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Subject: Clips – Sunday, March 2, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: Proposed military cuts a worry for Fort Jackson

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/01/3299676/proposed-military-cuts-a-worry.html#storylink=cpy>

Jeff Wilkinson

U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel made big news last week by announcing deep cuts to the military, particularly the Army. But those cuts are actually shallower than automatic cuts already mandated by Congress as a result of the 2011 debt ceiling standoff. Hagel and the Obama administration want to reduce the size of the Army to 440,000 or 450,000 soldiers.

HALEY DEFENDS GUARD: Haley, whose husband, Michael, is in the S.C. Guard and served in Afghanistan, used the announced Guard cuts to lambaste Obama. She called them a “slap in the face” to Guard members who have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Note: “Across-the-board cuts like (the sequester) are wrong,” she said. “But now, (for the administration) to actually make it a priority to cut the National Guard is something no one can understand.”

S.C. Political News:

The State: Graham challenger taps supporter of Ted Cruz

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/01/3299791/exclusive-graham-challenger-taps.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

A Columbia pastor, retired attorney and former Democratic operative who is seeking to unseat Republican U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham has made an ally in a political group that says it helped Texas tea party hero Ted Cruz rise from obscurity in 2012 to win a U.S. Senate seat. Republican Det Bowers, 61, quietly has been fundraising to run against Graham in June's GOP primary.

Aiken Standard: Former principal, other democratic candidates share views

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140302/AIK0101/140309946/1004/former-principal-other-democratic-candidates-share-views>

Derrek Asberry

Rosie Berry said her main priorities in running for the S.C. House District 84 seat are increasing economic development opportunities and creating better jobs in Aiken County. Berry addressed a crowd of local residents on Saturday during an Aiken County Democratic Party luncheon in the Aiken Electric Cooperative building.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: The treasurer in the china shop

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140302/PC1002/140309907/1021/the-treasurer-in-the-china-shop>
Editorial

The investment board for the state retirement system is due for a little peace and quiet and productivity, following months of rancor. So far, however, the show just goes on and on. The board's chairman recently was cleared of conflict of interest by the State Ethics Commission, following last year's decision by the attorney general to drop a criminal probe.

Times and Democrat: Elzey, SCSU can't celebrate for very long

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/editorial/elzey-scsu-can-t-celebrate-for-very-long/article_703ba562-a0f3-11e3-a898-0019bb2963f4.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Inauguration of S.C. State's 11th president; OUR OPINION: Facing difficult issues, Thomas

Elzey needs all his skills to build support, solve problems. Thomas Elzey's inauguration as South Carolina State's 11th president was a ceremonial event Saturday surrounding a celebratory weekend of fundraising that honors the university's history and mission.

Post and Courier: Senate ethics bill not tough enough

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140302/PC1002/140309906/1021/senate-ethics-bill-not-tough-enough>

Editorial

Thursday's passage of an ethics bill in the Senate was accompanied by an effusion of self-congratulation for a job well done. It's too soon to celebrate. The Senate bill omitted too many essentials for ethical oversight and accountability. At this point, it's nothing to write home about, much less to cheer. Or as Sen. Vincent Sheheen, D-Kershaw, said, the bill is "pretty close to nothing."

The State: Every member of Richland County's reckless elections board should resign

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/01/3297386/editorial-every-member-of-richland.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

The Richland County Board of Elections and Voter Registration is an agency run amok, and its members are unfit stewards over a most sacred trust. Since no one has the power to remove them, they all should resign immediately. This board proved to be inept and ineffective long ago, but the reckless and arrogant behavior former elections director Howard Jackson attributes to its members is a bridge too far.

Rock Hill Herald: U.S. military should shrink to match the times

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/03/01/5727076/us-military-should-shrink-to-match.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

Hagel's \$496 billion budget would trim more than 100,000 troops from today's active duty force, retire hundreds of aging aircraft and warships, potentially close some military bases and other facilities, and cut some benefits for military personnel and retirees. The cuts might also entail reductions to National Guard units around the country, a move that has been criticized by Gov. Nikki Haley.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

The State: SC GOP voters say Tim Scott reflects their values -- and those of African Americans

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/01/3299685/exclusive-sc-gop-voters-say-tim.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

Likely Republican primary voters in South Carolina overwhelmingly say U.S. Sen. Tim Scott – the state's first African-American U.S. senator – shares their beliefs – and those of African-Americans, according to a new Winthrop Poll. The relationship between S.C. Republican voters and Scott is singular in S.C. political history.

Post and Courier: Rep. Clyburn urges Young Democrats to draw from the past in national conference

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140301/PC16/140309892/rep-clyburn-urges-young-democrats-to-draw-from-the-past-in-national-conference>

Christina Elmore

U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn on Saturday implored a group of politically minded youth to look to the past for guidance in their efforts to counter what he described as a national shift to the right. The congressman addressed the spirited crowd of party faithful in Charleston as part of the Young Democrats of America's weekend-long Winter National Conference.

Legislative Session News:

Florence Morning News: Ethics fines piling up for SC politicians

http://www.snow.com/news/politics/article_20ebb158-a195-11e3-98e9-0017a43b2370.html

Gavin Jackson

Noon on March 30 is the deadline to file forms for local and state candidates running in 2014. It is also when disclosure forms must be filed with the State Ethics Commission. That's something candidates in Florence County might want to note, because several have had difficulty in the past.

Associated Press: House passes SC bill on coal ash lawsuits

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=11U1xd20

A bill that could shield Duke Energy from having to clean out polluted coal ash ponds in two areas of South Carolina will move to the Senate for consideration. The State newspaper reported (<http://bit.ly/1mSlrNS>) the House approved the bill 80-30 this past week. The bill would block lawsuit by citizen groups under the S.C. Pollution Control Act.

South Carolina News:

Anderson Independent: Investment chief seeks to discredit S.C. treasurer's criticism
<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/mar/01/investment-chief-seeks-to-discredit-sc-criticism/?partner=RSS>

Kirk Brown

The head of the commission that manages South Carolina's \$27 billion retirement fund cited a decades-old lawsuit last week as part of an effort to discredit criticism from state Treasurer Curtis Loftis. Greg Ryberg, the recently hired chief operating officer of the Retirement System Investment Commission, lashed out at Loftis — the only elected official on the commission — at an appearance Tuesday before a state Senate subcommittee.

Post and Courier: Card, Encarnation and McConnell likely finalists for College of Charleston president job
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140301/PC16/140309911/1006/card-encarnation-and-mcconnell-likely-finalists-for-college-of-charleston-president-job>

Diane Knich

The reported finalists for the presidency of the College of Charleston include a longtime South Carolina statesman, a former White House official and an international businessman. The State newspaper in Columbia, citing a source familiar with the search, released the names of three of those finalists: Andrew Card, Dennis "Jody" Encarnation and Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell.

Local News:

Associated Press: Greenville wants study of I-85 truck traffic
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=L5drti4N

Greenville officials are commissioning a study of how many more trucks the new South Carolina Inland Port in Greer is bringing to Interstate 85 because they say state government hasn't answered the question. The Greenville News reported (<http://gmol.co/1mMEdJT>) the Greenville-Pickens Area Transportation Study will use \$50,000 in federal money for the study.

National News:

Associated Press: Obama to Russia: There will be 'costs' for Ukraine
http://www.scnw.com/news/national/article_b398f9c4-a164-11e3-9e29-0017a43b2370.html

Julie Pace

President Barack Obama is warning Russia "there will be costs" for any military maneuvers it launches in Ukraine, a move U.S. and Ukrainian officials say they believe to be already underway. Officials say Obama may retaliate by canceling a trip to Russia this summer for an international summit and could also cut off trade discussions with Moscow.

Associated Press: Obama to push minimum wage Wednesday in Conn.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_OBAMA_MINIMUM_WAGE?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-03-01-18-16-52

Striving to show momentum on a top legislative priority, President Barack Obama is appearing next week with Northeastern governors who back his push to raise the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour and will pledge to lift the earnings of the lowest-paid workers in their states to at least the same level.

CNN: Republicans call on Obama to act on Ukraine
<http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2014/03/01/republicans-call-on-obama-to-act-in-ukraine/>

Jason Seher

As the Ukrainian military readied for a possible widespread Russian incursion into its Crimea region, Republican lawmakers urged President Barack Obama to take action to prevent the situation from descending into chaos. In a statement released Saturday, Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona, said he is "deeply concerned" Russia's presence in Ukraine could expand if the President does not outline consequences for

President Vladimir Putin's regime.

The State: Primaries offer 1st major test of voter ID laws

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/02/28/3297101/primaries-offer-1st-major-test.html#storylink=cpy>

Thomas Beaumont

In elections that begin next week, voters in 10 states will be required to present photo identification before casting ballots — the first major test of voter ID laws after years of legal challenges arguing that the measures are designed to suppress voting.

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