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Subject: Clips – Friday, March 25, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Greenville News: Governor reappoints GSP airport commissioner

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/03/25/governor-reappoints-gsp-airport-commissioner/82239370/>

Michael Burns

Valerie Miller has been reappointed to be one of three Greenville County representatives on the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport Commission. She will serve a six-year term expiring Dec. 31, 2021, following Gov. Nikki Haley signed appointment that began in January of this year. "We are thrilled to have Valerie for another six years," said Greenville-Spartanburg Airport Commission Chairperson Minor Shaw. "Her insight, her intellect and the energy she brings to the commission are invaluable."

WACH: Gov. Haley named to list of 50 greatest world leaders

<http://wach.com/news/local/gov-haley-named-to-list-of-50-greatest-world-leaders>

Brian McConchie

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley has been named to Fortune Magazine's list of 50 greatest world leaders. Haley is being praised for her response and leadership in the wake of last June's Mother Emanuel AME Church shootings that killed nine people and for demanding that state lawmakers remove the Confederate flag from State House grounds. That move sparked developments across the South to remove what many perceive to be a divisive symbol. Haley is also being singled out for standing up to GOP presidential frontrunner Donald Trump, warning the country to resist the call of the "angriest voices" while delivering the nationally televised GOP response to President Obama's State of the Union address.

The Japan Times: South Carolina governor wants U.S. to divert shipload of arms-grade plutonium from Japan

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2016/03/25/national/south-carolina-governor-wants-u-s-divert-shipload-arms-grade-plutonium-japan/#.VvUgJmQrKCO>

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley has written to U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz demanding a shipment of weapons-grade plutonium en route to her state from Japan be turned back or sent elsewhere, according to a copy of the letter seen by Reuters. The demand has the potential to embarrass the Obama administration a week before it hosts an important summit on nuclear nonproliferation and undermine what so far has been viewed as a success in keeping weapons-grade material safe. The shipment "puts South Carolina at risk for becoming a permanent dumping ground for nuclear materials," Haley said in the letter dated March 23. "Therefore, stop shipment or re-route this defense plutonium. God bless."

S.C. General Assembly News:

The State: SC lawmakers shoot down permitless carrying of a weapon but move toward recognizing

Georgia law

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article68112602.html#storylink=apmobile>

Glen Luke Flanagan

South Carolinians who carry a weapon legally and live near Georgia are one step closer to being able to pack heat when they cross the state line. A Senate panel advanced three firearms-related bills Thursday morning and held one back. Those bills aim to recognize permits from North Carolina and Georgia, allow carrying a weapon without a permit, allow certain retired officials to carry concealed weapons anywhere in the state and try to limit the federal government's authority to restrict firearms. South Carolina currently recognizes permits from North Carolina, but not from Georgia. Rep. Bill Hixon, R-Aiken, who sponsored one of the bills, said this creates problems for people who live near the Peach State.

Post and Courier: Pro-Georgia gun permit bill advances in South Carolina Senate

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160324/PC1603/160329687>

Cynthia Roldan

Legislation in the state Senate that lets South Carolina recognize Georgia's concealed weapons permits is a few steps closer to becoming law. The bill, which cruised through the S.C. House in 2015, makes it so that Peach State residents who carry firearms don't have to put them away when they cross the state line. The issue has flustered residents from border areas, said Rep. Bill Taylor, R-Aiken. Georgia does not currently recognize South Carolina's permits. But the Georgia permit law is written in a way that allows for automatic recognition of states that recognize Georgia's permits. If the bill advancing through the S.C. Senate becomes law, South Carolinians with permits would be able to carry their guns into Georgia instantly.

Greenville News: Senate panel approves gun bills, stalls permitless carry

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/03/24/senate-panel-approves-gun-bills-stalls-permitless-carry/82203616/>

Tim Smith

A Senate panel has advanced three gun bills, including a House-passed measure that would not allow the state to enforce any future federal gun control regulations or laws. But the panel declined Thursday to pass a House bill that would have allowed concealed guns to be carried without a permit. The approved bills move now to the full Senate Judiciary Committee.

Post and Courier: Coyotes may soon have a bounty on their heads

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160324/PC1603/160329684>

Gavin Jackson

Rockets, dynamite and anvils are some ways to stop a roadrunner, but state wildlife officials think around \$12,000 could be enough to control coyotes. The invasive, non-native coyote has become a scourge for South Carolina farmers, deer hunters and pet owners during the last 30 years, but hunters may soon be able to earn thousands of dollars if they bag the right coyotes. A proposed S.C. Department of Natural Resources program would tag and release at least 12 coyotes statewide. Hunters who kill one of the tagged pests will receive at least \$1,000 from DNR in hopes that others meet the same fate. The House-approved bill is now in Charleston Republican Sen. Chip Campsen's Fish, Game and Forestry Committee in the Senate.

Independent Mail: Political Pulse: Club for Growth leader files complaint against Rep. Gambrell

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/club-for-growth-leader-files-complaint-against-rep-gambrell->

[2ecd495a-da93-0292-e053-0100007f4d88-373497691.html](http://www.2ecd495a-da93-0292-e053-0100007f4d88-373497691.html)

Kirk Brown

South Carolina Club for Growth Executive Director R.J. May III says he has filed a complaint accusing Rep. Mike Gambrell of possible violations of state election and ethics laws. Gambrell, a Republican from Honea Path, and Williamston Town Councilman Rockey Burgess are competing in an April 5 GOP primary runoff for the vacant state Senate District 4 seat. In his complaint, May says Gambrell used his Statehouse email address to conduct campaign business. The complaint cites two campaign-related Facebook posts in which Gambrell urged supporters to contact him at his Statehouse email address. The complaint also includes copies of three emails from Gambrell's Statehouse email address in which he encourages a man to make calls to voters.

S.C. Politics News:

Aiken Standard: Joe Wilson: President Obama 'not focused' on defeating ISIS

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160324/AIK0101/160329649>

Christina Cleveland

U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., has described the attacks that left at least 30 dead at a Brussels, Belgium, airport and metro station as "horrificing" and "heartbreaking," and criticized President Barack Obama for failing to present a plan to defeat the Islamic terrorist group, ISIS. "It's truly a reminder that we're in a global war on terrorism," said Wilson, who spoke at the Aiken Republican Club luncheon Thursday, "and I have always warned, and I feel that wherever there's a safe haven for terrorists, the American people, the people of Western civilization, of Israel, are at risk.

SC Elections:

Bluffton Today: McCall-Tanner to run for 14th Circuit solicitor; Stone to seek re-election

<http://www.blufftontoday.com/bluffton-news/2016-03-24/mccall-tanner-run-14th-circuit-solicitor-stone-seek-re-election#.VvUgBGQrKCQ>

Scott Thompson

Aiming to build off her experience in the different components of the criminal justice system, Bluffton's Angela McCall-Tanner is running to be solicitor of South Carolina's 14th Judicial Circuit. McCall-Tanner, the wife of Beaufort County sheriff P.J. Tanner, filed her campaign paperwork Thursday morning in Columbia for the June 14 Republican primary.

Note: She was a deputy solicitor for the 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office, which serves Beaufort, Jasper, Hampton, Colleton and Allendale counties, from August 1999 to April 2011. She then worked as a private attorney for a year and later as chief of staff for the Bluffton Police Department before Gov. Nikki Haley appointed her as a Beaufort County magistrate in February 2014.

Times and Democrat: Two Democrats file for Congress

http://thetandd.com/news/local/article_7e0eab39-112c-5918-a0f5-896cd8c68c21.html

Two Democrats have filed for the U.S. House District 2 seat held by Rep. Joe Wilson, a Republican who has filed for re-election. Arik Bjorn and Phil Black have both filed for the District 2 seat.

WACH: Three have filed to replace Donnie Myers as Eleventh Circuit Solicitor

<http://wach.com/news/local/three-have-filed-to-replace-donnie-myers-as-eleventh-circuit-solicitor>

Matthew Stevens

With the filing deadline for those seeking public office in South Carolina less than a week away, three hopefuls have put their names in for the position held by Donnie Myers. Rick Hubbard, Candice Lively

and Larry Wedekind have all filed to run for 11th Circuit Solicitor. Incumbent Solicitor Donnie Myers said previously he will not seek reelection. In a statement issued by Myers last week he said if he were elected, he would have to retire within 11 months after being elected.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: South Carolina: Potholes abound, but no tax hike for roads

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=nhS345T7

Jeffrey Collins

Gas tax, South Carolina's source of road building and maintenance money, will remain at one of the lowest rates in the nation this year - unchanged for more than three decades in a state where tax is the political equivalent of a dirty word. Lawmakers, most recently in the state Senate, have been unwilling to raise it, even though business leaders, county managers and ordinary drivers say they'd be willing to pay a higher gas tax to help pay for road repairs. Instead, legislators are offering a one-time \$400 million road improvement shot from this year's state revenues, made possible because of economic growth.

Associated Press: State court: Domestic violence law unfair to gay couples

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=gi0ooG4Y

Meg Kinnard

A law that perhaps unintentionally failed to protect domestic violence victims in same-sex relationships appears to be unconstitutional, and now South Carolina's high court is trying to decide what to do. The court was asked on Wednesday to weigh in after a woman tried to get a protective order against her former fiancée, also a woman, and was denied. The state's domestic violence law defines "household members" as a spouse, former spouse, people with a child in common, or specifically men and women who are or have lived together - but not unmarried same-sex couples.

Associated Press: Plastics suppliers investing \$21M, creating 90 Upstate jobs

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Ev7cUiO9

SC State Wire

Companies that make molds and injected plastic parts are locating in Oconee County, investing \$21 million and creating almost 90 jobs. Baxter Enterprises and Hi-Tech Mold & Engineering announced Thursday that the companies will be locating in a new building in the Oconee Industry and Technology Park. The new jobs will be created during the next five years. Hi-Tech Mold & Engineering was founded in 1982 and designs, builds and repairs molds. Baxter Enterprises was founded in 1997 and makes injection molded parts.

Associated Press: Boat manufacturer bringing 35 jobs to Newberry

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

SC State Wire

A company that makes sport fishing boats is setting up shop in Newberry, investing \$1.5 million and creating 35 new jobs. Falcon Boats announced Thursday that it will be manufacturing boats in an existing building. The company was initially established as Marine Pro in Irmo where it specialized in boat repairs and modification. Now it has expanded to building boats. The new jobs will be created over the next five years.

Local News:

Greenville News: Officer Allen Jacobs remembered as a 'cop's cop'

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/03/24/colleagues-remember-officer-allen-jacobs/82209114/>

Anna Lee

The sun was still rising as police officers began to arrive at Furman University on Thursday for the funeral of a young officer who died in the line of duty last week. Clad in dark dress uniforms, they marched steadily into Timmons Arena, joining the estimated 4,000 people who came to honor the memory of Officer Allen Jacobs.

Sun News: Conway firefighter Chris Ray mourned, honored at funeral services: 'Everyone goes home'

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

Audrey Hudson

Mourners gathered from across Horry County, the state, and the nation to celebrate the life of Conway firefighter Christopher Gene Ray who was killed Sunday in the line of duty. "Everyone Goes Home," read the logo painted in gold across Myrtle Beach fire engines that streamed into Beach Church parking lot, joining numerous fire and police vehicles that dotted the landscape. That's where hundreds of Ray's family members, friends and colleagues gathered to bid farewell to the 42-year old firefighter with an uplifting service to send him home to meet his maker.

Associated Press: Pilot dead in small plane crash in Chesterfield County

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=WWUw5g4t

SC State Wire

Authorities say the pilot of a small plane has died after it crashed near the Great Pee Dee River in Chesterfield County. Sheriff Jay Brooks told media outlets the plane went down around 10:15 a.m. Thursday north of Cheraw. Brooks says the wreckage is in a dense swampy area and he suspects federal investigators will have to pull the wreckage of the plane apart to get it out of the woods. Chesterfield County Coroner Kip Kiser identified the pilot as 59-year-old Walker Jeter Hester of Atlanta.

Post and Courier: School board talks legal issues, 'criminal implications' of audit findings

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160324/PC16/160329681>

Paul Bowers

The Charleston County School Board voted Thursday afternoon to hire an outside attorney to review the terms of employee severance agreements as well as possible "criminal implications" stemming from a recent forensic audit of payroll and benefits. The meeting took place almost entirely in executive session, closed to the public, with some board members calling in via phone. The board called for the special meeting late Wednesday afternoon.

Herald-Journal: Hot spots plan could expand Internet access for Spartanburg County students

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160324/articles/160329810>

Chris Lavender

A group working to bring high-speed Internet to rural parts of Spartanburg County is looking at locations where mobile hot spots can be established for students to use after school. Connect South Carolina presented several recommendations to county leaders Thursday on how to expand broadband service. During the event at AFL corporate headquarters in Duncan, the county also received certification as a Connected Community. The program helps communities pinpoint areas where high-speed Internet is lacking and develop a plan to address the issue.

Herald-Journal: Spartanburg considers ways to aid low-income residents

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160324/articles/160329807>

Alyssa Mulliger

The city of Spartanburg has received nearly \$770,000 in grant funds to provide low- and moderate-income residents with affordable housing, workforce development and community services. The annual entitlement funds come from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and are based on federal budget appropriations. Mitch Kennedy, the city's director of community services, said about \$616,221 in Community Development Block Grant funds and \$152,899 in HOME Investment Partnerships Grant funds are available for fiscal year 2016-17.

Aiken Standard: Steeplechase brings crowds to Aiken area

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160324/AIK0101/160329642>

Dan Brown

The running of the 50th annual Aiken Spring Steeplechase happens Saturday at Bruce's Field at Aiken Horse Park, and people around town can't wait. Longtime Aiken resident, local historian and world traveler Owen McClary said there is no place on Earth like Aiken during Steeplechase, and he likes to have a good time, but on a budget. "I've been to a lot of them," McClary said. "I park in a friend's yard on Audubon Drive and I walk through the Aiken Horse Park side gate with my ticket I bought in advance. I'm a skinflint and I don't like to pay for parking."

Aiken Standard: Law enforcement gears up to keep patrons safe during Aiken Spring Steeplechase

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160324/AIK0101/160329647>

Tripp Girardeau

There will be law enforcement presence on and off the race track for the 2016 Aiken Spring Steeplechase on Saturday to curb underage drinking and to keep impaired motorists off the road in an effort to keep patrons safe during and after the races. The Spring Steeplechase is by far the largest event of the Aiken Triple Crown, which is why the Aiken County Sheriff's Office will provide security for the event, said Capt. Eric Abdullah with the Aiken County Sheriff's Office. There will be a mix of uniform and plainclothes officers patrolling Bruce's Field on Saturday, he said. "Normally, the behavior is not an issue," Abdullah said. "We've had a few fights, but we are going to concentrate on keeping the event safe. We really just want everyone to have a good time, but they need to be responsible and safe."

Greenville News: Greenville coffee company set to grow nationally

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/03/24/greenville-coffee-company-set-grow-nationally/82220158/>

Lillia Callum-Penso

Two innovative Greenville businesses are collaborating on a new project that will elevate both to new levels, and will also help frame the city as a center for high quality coffee. Methodical Coffee and The Community Tap have joined forces to create a roasting facility at 3 McBeth St. near the Swamp Rabbit Trail and across from the old Monaghan Mill. The 4,000-square-foot space will be equipped to support a wholesale roasting business, as well as a barista training program, and a retail space that will carry Methodical branded products.

Aiken Standard: USC Aiken, developer chosen for new SRNL Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160324/AIK0101/160329644>

Larry Wood

The campus of USC Aiken has been selected as the proposed location for the Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative for the Savannah River National Laboratory. The choice brings the U.S. Department of Energy one step closer to the creation of a new facility to promote partnerships among industry, academia and government in the creation and implementation of new technology. Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, as the operator of SRNL, has selected the Aiken Advanced Manufacturing Partnership to develop a proposal for space for the collaborative facility. Representatives from USCA, SRNL, AAMP and the Economic Development Partnership announced the location and project developer at a news conference Thursday afternoon at USCA.

Sun News: Horry County businesses ready for railroad's return

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article68087707.html>

Charles D. Perry

The purchasing manager for Blanton Building Supplies in Loris looks forward to the April arrival of locomotives in Horry County, which hasn't had a functioning railroad in five years. "It'll definitely help us out," said Blanton, adding that his company had previously used the rail line to ship construction materials such as lumber and sheetrock. "We've been having to do everything with trucks. ... It'll be a big help." After many delays, R.J. Corman Railroad Group plans to have its first regional trains running from Mullins to Chadbourn, N.C., next week. Horry County service would begin during the first week of April and local businesses are optimistic about the locomotives' arrival.

Associated Press: Trains on revived Carolinas short line to run next week

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

SC State Wire

The first trains on a revived short line railroad linking the Carolinas are expected to begin running next week. The Sun News of Myrtle Beach reports (<http://bit.ly/1T91Hbl>) that the R.J. Corman Railroad Co. plans to have its first regional trains running from Mullins to Chadbourn, North Carolina, next week. Service in Horry County would begin the first week in April. Corman bought the old Carolina Southern railroad last year for \$14 million. The Carolina Southern had shut down operations in 2011 because some railroad bridges did not meet federal standards. Corman had expected the first trains to be running by the end of 2015 but that was delayed because of last year's flooding. The railroad has about 100 miles of track linking the Carolinas.

Aiken Standard: Peach crops bloom in Aiken, surrounding counties

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160324/AIK0101/160329643>

Bill Bengtson

Nature has presented plenty of pink during the past week around Aiken, Edgefield and Saluda counties, with peach blossoms at their peak and local growers giving a thumbs-up assessment of the past winter's weather. "We're in the bloom stage now, with peaches, and here shortly after, the baby peaches will be on the trees, so that will happen within the next seven to 10 days," said Jason Rodgers, vice president of operations for Titan Farms. The Ridge Spring-based operation covers about 6,000 acres mostly dedicated to peaches, with broccoli and bell peppers also in the mix.

National News:

Associated Press: US official says 2 Americans perished in Brussels attacks

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:2418968748694088b3195918603a481b>

Matthew Lee

At least two American citizens have been confirmed killed in this week's attacks in Brussels, a U.S. official said Friday, as Secretary of State John Kerry is visiting the city to express his condolences to the Belgian people. Speaking after meeting with Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel, Kerry said the "United States is praying and grieving with you for the loved ones of those cruelly taken from us, including Americans, and for the many who were injured in these despicable attacks."

Associated Press : Kerry in Brussels as Belgian authorities face criticism

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:dc1e64099ca34248b91cb08cd8047a38>

Lorne Cook and Matthew Lee

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is holding counterterrorism talks in Brussels on Friday as top members of Belgium's embattled government face ongoing criticism for a series of security and intelligence failings in the run-up to this week's bomb attacks in the city that killed 31 people and wounded 270. Kerry's arrival Friday morning comes hours after at least six people were detained in raids linked to Tuesday's attacks on the Brussels airport and subway system. Belgian prosecutors are expected to decide later Friday whether to charge or release them.

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