating the plutonium as mixed-oxide fuel in nuclear power or fast reactors. To implement the U.S. plutonium disposition, three facilities were to be constructed at the Savannah River Site: the Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility, or PDCF; the MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility, or MFFF; and the Waste Solidification Building, or WSB. The purpose of the PDCF was to disassemble nuclear weapons pits and convert the resulting metal into an unclassified plutonium oxide form that could be used as feed to the MFFF. The purpose of the MFFF is to mix plutonium oxide with uranium oxide to create mixed-oxide fuel assemblies for use in commercial power plants. The purpose of the WSB is to process liquid waste from the PDCF and the MFFF.

Aiken Standard: Guest editorial: Chipping away at domestic violence

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160324/AIK0201/160329736>

Opinion

Devastating national data leave no question that South Carolina has a major problem with domestic violence. Now, two promising legislative initiatives are aiming to curb the problem and remove the state from the list of the most dangerous for women at the hands of men. Last Tuesday, Gov. Nikki Haley signed a law establishing 16 local panels across the state – one in each of the court's circuits – to analyze circumstances behind individual criminal domestic violence, or CDV, deaths.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: S.C. coastal cities among fastest-growing in the nation — again

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160324/PC16/160329757>

David Slade

Coastal South Carolina saw some of the fastest population growth in the nation last year, the Census Bureau said Thursday. The three most rapidly growing metropolitan areas on the U.S. Atlantic Coast were all in the Palmetto State — for the third year in a row. The Myrtle Beach, Hilton Head and Charleston metro areas were also among the Top 20 nationally for the highest rates of population growth from 2014 to 2015. Most of the nation's other Top 20 hot spots were in Texas and along Florida's Gulf Coast.

Sun News: Myrtle Beach metro area again one of the fastest-growing in the country

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article67886402.html>

Steve Jones

The Myrtle Beach metropolitan area held its place as the second-fastest growing in the U.S. from 2014 to 2015, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, and while area officials see that as a good thing, they also say that keeping pace with infrastructure and services can be a challenge. The two-county

area grew to about 430,000 residents, with Horry County eclipsing the 300,000 mark for the first time. Brunswick County, N.C., the metro area's other component, grew to more than 120,000 people, according to the Census Bureau's 3.5 percent growth rate through half of 2015 and its 2014 population estimate for the county. The Census Bureau released the growth statistics Thursday.

Post and Courier: Israeli craft beer cleared for sale in S.C.

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160324/PC0301/160329836>

Hanna Raskin

Austin Clar is persuaded that beers from the Tel Aviv brewery can find an American fan base in the 12 states where they've been cleared for sale, including South Carolina. Indeed, the future of Israeli beer may well depend on foreign demand, since the average Israeli drinks just 14 liters of beer each year. The comparable U.S. figure is 90 liters.

Associated Press: Mobile VA Center making its way through SC Lowcountry

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=m223qTFy](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=m223qTFy)

SC State Wire

A mobile Veteran Affairs center is making its way through the Lowcountry over the next week. The mobile center offers information and resources for veterans to help them transition from service in the military to civilian life. The center will be at the Dawson Center at Voorhees College in Denmark on Thursday. On March 29th, the mobile center visits the Charleston Veterans Center in North Charleston for a ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. The mobile center will be in Allendale on March 31st.

Local News:

The State: EXCLUSIVE: State plans to open public gun range in Columbia area

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article67879217.html#storylink=apmobile>

Sarah Ellis

Richland County will soon have its only publicly accessible outdoor shooting range once the state Department of Natural Resources completes the purchase of a former private shooting club near Eastover. DNR plans to use federal funding designated for hunter education and shooting projects to buy 131 acres off U.S. 76/378 near Eastover. The property, between U.S. 601 and the Wateree River, is the site of the former Indigo Gun Club, which until Jan. 1 was open only to members and guests.

Post and Courier: Assistant North Charleston police chief apologizes for Walter Scott shooting at community forum

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160323/PC16/160329719>

Melissa Boughton

North Charleston Assistant Police Chief Reggie Burgess apologized Wednesday night at a community forum for the April 4 fatal shooting of Walter Scott. He said he thought individuals doing bad things rather than police culture overall tends to affect the public's perception of officers, but he didn't want that to be the case in North Charleston. "I want to apologize to y'all for what happened April 4," Burgess said. "But I'm not going to let one guy (ruin it)."

WIS: Funeral services for fallen Greenville police officer set for Thursday

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31505573/fallen-greenville-police-officer-to-be-laid-to-rest-thursday>

Kim Kimzey, Heather Carpenter and Amanda Shaw

A Greenville police officer is dead after he was shot in the line of duty Friday. Mackey Mortuary is handling the funeral arrangements for Jacobs. Funeral services are scheduled for 11 a.m. Thursday at Furman University's Timmons Arena. The burial will follow in Coleman Memorial Cemetery at 1599 Greer Highway in Travelers Rest.

The State: Greenville officer's gun in holster when he was shot to death by suspect

<http://www.thestate.com/news/state/south-carolina/article67917732.html#storylink=apmobile>

Anna Lee

If you're wondering why Jacobs didn't have his gun drawn while chasing a suspect he knew to be a self-identified gang member, here's why: According to the Greenville Police Department's force policy, an officer is prohibited from using lethal force against subjects who are "believed to be unarmed or are not presenting an imminent threat to human life or serious bodily harm unless immediately apprehended — whether or not they are fleeing from police." Miller has previously said Jacobs and his partner were on patrol in the Nicholtown community when they spotted Mackey and pulled over for a field interview.

Sun News: Funeral for Conway firefighter to be held Thursday

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article67887017.html>

Audrey Hudson

The funeral for Conway firefighter Christopher Gene Ray who was killed Sunday in the line of duty will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday at Beach Church in Myrtle Beach. Firefighters from across the state are expected to attend the funeral and participate in the procession to the Buffkin Cemetery. The cemetery is in the Green Sea community, where Ray had lived with his wife and two children.

Associated Press: Lexington trooper named Highway Patrol trooper of year

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=JvCZAYwl](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=JvCZAYwl)

SC State Wire

A highway patrol trooper from Lexington County has been named South Carolina's Highway Patrol Trooper of the Year. Trooper Gabriel Colbert is credited with helping save three lives during last October's floods. The Department of Public Safety says that Colbert was honored during a ceremony Wednesday in Columbia for his exceptional service. He was selected from among 13 other troopers statewide. Colbert was honored for helping save the lives of three motorists, including a 2-year-old child, during the flooding that inundated some areas of the state with as much as 2 feet of rain last October.

Greenville News: Simpsonville Police looks to keep state accreditation

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/golden-strip/2016/03/23/simpsonville-police-looks-keep-state-accreditation/82162488/>

Scott Keeler

With the deadline for signing the check to fund the Simpsonville Police Department's pursuit of national accreditation having expired without signature, Simpsonville City Council took steps to maintain the department's state accreditation Tuesday night. A contentious Committee of the Whole meeting concluded with City Council's approval of a motion to forward onto the next council meeting the allowance of Police Chief Keith Grounell to appoint a staff member to lead pursuit of maintaining state accreditation.

Herald-Journal : Campaign raises awareness of rail safety, laws

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160323/articles/160329851>

Daniel J. Gross

A moving train can take more than a mile to come to a stop. In most cases, by the time a conductor sees someone on the tracks, "it's too late," said Brent Spivey, a train master for Norfolk Southern. Ten people were struck and killed by trains within the past five years in Spartanburg County, which has the highest train fatalities in South Carolina, according to the Federal Railroad Administration's Office of Safety Analysis. In an effort to change that, Norfolk Southern police and law enforcement officials spent this week canvassing areas in Spartanburg and Cherokee counties to educate residents on railroad trespassing laws.

Aiken Standard: Aiken residents hold ties with the Brussels community

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160323/AIK0101/160329693>

Thomas Gardiner

The average American citizen doesn't look at things that happen outside of the United States as affecting their life, just as long as they can enjoy relative safety, they really don't care, Aiken County resident David Lobb said. Lobb, president of South Carolina Council of Chapters with the Military Officers Association of America, served more than 20 years as a military intelligence officer in Brussels, Belgium, where he met his wife, Patricia. She was an Irish citizen working as a protocol employee for the budding European Union. The couple lived in the municipality of Wezembeek-Oppem, under the final approach path of flights arriving at the Brussels airport that was a target in Tuesday's coordinated terrorist attacks. Patricia worked in the center of the city only a short metro ride away.

Herald-Journal: Upstate Alliance seeks to expand global investment in region

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160323/articles/160329849>

Trevor Anderson

A new initiative has been launched that seeks to ensure the Upstate's long-term economic success. Upstate Alliance, an economic development organization founded in 2000 to position the region for global success, unveiled its Foreign Direct Investment plan Wednesday during its annual meeting at the TD Convention Center in Greenville. The organization said the five-year plan is a continuation of the Upstate's involvement in the Global Cities Initiative and will work in conjunction with its Regional Export Plan announced last year. Both plans are designed to increase the region's global competitiveness, Upstate Alliance said.

The Herald: York County, DHEC want well testing, offer water after landfill leak

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article67908317.html>

Bristow Marchant

York County could provide up to 41 homes with bottled water, depending on whether residents have been exposed to a landfill contaminant. That was the solution offered to residents of Travis Acres off McFarland Road worried about lead coming out of a long-closed county landfill. One of three recently installed monitoring wells in the York subdivision detected pollutants, leading the county to hold a community meeting Wednesday at the county fire training center. The landfill has had long-term groundwater monitoring since it stopped accepting waste in 1998. That monitoring detected what a spokesman with the state Department of Health and Environmental Control labeled "volatile organic compounds," which includes items such as degreasers, lubricants and brake fluid.

The Herald: Ousted Lancaster County economic head claims defamation in lawsuit

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article67802427.html>

Andrew Dys

The ousted president of the now-defunct Lancaster County Economic Development Corp. wants Lancaster County and some public officials to pay him damages after claiming he was defamed and conspired against before he left in October, according to a lawsuit filed this week. Allen "Keith" Tunnell had been president of the public-private economic group starting in 2004 but county leaders voted last year to cut funding for the agency.

Herald-Journal: Internet access coming to rural areas of Spartanburg County

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160323/articles/160329852>

Chris Lavender

Plans are underway to bring high-speed Internet access to rural parts of Spartanburg County. The transformation is expected to bring new opportunities in education, business and economic development to areas that currently lack broadband service. On Thursday, the county will be certified as a Connected Community through a program of Connect South Carolina and Connected Nation. The program helps communities pinpoint where Internet access is lacking and develop a plan to address it.

National News:

Associated Press: Reports: 2nd suspect believed in Brussels subway attack.

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:180a7305a830416b9c2b5e91bd476075>

A second attacker is suspected of taking part in the bombing this week of a Brussels subway train and may be at large, according to Belgian and French media reports, amid growing signs that the same Islamic State cell was behind the attacks in Brussels and bloodshed in Paris last year. The chief suspect in the Paris attacks, Salah Abdeslam, was summoned to court in Brussels on Thursday morning after his arrest last week in the Belgian capital. His lawyer said Abdeslam is not fighting extradition to France, which wants him to face potential terrorism charges.

Associated Press: Kerry in Moscow urges unity in face of Brussels attacks

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:cfb350f14bd841d985770c82a4084a7e>

Matthew Lee

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry called Thursday for countries to boost efforts to fight the Islamic State group in Syria, Iraq and beyond in the wake of this week's deadly attacks in Brussels. In Moscow for talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Syria and Ukraine, Kerry said the Brussels attacks should put nations on notice that the terror threat emanating from the Middle East must be stopped. Kerry, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State, said the "events in Brussels underscore to us all the urgency of every country that has the ability to make a difference to end this evil scourge that comes from Daesh and violent extremism."

Associated Press: Effort in 3 US cities to combat extremism off to slow start

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:6a4063c3de964717bc537213f4c41b31>

Philip Marcelo

A federally funded effort in Boston, Los Angeles and Minneapolis to combat extremist recruitment has been slow to start since it was announced a year and a half ago. Few local programs have been directly created by the "Countering Violent Extremism" pilot initiative, with officials in those cities just starting to distribute more than \$500,000 in Department of Justice grant money to jumpstart new local efforts. The furthest along appears to be Minneapolis, where officials point to at least one newly created but still not operational effort: a privately financed mentorship program working with youth in the city's sizeable Somali community, which has produced extremist recruits over the years.

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