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To:
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Subject: Morning Clips - Tuesday, March 22, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: EXCLUSIVE: Former Lt. Gov. McGill running for governor as a Republican
<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article67393422.html#storylink=apmobile>

Andy Shain

Former Democratic Lt. Gov. Yancey McGill told The State on Monday that he plans to run for governor in 2018 as a Republican. McGill, the last Democrat to hold statewide office, said he switched parties last week after years of leaning toward pro-Republican stances on government spending and regulation as well as abortion. His switch to the Republican party is the most significant since then-state Sen. Verne Smith of Greenville helped the GOP win a majority in the Senate in 2001, state Republican chairman Matt Moore said.

Note: Republican Gov. Nikki Haley cannot run again under state law after winning re-election to a second term in 2014. The 2018 governor's race is expected to draw many Republicans in the heavily GOP-dominated state. House Speaker Pro Tempore Tommy Pope, R-York, is the only other candidate to publicly announce plans to run for governor.

Huffington Post: Trump Veep Speculation

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/chris-weigant/trump-veep-speculation_b_9519494.html

Chris Weigant

There are others waiting in the wings, but only one of them looks like a real contender. Scott Walker might also help in the Midwest, but he showed his weakness by being the second one to drop out of the race, and Trump isn't fond of "losers." Chris Christie is probably a non-starter, both because he hails from the same region as Trump and because he doesn't add much to broaden Trump's appeal with the electorate (Christie was supposed to be the bombastic bully of the race, before Trump entered the scene and did it so much more entertainingly). The smartest pick Trump could make would be South Carolina's Nikki Haley, of course, since she would open up demographics that Trump hasn't been doing so well with (women voters and minorities, in particular). But somehow I think Haley's smarter than that, and would decline a veep slot if offered.

WIS: Lawmakers recognize South Carolina's first End Racism Day

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31531038/lawmakers-recognize-south-carolinas-first-end-racism-day>

Samantha Bleiweis

Lawmakers and advocates gathered at the State House on Monday to honor South Carolina's first End Racism Day. A proclamation from Gov. Nikki Haley was read by Sen. Katrina Shealy marking the day. Lawmakers, including Sen. Joel Lourie and Sen. John Scott, spoke about the importance of celebrating differences and remembering lost lives after the Emanuel AME church shooting in June.

The State: Scoppe: A new group of carpetbaggers, a familiar MO

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article67339922.html>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

IN HER FIRST Senate race, Katrina Shealy got more than half of her campaign donations from Howie Rich, the New York multimillionaire who spent several years trying to buy himself a nice little Southern Legislature. In her follow-up race, she was bankrolled by the out-of-state donors to Gov.

Nikki Haley's unlimited-donations Movement Fund. Now she tells reporter Cassie Cope that the anti-gas-tax campaign by Americans for Prosperity is dangerous because "We can't let some out-of-state special-interest group come into South Carolina and dictate how we do business." I don't mean to pick on Sen. Shealy, who is absolutely right and hardly alone. Sen. Larry Grooms got some Rich money in 2012 and now says that having a couple of billionaires underwriting campaign efforts "limits the ability of having free and open speech." I suspect that if we talked to more Republican senators we could find similar revelations.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: Senate to resume debate on bill registering, tracking refugees
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160322/PC1603/160329852>

Maya T. Prabhu

The Senate is expected to come back from a weekend of negotiations to continue debate on a bill that would require refugees resettled in South Carolina to register with the state and be tracked by law enforcement. Sens. Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg, and Kevin Bryant, R-Anderson, said Thursday they would work to reach an agreement on the portion of the bill that would keep state agencies from spending any money on resettled refugees. Hutto proposed an amendment last week that would allow funds to be spent on necessities, such as education or ambulance transport if involved in a car crash. The bill also would create civil liability for organizations if a refugee from a country linked with terrorism and settled through their group causes harm.

Note: The House also will pick up where it left off Monday evening as it continues to debate the state's \$7.5 billion budget.

WIS: Lawmakers tackle \$7B budget this week

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31530735/lawmakers-tackle-7b-budget-this-week>

Will Whitson

Lawmakers have cracked open the books for South Carolina's nearly \$7.5 billion budget. The first day of budget deliberations in the House so far have run pretty smoothly with some big ticket items, like over \$4 billion allocated for the Department of Education getting overwhelming approval with no changes or debate. That's painting a much different picture from last year's budget process.

Note: The big point of contention last year was a massive bond bill, which Gov. Nikki Haley strongly opposed, and the House spent hours upon hours debating it before it was finally voted down. This year, lawmakers say there really isn't one particularly controversial or big ticket issue for debate, but they do expect some back and forth on education, employee pay raises, and of course the funding for roads.

WOLO: Watch: House Starts Debate on Spending Plan

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/video/watch-house-starts-debate-on-spending-plan/>

The House of Representatives took up the state's spending plan on Monday afternoon. The proposed budget includes roughly \$7.5 billion for the fiscal year starting July 1st. The House passed through several sections of the budget without any debate Monday and also started making progress on amendments to help fix South Carolina roads. While the house did not engage in any major debate on roads funding Monday, lawmakers say they expect to reach a more in-depth discussion this week to find a more permanent solution to funding the states crippling roads system.

Associated Press: House to fund about \$400M in roadwork but reject Senate plan

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ORh7BC1m

Seanna Adcox

The South Carolina House will put roughly \$400 million toward roadwork in its budget plan for next fiscal year but won't agree to a Senate proposal that pledges that amount annually, the chamber's assistant majority leader said Monday. Legislators can't promise they'll perpetually designate \$400 million of state tax collections toward fixing South Carolina's crumbling roads, because they can't rely

on infinite economic growth. In the future, the Legislature could be forced to cut essential services or simply ignore the directive, said Rep. Gary Simrill, R-Rock Hill. The budget debate will continue Tuesday.

Post and Courier: House and Senate roads plans taking on different shapes in state budget

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160321/PC1603/160329863>

Cynthia Roldan

Budget-related votes by South Carolina House lawmakers set them on a path Monday to partially snub the \$400 million roads plan passed by the Senate earlier this month. Members also voted to spend \$2.9 million more than they initially planned toward hiring 39 new domestic violence prosecutors after Gov. Nikki Haley and other advocates criticized the House's decision to delay funding for a year. These and more than 100 spending-related votes were taken Monday as the House of Representative began its debate on the state's \$7.5 billion budget for fiscal 2016-17.

Independent Mail: Proposed S.C. budget has money for Tri-County Tech building in Oconee

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/sc-budget-has-money-for-tri-county-tech-building-in-oconee-2e961332-cb17-5bb3-e053-0100007fab1a-373005031.html>

Kirk Brown

South Carolina lawmakers began voting Monday on the state budget, which includes \$4 million for a Tri-County Technical College building in Oconee County where students would be trained for manufacturing careers. The building will serve as an anchor for a workforce development campus in the Oconee Industry and Technology Park on S.C. 11 near Westminster. The campus also is expected to house a career center, an adult education center and Oconee County's economic development offices.

Herald-Journal: Legislation moving forward to protect emergency responders, tow truck operators

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160321/articles/160329948>

Daniel J. Gross

"Move over" legislation in South Carolina is moving forward to bring more awareness to emergency responders and tow truck operators who work under dangerous conditions. A bill to designate April as Move Over Awareness Month passed unanimously in the S.C. House last week. Sponsored by State Rep. Donna Hicks, R-Boiling Springs, the legislation would ask the S.C. Department of Public Safety to run educational campaigns that would shine light on move over laws. Those laws require motorists to move to an adjacent lane if at all possible when passing emergency vehicles that are tending to incidents on the shoulder of the road.

Note: Hicks said she doesn't foresee any hesitancy in the Senate and expects the bill to make its way to Gov. Nikki Haley to be signed into law.

S.C. Agency News:

WACH: DJJ: Juvenile escaped facility through pipe

<http://wach.com/news/local/djj-juvenile-escaped-facility-through-pipe>

Matthew Stevens

WACH FOX News has been investigating the agency since that February 26 incident. DJJ officials tell us that 14 juveniles were involved in an incident that started around 8:30 that night. They say juveniles from the Cypress Unit did significant damage to the unit, four vehicles and several other buildings at the facility. Officials said they threatened and assaulted five juveniles and staff while employees attempted to restrain them. There were also several minor fires started that night, but no significant damage was reported. A DJJ official say one of the youths was able to escape from DJJ grounds through a drainage pipe, but was apprehended a short time later by Richland County deputies. All of the juveniles were detained as of 11pm that night.

S.C. Politics News:

Aiken Standard: Plutonium from Japan reportedly headed to SRS

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160322/AIK0101/160329884>

Dede Biles

The process of transporting a shipment of weapons-grade plutonium from Japan to the Savannah River Site began Monday, according to The Associated Press, the Kyodo News Agency, the environmental group Savannah River Site Watch and other sources. They reported that two British ships that are nuclear fuel carriers, the Pacific Egret and Pacific Heron, had arrived at a coastal village in eastern Japan near where the country's main nuclear research facility, the Japan Atomic and Energy Agency, is based. The ships, which are outfitted with naval guns and other protection, are scheduled to travel to Charleston, and then trucks will carry the plutonium to SRS for storage.

Post and Courier: Former rivals Lindsey Graham and Ted Cruz team up for fundraiser in D.C.

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160321/PC1603/160329862>

Emma Dumain

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham has officially put aside his differences with Texas Sen. Ted Cruz in the name of stopping Donald Trump. On Monday, a few weeks after joking that nobody would care if the Republican presidential contender got murdered on the Senate floor, Graham, R-S.C., headlined a Cruz fundraiser at a Washington restaurant. Billed as a "meet and greet" between Cruz and dozens of Graham's deep-pocketed pro-Israel donors, the gathering was scheduled to coincide with the American Israel Public Affairs Committee annual policy conference taking place next door to the restaurant. The event raised \$200,000.

The Herald: Protesters, at Graham's Rock Hill office, call for vote on Supreme Court candidate

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/politics-government/article67382962.html>

Bristow Marchant

"I do my job, now you do yours." That was the refrain echoed by many of the protesters who gathered outside Sen. Lindsey Graham's Rock Hill office on Monday, calling on South Carolina's senior senator and his Republican colleagues to take a vote on President Obama's Supreme Court nomination. Ten people waved signs outside the East Main Street office as part of the protest, one of several coordinated to take place at local Senate offices across the country on Monday by liberal activist groups like MoveOn.org, CREDO Action, Organizing For America, the Progressive Campaign Change Committee.

Associated Press: Lindsey Graham updating SC constituents on happenings in DC

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=36wAcIZL

SC State Wire

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina is back in the state updating constituents on what's happening in Washington. The Republican lawmaker is scheduled to speak Tuesday in Greenwood. Graham is addressing a breakfast meeting of the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce. Graham will then travel to Aiken, where the senator will tour the BAE Systems aerospace plant 2 p.m.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: Editorials from across South Carolina: guns on campus, drilling off SC coast, school takeovers

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/op-ed/article67339272.html#storylink=apmobile>

Opinion

State Sen. Lee Bright, a Republican from Spartanburg, has sponsored a bill that would allow students to bring guns onto public and private college campuses.... But sometimes democracy works just as it should to express the will of the people. Certainly that's what occurred when the Obama administration decided to abandon plans to open the South Carolina coast to offshore drilling.... Now the legislature must help rescue Timmonsville schools. Thumbs up to the South Carolina Board of

Education for finally declaring a state of emergency at two underperforming Florence School District Four schools, a move that allows S.C. Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman to take control of Brockington Elementary School and Johnson Middle School.

The State: Scott: SC DJJ needs long-term solutions that work, not quick fixes that backfire
<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article67339062.html#storylink=apmobile>
Letter

Our Department of Juvenile Justice is in crisis. And there is an urgent need to take immediate action to ensure that the youth and staff in our juvenile facilities are safe. However, such punitive responses as adding razor wire, utilizing pepper spray and strip searches and calling in the National Guard are the wrong approach. These responses will not resolve the underlying problems or prevent further violence. In fact, they may be counterproductive. South Carolina would benefit enormously from a safety review by an independent expert.

Post and Courier: Sticking with Sanford
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160322/PC1002/160329871>
Letter

Re the March 13 article titled, "Horne: I want to make South Carolina proud": Jenny Horne has no room to brag about her own time in office, having the second to the worst attendance record in 2015. (The worst one belongs to a legislator who had back surgery). When asked directly about it, she said that her family comes first. If we send her to Washington, wouldn't her family still come first? Why would we want to elect someone with an "absent" voting record to Washington? I'll stick with Mark Sanford, thanks. We all make mistakes; he's certainly publicly paid for his, and it's time for us all to get over it. He is an excellent legislator.

South Carolina News:

The State: U.S. Supreme Court rejects Green Diamond takings case
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article67372412.html>
Sammy Fretwell

Developers who wanted Richland County to pay them millions of dollars for restricting construction at the old Green Diamond project site lost their fight Monday in the U.S. Supreme Court after 12 years of legal efforts. In a decision applauded by Green Diamond opponents, the court agreed not to hear an appeal of the case. Unless developers persuade the high court to reconsider its decision-- which is unlikely — the case is over, several lawyers familiar with the case said.

Post and Courier: Santee Cooper ups ante on solar initiatives, conservationists say more is needed
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160321/PC05/160329883>
David Wren

Santee Cooper's board of directors on Monday approved a pair of renewable energy initiatives, including the state's first community solar project available for residential customers and increased rooftop solar panel rebates. The programs "will bring the benefits of solar power to all of our customers, whether they own a roof or not," said Lonnie Carter, Santee Cooper's president and CEO. South Carolina's ample sunshine and recent legislative changes led the Solar Foundation, an independent nonprofit, to rate the state as having the highest solar potential in the region. South Carolina has the nation's 10th-highest solar capacity but ranks No. 37 in solar generation, according to the group.

Local News:

The State: Lexington County prosecutor Myers' DUI case delayed
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article67363942.html>
John Monk and Tim Flach

Eleventh Circuit Solicitor Donnie Myers didn't appear Monday on drunken-driving charge before a Lexington County magistrate who was holding DUI court. Myers' request for a jury trial pushes the date of any decision back weeks and even months. No trial date is set and won't be until Myers' attorney reviews the evidence.

WIS: Wife of Greg Alia helps raise thousands in support of slain Greenville officer's family
<http://www.wistv.com/story/31532388/wife-of-greg-alia-helps-raise-thousands-in-support-of-slain-greenville-officers-family>

Mike DeSumma

Months after losing her husband in the line of duty, the widow of a fallen Forest Acres police officer is now rallying support to help the family of slain Greenville officer Allen Jacobs. Alia had recently become a father and within days of the tragedy supporters had raised tens of thousands of dollars to help Kassy and her newborn son. Kassy Alia is now looking to pay the same goodwill she received forward through her organization Heroes in Blue. Since last weekend it has managed to raise more than \$107,000 through a GoFundMe page to support the family of Officer Allen Jacobs.

Herald-Journal: Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office unveils memorial to honor law enforcement officers killed in duty

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160321/articles/160329941>

Zach Fox

A memorial honoring the memory and service of officers who have died on the job across the state was unveiled by Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright and several others. A large, wooden table holds a glass cut-out of the state, engraved with a Bible verse. The names of fallen officers are etched on two glass panels surrounded by the Sheriff's Office emblem, a blue shield adorned with a rose and a neatly folded American flag. The event was held just days after Greenville Police Department officer Allen Jacobs was shot and killed trying to make an arrest.

Post and Courier: Charleston County Council members split on funding for beach cameras

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160321/PC16/160329881>

Prentiss Findlay

Some Charleston County Council members oppose spending \$120,000 for traffic cameras to provide real-time pictures of beach traffic. But most council members support the idea, and they could give it final approval Tuesday night. The new cameras — which would be paid for from the county's transportation sales tax money — would provide current images of traffic to and from Isle of Palms, Sullivan's Island and Folly Beach.

Aiken Standard: County Council to consider \$125,000 grant for Autoneum North America

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160322/AIK0101/160329869>

Aiken County Council will consider a resolution to accept a \$125,000 grant to assist Autoneum North America at a special meeting scheduled today. At its March meeting, County Council approved a fee in lieu of tax agreement for the automotive company, which is expanding operations at its Aiken facility. The expansion is a more than \$37 million investment and will create 41 jobs.

Aiken Standard: North Augusta City Council benches stadium discussion

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160322/AIK0101/160329872>

Scott Rodgers

Monday night's meeting of North Augusta City Council is not ready to move forward with Project Jackson. Council was set to vote on an authorization that would allow City Administrator Todd Glover to execute a contract with Brassfield and Gorrie LLC related to the construction of the stadium within Project Jackson. The document, which provided benchmarks and a potential timetable, was tabled unanimously by Council.

Post and Courier: School board eyes gaps in budget, failures in education

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160321/PC16/160329861>

Paul Bowers

The Charleston County School Board didn't vote to make any more budget cuts at its Monday night meeting, but the district's financial woes could rarely be ignored. During the public comment session, speakers railed against the district — and the board in particular — for failing to recognize the underbudgeting and overspending patterns that created last year's \$18 million budget shortfall. "By any criteria, you failed your responsibilities as a board to oversee the finances of the district," said the Rev. Nelson Rivers, a National Action Network leader.

Aiken Standard: Thomas Scott announces run for Aiken County coroner

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160322/AIK0101/160329870>

Christina Cleveland

Graniteville businessman Thomas Scott has announced his candidacy for Aiken County Coroner, an office he said he will run with compassion. "The biggest reason for me to run for coroner is love and compassion for people," said Scott, who operates Graniteville Trucking Inc. "This position, to me, it's almost like a pastoral type of position. You've got to go give the news to a family that they've just lost a loved one and, to me, that takes a little something special."

WFXG: Company establishing operations in Greenville County

<http://www.wfxg.com/story/31528242/company-establishing-operations-in-greenville-county>

Kim Kimzey

Total Quality Logistics (TQL), a third-party logistics provider is establishing logistics and sales operations in Greenville County. The new development is creating an expected 75 new jobs over the next three years, according to a news release issued by Gov. Nikki Haley's office.

Note: "With existing operations in Columbia and Charleston, S.C. — where TQL recently placed first in the South Carolina Best Places to Work survey — the company's new Greenville County facility will be its third in the Palmetto State. The new office will be located at 300 Executive Center Drive in Greenville, S.C.," according to the statement.

WIS: Flood insurance a viable option for Midlands homeowners

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31530578/flood-insurance-a-viable-option-for-midlands-homeowners>

Mike DeSumma

After last fall's disastrous floods, Midlands homeowners are adding up the cost of "next time" and asking how ready they can afford to be. Columbia insurance agent Courtney Young says after the flood several families came her way looking into flood insurance. In some cases, they made the decision to invest in a policy. Young says the first thing you need to determine is whether your home sits in a flood-prone area. That will determine just how much you'll need to pay each year. Young says with the hundreds of thousands of dollars in damages a flood can cause having some amount of coverage is worth the investment.

The State: Columbia is suited to mosquito that carries Zika virus, study says

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article67436992.html>

Roddie Burris

The mosquito that authorities say is most likely to transmit the Zika virus could see a notable population increase in the Columbia area by summer, a new study says. Largely because of climate, Columbia could see a moderate-to-high abundance of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito by mid-July, according to the study by the journal PLOS Currents, a California-based forum for the rapid dispersion of new research and analyses. In South Carolina, local governments are responsible for monitoring mosquito populations in their areas, DHEC said. The agency's role is to identify and track the spread of mosquito-borne diseases, the agency said.

WOLO: Prices at the Pump rising in the Midlands

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/2016/03/21/prices-at-the-pump-rising-in-the-midlands/>

Crysty Vaughan

Prices at the pump are going up. According to GasBuddy, gas prices in Columbia are up nearly six cents in the last week. Drivers in Columbia are paying an average \$1.78 per gallon. The national average is \$1.98 per gallon, according to GasBuddy.com. As we head into Spring, prices are still much lower than this same time last year, when drivers were paying 32 cents more per gallon. The national average has increased 27.4 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 44.0 cents per gallon lower than this day one year ago according to gasbuddy.

National News:

Associated Press: Explosions rock Brussels airport, subway; 28 reported dead

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:511cf974eea64581814f9777a40f0fd6>

Lorne Cook and John-Thor Dahlburg

Explosions, at least one likely caused by a suicide bomber, rocked the Brussels airport and subway system Tuesday, prompting a lockdown of the Belgian capital and heightened security across Europe. At least 28 people were reported dead. A spokesman for the Brussels Metro said 15 people were killed and 55 injured in an explosion on a train, and Belgian media reported at least 13 dead in two explosions at the airport, with many others injured. Belgium raised its terror alert to the highest level, diverting planes and trains and ordering people to stay where they were. Airports across Europe immediately tightened security. European security officials have been bracing for a major attack for weeks, and warned that the Islamic State group was actively preparing to strike. The arrest Friday of a key suspect in the November attacks in Paris heightened those fears, as investigators said many more people were involved than originally thought, and that some are still on the loose.

Associated Press: Obama to nudge Cuba on freedoms in direct appeal to citizens

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:193ed662c19449738e5a2bba7e06ceb4>

Josh Lederman and Michael Weissenstein

Trying to nudge Cuba toward Democracy, President Barack Obama will decry political repression and economic deprivation and present a vision of closer ties with the U.S. bringing greater freedom and prosperity when he meets with dissidents and speaks to the Cuban people on Tuesday at the close of a trailblazing trip. Obama's rationale for coming to Havana was grounded in the notion that direct interaction with Cubans would do more to empower them and bring about change than decades of isolation ever did. So Obama's speech at the Grand Theater of Havana offers his best chance to make his case for the U.S. and Cuba putting the vestiges of the Cold War behind them.

Associated Press: FBI might have way to unlock attacker's iPhone without Apple

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:f28e3f342e2a4af0ac4e916324bffe13>

Brandon Bailey and Amanda Lee Myers

A much-anticipated court hearing on the federal government's effort to force Apple Inc. to unlock the iPhone used by one of the shooters in the San Bernardino terror attack was abruptly vacated Monday after the FBI revealed it may have a way to access data without the company's help. Federal prosecutors made the surprising announcement on the eve of Tuesday's hearing in U.S. District Court in Riverside, California. In court papers they said the FBI has been researching methods to access the data on Syed Rizwan Farook's encrypted phone since obtaining it on Dec. 3, the day after the attack. "An outside party" came forward over the weekend and showed the FBI a possible method, the government said in court papers requesting the hearing be postponed. Authorities need time to determine "whether it is a viable method that will not compromise data" on the phone.

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