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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Tuesday, February 23, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

WACH: Haley, Wilson both call Obama's proposal to close Guantanamo 'dangerous'

<http://wach.com/news/local/haley-wilson-both-call-obamas-proposal-to-close-guantanamo-dangerous>

Matthew Stevens

Two prominent SC lawmakers have responded to the announcement that President Barack Obama wants to start the process of closing down Guantanamo Bay and move those detainees to facilities in the United States. Governor Nikki Haley and US Congressman Joe Wilson both gave statements denouncing the president's proposal to transfer detainees from Guantanamo Bay.

Note: The governor, who has previously spoken out against Obama's proposal, released another statement Tuesday.

Note: "President Obama is ignoring the dangerous reality that the terrorist threat to our nation is growing every day and doubling down on closing Guantanamo Bay. But we have made our stance very clear: we will fight any attempt to bring terrorists into our states. This is no time to send terrorists back to the battlefield," read the statement on Haley's Facebook page.

Post and Courier: S.C. lawmakers ready to fight formal proposal to relocate Gitmo detainees

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160223/PC1603/160229748>

Emma Duma

South Carolina Republicans in Congress are prepared to fight President Barack Obama on his plans to relocate Guantanamo Bay terror detainees to the U.S. — even without knowing for sure whether his administration favors a Palmetto State site.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley also went on the offensive. "We have made our stance very clear: We will fight any attempt to bring terrorists into our states. This is no time to send terrorists back to the battlefield," she wrote on Facebook.

WSPA: SC Gov. Haley responds to Gitmo closing plans

<http://wspa.com/2016/02/23/sc-gov-haley-responds-to-gitmo-closing-plans/>

President Obama has announced plans to close Guantanamo Bay. He says detention facility at Guantanamo undermines national security and US values. SC Gov. Nikki Haley released the following statement on Facebook Tuesday afternoon.

Note: "President Obama is ignoring the dangerous reality that the terrorist threat to our nation is growing every day and doubling down on closing Guantanamo Bay. But we have made our stance very clear: we will fight any attempt to bring terrorists into our states. This is no time to send terrorists back to the battlefield."

Greenville News: S.C. politicians react to POTUS announcement

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/02/23/sc-politicians-react-potus-annoucement/80804048/>

Bria N. Felicien

President Obama announced his plan Tuesday to close Guantanamo Bay before he leaves office. A few South Carolina politicians made comments on social media following the announcement:

Note: President Obama announced today that we plans to close Guantanamo Bay. Governor Nikki Haley and Senator Tim Scott spoke out against his plan.

Note: .@POTUS is ignoring the dangerous reality that the terrorist threat to our nation is growing every day & doubling down on closing Guantanamo

S.C. General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: Lawmakers start writing the state budget, continue roads debate

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160223/PC1603/160229754>

Gavin Jackson

Members of the South Carolina House of Representatives will begin writing the state budget today after their week-long furlough. Specifically, the full House Ways and Means Committee will start tackling the budget two hours after the House adjourns today. The chamber gavels in at noon. The budget is expected to reach the Senate by the end of March.

S.C. Political News:

Politico: Clyburn: Sanders never asked for my endorsement

<http://www.politico.com/blogs/2016-dem-primary-live-updates-and-results/2016/02/jim-clyburn-bernie-sanders-hillary-clinton-219668>

Nick Gass

Rep. Jim Clyburn had always planned to vote for Hillary Clinton in the Democratic primary on Saturday, the South Carolina Democrat said Tuesday. But Bernie Sanders never asked him for his endorsement after speaking with him "several times" during the course of his campaign.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Washington Post: It's time to start speculating about Donald Trump's vice presidential pick

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/02/23/its-time-to-start-speculating-about-donald-trumps-vice-presidential-pick/>

Chris Cillizza

On "Morning Joe" Tuesday morning, host Mika Brzezinski threw out an interesting theory: Donald Trump and Marco Rubio are playing nice with one another — and savaging Ted Cruz — because a backroom deal has been cut between the two to form a ticket with Trump as the presidential nominee and the Florida senator as the second-in-command.

Nikki Haley: The South Carolina governor probably makes the most conventional sense for Trump — or any of the rest of the likely Republican nominees. For Trump, Haley would help address lots of his weaknesses. She's an Indian American woman who can help prove wrong the idea that Trump is simply the candidate of angry white men. She's in her early 40s while Trump will be 70 on election day.

NBC News: Seven Moments That Explain Why Jeb Bush's Campaign Failed

<http://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2016-election/seven-moments-explain-why-jeb-bush-s-campaign-failed-n524256>

Jordan Frasier

For the past seven months I've been Jeb Bush's professional stalker. It was my job to follow him wherever the campaign trail led -- from a state fair to a score of American Legion Posts to debate halls in half a dozen states -- all while aiming my camera and Twitter feed squarely in his direction.

Note: But it was Nikki Haley's endorsement when Bush candidly told us he was "disappointed" and didn't try to spin the news that was a true turning point. Before then there had been a slight sense of momentum for his campaign, but when Haley picked Rubio, any hint of that disappeared and the mood of the campaign took its final dire tone.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

WCBD: Sen. Tim Scott: Obama's plan to close Guantanamo Bay is "illegal, reckless, unsafe"

<http://counton2.com/2016/02/23/sen-tim-scott-obamas-plan-to-close-guantanamo-bay-is-illegal-reckless-unsafe/>

Kelly Bazzle

On Tuesday, February 23, President Obama proposed his long-awaited plan to Congress to close Guantanamo Bay, insisting that keeping the prison open is "contrary to our values." U.S. Senator Tim Scott immediately took to twitter to respond to the President's proposal.

NBC News: GOP Senators: No Hearing, No Vote for Obama Supreme Court Pick

<http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/politics/Republican-Senators-Obama-Supreme-Court-Pick-369838501.html>

Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee say there will be no hearing for President Barack Obama's Supreme Court nominee. Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina said Tuesday after a closed-door meeting with Majority Leader Mitch McConnell that there would be "no hearing, no vote."

South Carolina News:

WLTX: DSS Director Explains Changes to Agency Over Last Year

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/health/departments-of-social-services/2016/02/23/dss-director-explains-changes-agency-over-last-year/80779320/>

Mary Sturgill

It's been a year since Susan Alford officially took over as the director of the South Carolina Department of Social Services. Before she took over the agency, there had been questions about the quality of care that DSS has been giving to children in its custody. News19's Mary Sturgill sat down with Alford to discuss what's changed in her tenure so far.

Associated Press: Severe storms could affect 7 million people in Deep South

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ikuVTth0

Bill Fuller

A suspected tornado caused some damage but no injuries near New Orleans' main airport Tuesday as severe weather spawned possible twisters and high winds in parts of the Deep South, authorities said. Emergency officials and the National Weather Service said the reported tornado was spotted near Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport in the suburban city of Kenner.

Associated Press: Air Force's 20th Wing commander removes second-in-command

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Doht1FyX

The Air Force colonel in charge of the 20th Fighter Wing at Shaw Air Force Base near Sumter has removed his second-in-command Col. William R. Jones. Air Force Capt. Keavy Rake on Tuesday confirmed the action taken by Col. Stephen Jost saying it was based on a loss of confidence.

Local News:

The State: Lexington County anti-DUI advocates want Myers to quit or get help

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article61997492.html#storylink=cpy>

Tim Flach, Noah Feit

Anti-DUI advocates called Tuesday for veteran prosecutor Donnie Myers of Lexington either to resign or get help after his third arrest for an alcohol-related offense in a little more than 10 years. "He should quit immediately," said David Longstreet, who led a successful push for stronger penalties for repeat offenders after his daughter Emma, 6, died on Jan. 1, 2012, in a crash caused by driver who had been drinking.

The State: Rewritten Columbia landlord law still being tweaked

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article61767707.html>

Clif LeBlanc

Columbia landlords overall appear to have softened their resistance to a proposed updated watchdog law backed by neighborhood leaders, but some landlords remained staunchly against what they call unfair regulation.

National News:

Associated Press: Obama: Guantanamo Bay undermines security, must be closed

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=95oDM6AR

Lolita C. Baldor, Kathleen Hennessey

President Barack Obama's plan to close the detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba slammed into a wall of Republican opposition on Tuesday, stopping cold Obama's hope for a bipartisan effort to "close a chapter" that began in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Associated Press: Cruz, Rubio face critical test in Nevada

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1cSoXrau

Steve Peoples, Nancy Benac

Ted Cruz is fighting to keep from spiraling out of contention. Marco Rubio is fighting to prove he can build on his recent momentum. And Donald Trump, with his rivals locked in a battle for second, is fighting for a third straight victory to expand a delegate lead that could soon become insurmountable.

New York Times: Senate Leader Mitch McConnell Flatly Rejects Hearing on Any Court Nominee
http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/24/us/politics/mitch-mcconnell-renews-call-to-block-an-obama-supreme-court-nomination.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share&_r=0

David Herszenhorn

The Senate will hold no hearings, much less confirm, any Supreme Court nominee put forward by President Obama before the November election, Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the majority leader, stated unequivocally on Tuesday, as he urged the president to reconsider even submitting a name.

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