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Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, March 18, 2015

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

WOLO: Gov. Haley Weighs in on Denied Bond Package

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/news/local/Gov-Haley-Weighs-in-on-Denied-Bond-Package-296631591.html>

Jennifer Ready

Governor Nikki Haley is defending her opposition of a bond package that may have gone a long way to repairing state roads. A proposal to borrow \$500 million dollars for building projects across the state failed in the State House, a measure to which Governor was strongly opposed.

Note: "There's a time and a place for a bond," said Governor Haley. "That's when you want to borrow money for long-term infrastructure needs, things that aren't your normal cause of business, you don't do it for a wish-list."

Note: "I am very aware families are busy, they don't always get to watch the news or read the newspaper and sometimes my way of reaching them is through social media," explained Governor Haley. "It works."

Associated Press: Gov. Nikki Haley: No early endorsement for president

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

Bill Barrow

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley says she will not endorse any Republican White House hopeful in the coming months; she hopes instead to parlay the South's first presidential primary into some positive attention for the state.

Note: "I plan to be a very sweet host to all of them. We want them all to come," she said Tuesday standing beside former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush at a stop on his first extended campaign trip to South Carolina this year.

Note: "I don't know if I'll endorse yet," Haley added, "but what I will tell you is, it's not going to be any time soon."

Post and Courier: Jeb Bush, Nikki Haley visit battered women's shelter

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150317/PC1603/150319394>

Jeremy Borden

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush praised South Carolina's efforts to combat domestic violence on the first day of the potential Republican presidential candidate's two-day swing through the Palmetto State. The comments came Tuesday afternoon at the headquarters of Sistercare, a Columbia-area battered women's shelter.

Note: Haley promised that would begin to change this year, in part by people talking publicly about an issue that is normally kept private. "This is our year when it's not a whisper anymore ... it's a scream of success," she said.

Washington Post: Jeb Bush sharpens his attacks on President Obama in South Carolina

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/jeb-bush-sharpens-his-attacks-on-president-obama-in-south-carolina/2015/03/17/56b4d628-ccca-11e4-8c54-ffb5ba6f2f69_story.html

Ed O'Keefe

Presumed Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush intensified his attacks on President Obama on Tuesday, using his first campaign-style stop in this early primary state to deliver one of his sharpest critiques yet of the current White House occupant.

Note: He later visited a domestic violence shelter with South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley (R) and attended a fundraiser for South Carolina GOP state lawmakers in Columbia. Bush has maintained a close relationship with Haley for several years and campaigned for her reelection last October. He visited the state in December to give a commencement address at the University of South Carolina.

The State: Jeb Bush to SC: 'I'll be here a lot'

http://www.thestate.com/2015/03/17/4052028_bush-swings-through-columbia-greenville.html?rh=1

Andrew Shain

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush talked up conservative leadership during his first swing through South Carolina since formally expressing interest in the Republican nomination for president in 2016. "I'm kind of tired seeing the food fight, the constant crisis, never solving problems," Bush told S.C. House Republicans at a reception in Columbia Tuesday.

Note: Haley told reporters she has asked Bush for advice on curbing domestic violence, just as she had before on education issues. Haley started a domestic-violence task force this year. Bush said he and his wife have supported a private foundation that aids shelters, while Florida lawmakers have stiffened that state's laws.

The Hill: Vying for Haley's support

<http://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/236042-vying-for-haleys-support>

Niall Stanage

The battle among 2016 GOP contenders to win over resurgent South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley has begun. Two of the early front-runners for the Republican presidential nomination, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, are visiting the Palmetto State this week. Both of them plan to call upon the governor, who won reelection last year.

Greenville News: Haley moving toward compromise on roads plan

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2015/03/17/haley-says-will-bend-income-tax-cut/24904143/>

Tim Smith

Gov. Nikki Haley is signaling compromise on her roads plan while a Senate panel is recommending its own proposal that goes beyond what Haley has said she will approve. And House lawmakers are attempting to decide what plan to back and whether it will include the governor's proposal. Tuesday's events still left uncertain what lawmakers ultimately will do about the state's crumbling infrastructure and when.

Post and Courier: Democrats plan to counter Gov. Haley's anti-union rhetoric ahead of Boeing vote

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150317/PC1603/150319417>

Schuyler Kropf

South Carolina's Democratic Party plans to push back against Gov. Nikki Haley's strident anti-labor rhetoric ahead of the pending vote on forming a union at the Boeing assembly plant in North Charleston.

Note: Haley's office responded by saying Democrats don't have a track record of supporting Boeing's workforce and expansion to South Carolina, as was evident in a challenge filed by the NLRB when the company was moving here. The governor addressed the Boeing union question during a joint appearance with Bush on Tuesday at a domestic violence shelter. Haley said the nonunion Boeing workforce in North Charleston has "proved we can build an airplane and build it well."

S.C. General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: College presidents urged to mobilize supporters to lobby for borrowing plan

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150317/PC1603/150319366>

Cynthia Roldan

Sen. Darrell Jackson, D-Hopkins, told Debra Boyd, Winthrop's president, and David Cole, MUSC's president, that they must tap their alumni and supporters to lobby the governor and legislators to ensure a \$500 million bond bill that was killed in the House last week is revived.

Associated Press: SC lawmakers advance bill to shield execution-drug sellers

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

Meg Kinnard

The identities of pharmaceutical companies that supply execution drugs to South Carolina would become secret under legislation approved Tuesday by a panel of state lawmakers. The legislation would add drug companies to the state's execution team and require that their identities be kept secret, in the hope that providers will resume selling execution drugs to the state.

Greenville News: Legislation to require meeting agendas stalls

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2015/03/17/legislation-require-meeting-agendas->

[stalls/24927525/](#)

Tim Smith

Legislation requiring that public bodies provide advance notice of what they intend to discuss in meetings has stalled as lawmakers squabble over which chamber passed its legislation first. A second bill designed to shed light on deaths handled by coroners has passed the Senate but faces an uncertain fate in the House.

Greenville News: Senate judiciary panel passes mental health courts bill

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2015/03/17/senate-judiciary-panel-passes-mental-health-courts-bill/24918913/>

Tim Smith

The Senate Judiciary Committee today voted unanimously to approve a bill to expand mental health courts in the state, sending the proposal to the full Senate. Sen. Shane Massey, an Edgefield Republican, said the bill establishes a framework for a statewide system that is already being used in several judicial circuits.

Post and Courier: Calls for a convention to amend Constitution face roadblocks getting to Senate floor

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150317/PC1603/150319372>

Thad Moore

A pair of bills intended to rein in the federal government through constitutional amendments are headed to the floor of the state Senate, but a procedural move by a prominent Democrat could stall their progress. The two proposals that advanced from the Judiciary Committee would call for a convention of states to change the U.S. Constitution to require a balanced federal budget, limit the government's power and impose term limits in Congress.

Florence Morning News: Upbeat tone set at Florence County Day in capital

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_4f5ea050-cd08-11e4-af31-63143b5b50e0.html

Gavin Jackson

The annual Florence County Day event served not just as the typical Capital City junket for business and community leaders, but also as a pep rally for the leaders of the Pee Dee's largest county, even if not everyone is getting along.

Note: This praise comes less than a week after Gov. Nikki Haley's made "silly and immature" comments about Leatherman—as former Lt. Gov. Ken Ard put it—at the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce luncheon where she called out Leatherman and other Pee Dee senators for obstructing ethics reform.

S.C. Political News:

Greenville News: Bush calls for higher education reform during Greenville stop

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2015/03/17/jeb-bush-south-carolina-primary/24903319/>

Rudolph Bell

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, a potential Republican presidential candidate, said in Greenville Tuesday that federal student loan programs are financing a "dramatic expansion" of buildings and "prestigious programs for universities for them to feel good about what they're doing."

Associated Press: Clinton taps SC campaign head

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8R4FZIQk

Ken Thomas

Hillary Rodham Clinton has chosen a former aide to Rep. James Clyburn of South Carolina to lead her campaign in the South's first presidential primary. Two Democrats familiar with the decision says Clay Middleton will serve as state director for Clinton's campaign in South Carolina. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss internal planning.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Is it too much to ask for a little civility in politics?

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150318/PC16/150319386>

Brian Hicks

Don't worry about Gov. Nikki Haley, she's doing just fine — even though she's been called everything but a child of God these past couple of weeks. First the governor got grief from the far right on Facebook for daring to greet the president when he flew into Columbia.

Sticks and stones: Gov. Haley certainly wasn't wounded by the Dems slinging slurs. "It didn't offend me, it

surprised me,” she says. “I am surprised by how angry people are. It’s not personal.” Haley says when she disagrees with the Legislature it is only over issues or policy, that she respects all 170 members of the General Assembly.

Note: “More people are likely to listen if we are civil,” Haley says. “They start to tune out when you get into calling names.”

Index-Journal: Lawmakers should be upholding their end

<http://www.indexjournal.com/opinion/editorial/Lawmakers-should-be-upholding-their-end>

Editorial

Plenty of ill will is being bred, thanks to the budget shortfall of state dollars being doled out to local governments -- state dollars the local governments had been told belonged to them and that have been squeezed in recent years thanks to the recession that began in 2008.

The State: A catastrophe by design: SC Higher Education Commission doing exactly what Legislature taught it to do

<http://www.thestate.com/2015/03/17/4051769/scoppe-a-catastrophe-by-design.html#storylink=cpy>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

USUALLY, when we have a catastrophe involving a state agency, it’s because the agency didn’t do its job. Think DSS or the Revenue Department or the old Employment Security Commission. But sometimes the catastrophe is the result of the agency doing precisely what the Legislature taught it to do.

Aiken Standard: Work for smart but fair reciprocity laws

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20150318/AIK0201/150319513/1018/AIK02>

Editorial

Efforts should continue toward creating concealed weapons permit reciprocity between our state and Georgia, but the Peach State must catch up with South Carolina’s laws. Georgia’s gun laws are simply too lax for South Carolina to consider each side on equal footing at this point.

Times and Democrat: Strengthening S.C. water law not anti-farm

http://thetandd.com/news/strengthening-s-c-water-law-not-anti-farm/article_6975442b-7e47-5266-a7ce-180adc0eb647.html

Editorial

Farmers are on the offensive, with the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation arguing that attempts to revise South Carolina’s Surface Water Act of 2010 amount to attacks on agriculture by special interests. “Under the guise of protecting the environment, those special interests are accusing farmers of killing rivers and sucking up water without any check and balances,” the federation says in a mass email urging pressure on state representatives to reject changes to the law.

Post and Courier: Still delaying a Medicare cure

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150318/PC1002/150319367>

Editorial

Medicare’s “Sustainable Growth Rate” is just one of many absurdly optimistic federal government euphemisms. And since that SGR formula was first supposed to be enforced 14 years ago to help contain spending in that massive health care entitlement program, Congress has annually postponed those scheduled reductions on payments to physicians.

S.C. State News:

Associated Press: SC State trustees release letters to justify Elzey's firing

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

Jeffrey Collins

South Carolina State University trustees wrote a letter to President Thomas Elzey less than a month before they suspended him, saying they were worried he wasn't communicating with them and was out-of-state when a utility threatened to cut off power to the school. A lawyer for the trustees released two letters Tuesday, one day after the board cited them when they fired Elzey.

Times and Democrat: Emails: DPU was ready to cut off SCSU power

http://thetandd.com/news/emails-dpu-was-ready-to-cut-off-scsu-power/article_147a5f5c-3e7f-5fb7-8aad-80f2e2959f4d.html

Dale Linder-Altman

Email correspondence between S.C. State's Vice President of Fiscal Affairs James Openshaw and the Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities Administrative Director Joshua Nexsen from Jan. 14 through March 6 indicate the university has frequently made late utility payments.

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: Circuit Court backlog threatens right to 'speedy trial'

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2015/03/17/circuit-court-backlog-threatens-right-speedy-trial/24925367/>

David Dykes

Amid a backlog of cases and questions about its efficiency, South Carolina's judicial system is under a review that likely will end up in the laps of lawmakers. And the state's Circuit Court operations are central to the debate. Circuit judges hear the high-profile cases, learn firsthand about the worst of human behavior and send men and women to prison for a lifetime.

Associated Press: SLED investigates inmates death at Bishopville prison

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=DFyN6cIV

The State Law Enforcement Division is investigating the death of an inmate at the Lee Correctional Institution in Bishopville. Lee County Coroner Larry Logan told local media outlets that 27-year-old Victor Rogers was found dead in his cell Tuesday morning. An autopsy was planned Wednesday in Newberry.

The State: DSS, contractor to pay \$515K to mother, victimized 6-year-old

<http://www.thestate.com/2015/03/17/4052392/dss-contractor-to-pay-515000-to.html>

John Monk

The S.C. Department of Social Services and a private contractor it hires to place children in foster homes have agreed to pay \$515,000 after a 6-year-old Columbia-area girl was allegedly sexually assaulted by a teenage sexual predator, according to court records. The settlement comes at a time when DSS is under intense scrutiny for the way it does, or does not, care for the thousands of children in its care.

Island Packet: Hilton Head Island joins growing league of coastal towns opposing offshore drilling

http://www.islandpacket.com/2015/03/17/3650383_hilton-head-leaders-seek-public.html?rh=1#storylink=cpy

Zach Murdock

Hilton Head Island is adding its name to a growing roster of South Carolina municipalities opposed to oil drilling off the Palmetto State's coast. This week town staff and Mayor David Bennett will pen letters opposing offshore drilling and the seismic testing used to find undersea oil to the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the state's Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Greenville News: Career centers retooled for career-ready focus

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/education/2015/03/17/career-centers-retooled-career-ready-focus/24915269/>

Nathaniel Cary

Stephen Sloan leaned over the dull blue-gray hood of a car his students had primed the day before, scrubbing it with a soapy sponge to prepare it for painting. Meanwhile, some students painted pinstripes on another vehicle while others worked to repair the quarter-panel on a third.

Local News:

Times and Democrat: Jobless spike blamed on holidays, S.C. State

http://thetandd.com/news/jobless-spike-blamed-on-holidays-s-c-state/article_c844cfd2-aa52-5c45-b2af-14840059ec47.html

Gene Zaleski

Jobless rates increased throughout The T&D Region in January, giving it some of the highest rates in the state. Orangeburg County's jobless rate increased to 11.9 percent, up from 10.4 percent the month before. Orangeburg County had the third-highest unemployment rate of the state's 46 counties, according to South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce data released Tuesday.

Sun News: South Strand voters overwhelmingly support tax hike for fire service

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2015/03/17/4850350/south-strand-voters-overwhelmingly.html>

Charles D. Perry

South Strand voters on Tuesday overwhelmingly supported a tax increase to pay for maintaining their fire service. About 93 percent of the more than 2,100 votes cast said yes to increasing the taxing capacity of the Murrells Inlet-Garden City Fire District by 4 mills, according to unofficial results. Election officials plan to certify the results at 10 a.m. Thursday.

The State: Columbia Mayor Benjamin suggests tax swap

<http://www.thestate.com/2015/03/17/4052328/columbia-mayor-benjamin-suggests.html>

Tim Flach

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin proposed a tax swap Tuesday designed to obtain more revenue from sources exempt from property taxes. His plan would raise the franchise tax on utility bills to 5 percent from 3 percent, accompanied by a small cut in property taxes.

Island Packet: Beaufort City Council looks at buying, selling millions in property

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2015/03/17/3650356/boundary-st-park-plan-among-topics.html>

Erin Moody

Beaufort City Council is looking to acquire roughly \$3 million in land for a park on Boundary Street and also to sell potentially \$1 million in land scattered throughout the city and surrounding area. Council discussed the projects Tuesday night in a work session but took no action.

National News:

Wall Street Journal: House GOP Outlines Plan to End Deficits

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/house-gop-budget-plan-calls-for-more-military-spending-ending-health-law-1426599001>

Nick Timiraos, Kristina Peterson

House Republicans unveiled a budget proposal Tuesday they said would eliminate federal deficits within 10 years, largely by overhauling Medicare, Medicaid and other social safety-net programs.

CNN: DNC Chairwoman won't run for Senate in 2016

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/03/17/politics/debbie-wasserman-schultz-senate-florida-run-2016/index.html>

Jeremy diamond

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz announced Tuesday she won't run for a Senate seat from Florida in 2016. Wasserman Schultz, chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee, told CNN's Wolf Blitzer that she plans to run for reelection for her House seat and serve out her full term as DNC chair.

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