

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 2/10/2016 8:14:08 AM
Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Morning Clips – Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Governor Nikki Haley News:

Wall Street Journal: After New Hampshire, Republican Candidates to Shift Focus to South Carolina
<http://www.wsj.com/articles/after-new-hampshire-republican-candidates-to-shift-focus-to-south-carolina-1455064401>

Byron Tau, Valerie Bauerlein

With Iowa and New Hampshire soon in the rearview mirror, the Republican presidential race will shift to South Carolina. Larger and more diverse than the first two presidential contests, the state has a number of important constituencies in a Republican primary, including a large population of evangelicals, military veterans, retirees, professionals and working-class voters.

Note: Republican Gov. Nikki Haley said that she credits Mr. Trump with bringing excitement to the contest, but she has been critical of some of his rhetoric.

Note: “I have a great respect for the way Trump has gotten people excited,” Ms. Haley said. “Whatever people think about Trump, to have the highest voter turnout ever in Iowa? You have to give him credit.”

Bloomberg: Presidential Race Poised to Intensify in South Carolina
<http://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2016-02-10/presidential-primary-moves-to-politically-steamy-south-carolina>

John McCormick

One of the most unconventional and unpredictable presidential campaigns in modern U.S. history descended Wednesday on South Carolina, gearing up to test the state's near-perfect record for picking eventual Republican winners. “South Carolina usually corrects the mistakes from the first two states,” joked Katon Dawson, a former South Carolina Republican Party chairman.

Note: Adding intrigue is potential conflict between Trump and second-term Governor Nikki Haley, a hugely popular figure among South Carolina's GOP voters. She has been critical of the billionaire's hard-line stance on immigration and has decried what she called the “angriest voices” in her party.

Note: Haley, who endorsed Romney four years ago, is often mentioned as a potential vice presidential running mate.

Post and Courier: Panel advances proposal to forgive S.C. State \$12 million bailout
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160209/PC1603/160209334>

Cynthia Roldan

A panel of Statehouse lawmakers has approved a preliminary proposal to forgive the repayment of South Carolina State University's \$12 million bailout loan. The S.C. House's budget-writing Higher Education and Technical Colleges Subcommittee approved a proposal that calls for forgiving the loan given to the state's only historically black public university in 2014.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley vehemently opposed the bailout then as a member of the Budget and Control Board. She argued that the state was just giving “the money away because they know it can't be paid back.”

Associated Press: Analysis: Trump proves GOP establishment can't stop him
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=rw3AOj5G

Steve Peoples

The current and former chiefs of the state Republican Party condemned him. New Hampshire's only two Republican members of Congress refused to endorse him. The conservative owner of the state's largest newspaper called him “a con man” on the front page. Donald Trump won anyway - big time.

Note: And South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley called on Republicans to resist the temptation to follow “the siren call of the angriest voices,” referring to Trump.

President's Executive Budget Defunds MOX:

The State: Obama plans to scrap MOX plant; SC leaders livid

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article59334313.html>

Vera Bergengruen, Sammy Fretwell

The U.S. Department of Energy plans to abandon construction of a multi-billion dollar nuclear fuel factory at the Savannah River Site as costs rise and questions abound over the need for the facility. In the DOE's budget proposal for next year, the department says the mixed oxide fuel factory will be "terminated" beginning in fiscal year 2017, which starts in October.

Note: Meanwhile, Attorney General Wilson, the son of U.S. Rep. Wilson, filed suit Tuesday in federal court at the request of Gov. Nikki Haley.

Note: Haley, also a booster of the MOX plant, had previously threatened to sue the Department of Energy for its failure to meet a Jan. 1 deadline to begin removing the plutonium from the state if the plant wasn't built. She asked Wilson to take legal steps and collect a \$1 million daily fine, spelled out in federal law, because the plant is not completed.

Associated Press: SC sues Energy Dept over unfinished nuclear fuel project

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=06WRNwkj

Meg Kinnard

South Carolina has again sued the federal government over an unfinished project to convert nuclear weapons components into reactor fuel, saying in a lawsuit filed Tuesday that the administration has acted unconstitutionally in failing to complete the mixed-oxide facility by a Jan. 1 deadline.

Note: The lawsuit has been expected. Last month, Gov. Nikki Haley told Wilson that she wanted to sue, also warning Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz in December that the state would be forced to sue if his agency didn't start making payments.

Post and Courier: S.C. attorney general files lawsuit against Department of Energy to finish MOX project

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160209/PC1603/160209359>

Emma Dumain

S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson has filed a lawsuit to force the U.S. Department of Energy to finish the mixed oxide fuel fabrication, or MOX, project at the Savannah River Site, the same day President Barack Obama submitted his final federal budget proposal to Congress calling for the program's termination.

Note: Wilson threatened to sue at the end of 2015 at the urging of Gov. Nikki Haley.

WRDW: Sen. Tim Scott reacts to Obama's budget proposal that would defund MOX Project

<http://www.wrdw.com/home/headlines/Sen-Tim-Scott-reacts-to-Obamas-budget-proposal-that-would-defund-MOX-Project-368239181.html>

President Obama sent a \$4.1 trillion spending plan to Congress that would include defunding the MOX Project at Savannah River Site. Senator Tim Scott voiced his disapproval of the president's budget proposal. "What the President needs to do is to commit to completing this facility that is about already 70 percent completed, period," Scott said.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Greenville News: DOT: billions more needed for SC interstate fixes

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/02/09/dot-billions-more-needed-sc-interstate-fixes/80047296/>

Tim Smith

That funding shortfall forecast came as state Department of Transportation officials briefed the entire Senate about how the agency works and how it spends its money as senators prepared to debate road funding legislation years in the making.

The State: Added \$200 million would stop decay of S.C. roads, bridges, senators told

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article59412974.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

Spending an added \$200 million a year would stop the decay of S.C. bridges and pavement on the state's roads, S.C. roads chief Christy Hall told state senators Tuesday. The added money also would pay to improve some secondary roads that are not eligible for federal money and improve routine maintenance by the state Transportation Department, according to a presentation Hall gave senators Tuesday.

Associated Press: DOT officials warn costly projects to come without road fix
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=qtEtGEkU

The leader of South Carolina's road agency is warning unless the state starts putting money into repairing roads soon, it will end up costing much more to rebuild them. State Department of Transportation Secretary Christy Hall says workers on simple resurfacing project recently on Interstate 85 in Spartanburg discovered the highway deteriorated so badly it had to be essentially rebuilt.

Post and Courier: Bill aiming to enhance fatal domestic violence data collection moves to House floor
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160209/PC1603/160209335>

Maya T. Prabhu

Lawmakers said it should be easier to collect and analyze data regarding fatal domestic violence cases through the creation of review committees across the state. The bill was proposed at the recommendation of a state Domestic Violence Task Force created by Gov. Nikki Haley.

Associated Press: Public Safety director headed to Senate confirmation
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=UV7og9by

The director of South Carolina's Department of Public Safety appears headed to another four years at the helm, as senators praise his leadership but question the agency's revolving door of highway troopers. The Senate Judiciary Committee voted unanimously Tuesday to advance Leroy Smith's confirmation.

S.C. Political News:

Post and Courier: Here they come! Presidential candidates descend on S.C. ahead of primaries
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160209/PC1603/160209338>

Schuyler Kropf

After months of buildup and tens of millions of dollars spent to make them household names, the Republicans and Democrats who want to be president are descending on South Carolina. If you go by polls alone, billionaire businessman Donald Trump remains the favorite on the still-crowded GOP side, while former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is widely expected to turn back Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

The State: Presidential race turns to SC

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article59439243.html>

Andrew Shain

South Carolina is where the 2016 presidential races are expected to come into better focus after a jumbled start in Iowa and New Hampshire. For Democrats, supporters of front-runner Hillary Clinton see South Carolina as the firewall to stop U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who nearly beat the former secretary of state in Iowa and defeated her Tuesday in New Hampshire.

Washington Post: Jim Clyburn considering endorsing Clinton, as Harry Reid reiterates neutrality pledge
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/wp/2016/02/09/jim-clyburn-considering-endorsing-clinton-as-harry-reid-reiterates-neutrality-pledge/>

Paul Kane

The two most prominent Democrats in the next two battleground states — Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada and Rep. James E. Clyburn of South Carolina — might be taking different approaches toward the upcoming contests in the presidential nomination battle.

The State: Report: SC's Jim Clyburn weighs endorsing Hillary Clinton

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article59441288.html>

Jamie Self

U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn of Columbia said he's considering endorsing Hillary Clinton before South Carolina's Democratic presidential primary. In an interview with the Washington Post, Clyburn said he's feeling pressure from Clinton supporters — including his wife and one of his daughters — not to stay neutral in the campaign, as he previously planned to do.

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn hints at endorsing Hillary Clinton
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160210/PC1603/160219970>

Maya T. Prabhu

U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, the third most powerful Democrat in Washington, told The Washington Post he is

considering endorsing a candidate before the Feb. 27 primary — and hinted that it might be Hillary Clinton. Clyburn, D-S.C., who previously said he intended to remain neutral in the campaign, told the Post his wife and daughters — who are Clinton supporters — have asked him to use his influence to let South Carolinians know who he supports.

Associated Press: Bush, Carson, Cruz, Rubio expected for SC faith forum
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=0ofUI92r

Four Republican presidential hopefuls are among those expected at a discussion on faith issues in South Carolina, a week before the state's first primary election. The Conservative Leadership Project says Wednesday former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio are expected to attend its 2016 Faith and Family Presidential Forum.

Associated Press: Rubio returns to South Carolina for town hall meetings
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=W5vK6RRz

Marco Rubio is making a few campaign stops in South Carolina before returning to Washington for Senate votes. On Wednesday, the Florida senator is holding a town hall meeting at the Spartanburg Marriott. From there, he goes to Columbia, where he will be joined by U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy for a town hall at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

Associated Press: Kasich kicking off SC swing with events in Lowcountry
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ZcYBzzUq

Ohio Gov. John Kasich is bringing his momentum from New Hampshire to South Carolina this week ahead of this weekend's debate. On Wednesday, the Republican presidential hopeful is holding a town hall meeting at Finn's Brick Oven in Mount Pleasant. Later in the day, he's participating in a veterans jobs event in downtown Charleston.

Greenville News: Kasich's initial schedule leaves out the Upstate
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/02/09/kasichs-initial-schedule-leaves-out-upstate/80070548/>

Rudolph Bell

Ohio Gov. John Kasich plans nine stops in South Carolina today through Friday following Tuesday's Republican primary in New Hampshire, where he came in second place. But none of the stops are in the deeply conservative and vote-rich Upstate, where just two counties — Greenville and Spartanburg — accounted for nearly 20 percent of ballots cast in the 2012 Republican presidential preference primary.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Rock Hill Herald: York, Chester, Lancaster police look at use of Tasers
<http://www.heraldonline.com/opinion/editorials/article59514387.html>

Editorial

A ruling by the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will compel law enforcement agencies in five states to review their policies on the use of Tasers. Fortunately, it appears that the policies of local law enforcement agencies already comply in large part with the court's ruling.

Post and Courier: Calm the Shem Creek waters
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160210/PC1002/160219981>

Editorial

Shem Creek understandably stirs up some strong emotions for a lot of Mount Pleasant residents. It's a place for people to connect with nature, a monument to Lowcountry shrimping past and present, and a spot to grab a meal or a drink and watch the sunset.

South Carolina News:

WOLO (Video): Inmates make music behind bars
<http://www.abccolumbia.com/video/watch-inmates-make-music-behind-bars/>

Grace Joyal

Inmates at Lee Correctional Institution in Bishopville are collaborating with an NYC-based chamber ensemble to compose original songs. This week, Decoda is collaborating with about 40 inmates from the "Better Living Incentive Community," or BLIC. This is the program's third year at Lee.

Associated Press: Justice Department: 3 tax service offices inflated refunds

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=j13TlkJp

The Justice Department has accused three Columbia-area Liberty Tax Service franchises of deliberately preparing false federal income tax returns to increase their customers' refunds. News outlets report that federal investigators filed a lawsuit Tuesday to permanently bar Christopher Paul Haynes, of Irmo, from preparing federal tax returns for others.

National News:

Associated Press: Trump and Sanders big winners, riding voter frustration

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:d20de5a5b476487c802fd7d9ca4d19ad>

Julie Pace, Kathleen Ronayne

Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Bernie Sanders rode a wave of voter frustration with American politics to commanding victories in Tuesday's New Hampshire primaries, adding crucial credibility to their upstart candidacies. Sanders swept majorities of men, women, independents and young people in his win over Hillary Clinton, but faces challenges in the more diverse states that come next on the primary calendar.

News and Observer: North Carolina begins drug tests for welfare applicants

<http://www.thestate.com/news/nation-world/national/article59510928.html>

Lynn Bonner

State officials presented early results Tuesday of a new law that requires drug tests for welfare applicants. Of several thousand people who were screened, 89 people took the test and 21 of them tested positive. The law requiring testing of any Work First recipient suspected of being a drug user was enacted in 2013 over Gov. Pat McCrory's veto.

Brian Symmes

Cell: 803-673-9437

Office: 803-734-0304