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Subject: Clips - Saturday, March 5, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Union Times: Ministry receives \$30,000 grant

<http://uniondailytimes.com/features/lifestyle/4179/ministry-receives-30000-grant>

Charles Warner

A church that already helps the less fortunate through its food ministry will use a \$30,000 grant to renovate an old store on Main Street for a ministry designed help the less fortunate get jobs and become self-sufficient. Trinity Baptist Church provides food and some other necessities to the less fortunate of Union County through its Channel of Blessings Ministry. While the church plans to continue with its Channel of Blessings food ministry, Pastor Neil Keisler said the church is taking the next step in helping those in need by opening “The Meeting Place on Main,” a ministry that he said will focus on job preparedness to help those who need that help find gainful employment.

Note: The Original 6 Foundation, which was founded by Gov. Nikki Haley, “functions as a resource to build bridges now for a better quality of life tomorrow for the residents of the communities that we serve.

Note: He said that after hearing Haley speak on that subject several times, he concluded that “Union County certainly needs welfare to workforce” and sent an email to her office about the church’s plans. Keisler said before he even got back home after sending it he’d already gotten a response expressing interest in what the church was planning to do. He said that in the years since he has remained in contact with the Foundation, developing a relationship that resulted in the ministry being awarded the \$30,000 grant.

Associated Press: Clemson could temporarily oversee school for troubled teens

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

Seanna Adcox

Legislators could put Clemson University in charge of a public residential school for troubled teens that is on the verge of losing its accreditation. A proposal advanced by the House budget-writing committee would transfer oversight of John de la Howe School to the university on July 1, along with funding for the school that spends \$92,000 annually per student. Clemson officials would be tasked next school year with evaluating turnaround paths for the sixth-through-10th-grade school in rural McCormick and reporting their recommendations.

Note: “We believe Clemson has the expertise and background to go in and save that school,” said Rep. Kenny Bingham, R-Cayce, chairman of the committee’s K-12 panel. “I believe it’s the only way to keep the doors open.”

Note: In 2014, Gov. Nikki Haley recommended putting the Department of Juvenile Justice in charge of John de la Howe. Her suggestion followed a critical report from the state’s inspector general, which found the school spends excessively - then at \$87,000 per student annually - but doesn’t assess whether it’s successfully turning students’ lives around. Many of the school’s leaders resigned, and the House approved Haley’s one-year takeover proposal. But the Senate refused.

Pat Conroy News:

Associated Press: ‘Prince of Tides’ author Pat Conroy dies at 70

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:1e3b2cf86be7466d9b4ac4814fff6a4d>

Bruce Smith

Pat Conroy, the beloved author of "The Great Santini" and "The Prince of Tides" and other best-sellers who drew upon his bruising childhood and the vistas of South Carolina and became one of the country's most compelling and popular storytellers, died Friday evening. He was 70. Conroy, who announced last month that he had pancreatic cancer, died at home among family and loved ones in Beaufort, South Carolina, according to his publisher.

Note: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley tweeted: "We can find comfort knowing his words and love for SC will live on."

Post and Courier: Pat Conroy, the Lowcountry's Prince of Tides, passes away

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160304/PC16/160309613>

Brian Hicks

Pat Conroy, the best-selling novelist and proud adoptive son of the Lowcountry who wrote lyrically about Charleston and unflinchingly about The Citadel, died Friday. He was 70. The author of "The Great Santini," "The Lords of Discipline" and "The Prince of Tides" and eight other books passed away shortly after being diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer that had gone undetected. He died at 7:43 p.m., surrounded by loved ones and family.

Note: "South Carolina lost a beloved son tonight. Pat Conroy will be missed. We can find comfort knowing his words and love for SC will live on," Gov. Nikki Haley said Friday night in a tweet.

Island Packet: Beaufort's prince Pat Conroy rests at home

<http://www.islandpacket.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/david-lauderdale/article64158467.html>

David Lauderdale

Pat Conroy, who arrived in Beaufort as a teenage Marine brat and found both a home and palette for his best-selling novels, died Friday at his home on Battery Creek. "The water is wide but he has now crossed over," said his wife, Cassandra King, through a family friend. Conroy, 70, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer only four weeks ago. When he announced it Feb. 15 on Facebook, he said, "I intend to fight it hard." He died at 7:43 p.m., surrounded by loved ones and family.

Island Packet: RIP Pat Conroy: Twitter remembers the iconic Lowcountry author

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/article64214337.html>

Graham Cawthon

News of Pat Conroy's death Friday night spread quickly, fueled in large part by social media. The author's name was among a select few of the most tweeted terms in all the United States Friday night into Saturday morning. Many of those tweeting were longtime fans. Some related to his military upbringing. Others were inspired by his work to become authors themselves. And nearly all noted his impact on South Carolina and the Lowcountry.

Note: "South Carolina lost a beloved son tonight. Pat Conroy will be missed. We can find comfort knowing his words and love for SC will live on," Gov. Nikki Haley said Friday night in a tweet.

Post and Courier: The literary legacy of Pat Conroy

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160304/PC16/160309608>

Adam Parker

The books sold and sold; readers could not get enough of Conroy's forceful storytelling and elegant, flowing sentences. Julia Eichelberger, a professor of Southern literature at the College of Charleston, teaches "The Lords of Discipline" to her students. She said she admires Conroy's tall tales and larger-than-life figures. "They are almost mythical characters who confront adversaries and persevere," she said. One reason he fits into the Southern literature category is his sumptuous use of language, Eichelberger said. "He throws out big handfuls of words, lavish descriptions, a lot of emotion and sentiment in the writing." Another reason is his emphasis on family.

Beaufort Gazette: Real people inspired characters in Conroy's books

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article64184452.html>

Ryan Copeland

Pat Conroy, who died March 5 at age 70, based most of his novels on actual experience and real people. "Write what you know" was a maxim he stood by for most of his writing life. Perhaps the most famous of these "real" people was his father, Col. Donald Conroy. The elder Conroy showed up as various characters throughout his son's books, and though none of the depictions are thinly-veiled, some are more sympathetic than others.

S.C. General Assembly News:

The State: In the same direction: SC Senate Republicans work together on roads plan

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article64112982.html>

Andy Shain

Something unusual happened in the S.C. Senate this week — Republicans agreed with each other. The state's crumbling roads brought together factions within the Senate's dominant party on the biggest spending issue debated inside the General Assembly in years. Senate GOP leaders said they hope the agreement within party ranks on a \$400 million a year roads plan could weaken the Democrats' ability to win influence by aligning with wayward Republicans.

Note: "They saw the future," Senate Majority Leader Harvey Peeler, R-Cherokee, said.

Note: "Fraud alert! Last night in the cover of darkness the Republican majority in the S.C. State Senate, in a conspiracy with the governor, killed the roads bill," state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, D-Kershaw, emailed supporters Thursday. "Absolute power, corrupts absolutely!"

Sun News: Cherry Grove residents get dredging break in bill set for approval

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article64061482.html>

Audrey Hudson

Cherry Grove residents would save \$1,000 and bypass bureaucratic red tape if they decide to dredge from their docks to the channel after North Myrtle Beach conducts dredging operations along the canal. Legislation sponsored by state Sen. Greg Hembree, R-Little River, would allow residents to operate under the city's permit from the Army Corps of Engineers, rather than apply for a separate permit from the state Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC).

WSPA: Bill to allow teachers to carry guns in SC classrooms might return

<http://wspa.com/2016/03/04/bill-to-allow-teachers-to-carry-guns-in-sc-classrooms-might-return/>

Robert Kittle

A South Carolina House subcommittee has rejected for this year a bill that would have allowed teachers and other school employees to carry concealed weapons on campus, but the sponsor of the bill says he might file it again next year. Rep. Phillip Lowe, R-Florence, says the goal of the bill is to protect children. "A lot of our schools are still a gun-free zone," he says. "There is no SRO (School Resource Officer) at all on the property, especially in the very rural areas."

WIS: Poor SC roads mean worn out tires, mechanics warn

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31389791/poor-sc-roads-mean-worn-out-tires-mechanics-warn>

Mike DeSumma

The debate on roads in South Carolina impacts plenty of people. That's mainly because of the impact that poor roads have on our cars as we ride the highways and byways. Mechanics at Complete Car Care in Columbia will tell you the number one problem they see from poor roads is worn out tires. Depending on how long you drive on poor surfaces could very well dictate just how long it takes before you need a new set. "Every time you hit a pot hole or anything going down the road, the impact is going to damage in here," mechanic Bryan Boulknight said.

WLTX: Senate To Debate Republican Roads Plan Tuesday

<http://www.wltx.com/sports/local/senate-to-debate-republican-roads-plan-tuesday/66650235>

After several weeks of filibusters, the Senate will begin debate on the Republican Caucus' roads plan next Tuesday. With this new plan, the governor would appoint an 8-member Department of Transportation Commission, with the advice and consent of the senate. The commission would appoint the secretary of D.O.T. with the senate's approval. The state infrastructure bank would also be affected, by having to submit their plans to D.O.T., tying together agencies that are currently operating separately. In terms of the roads money, republicans want no gas tax at all. Instead, \$400 million would come from the general fund every year, and go straight into the state highway fund.

S.C. Agency News:

Greenville News: DHEC says no coal ash in Pickens County

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2016/03/04/dhec-says-no-coal-ash-pickens-county/81316596/>

Ron Barnett

The state Department of Health and Environmental Control will not allow any coal ash from power plants to be disposed of in a landfill in Pickens County, an agency spokesman said. The new position comes after Gov. Nikki Haley signed into law a bill that overturns DHEC's previous approval of a company's plan to put a liner in a Class 2 landfill that is designed for construction debris and other nontoxic waste, and dump tons of coal ash there. The liner MRR Pickens LLC proposed using is the same type as used in Class 3 landfills, DHEC has said.

Note: "The new legislation requires that coal ash from facilities that produce electricity must be placed into a commercial Class 3 solid waste landfill," Robert Yanity of DHEC said. "Since MRR Pickens is a Class 2 landfill, it will not be allowed to take coal ash from facilities that produce electricity,"

Island Packet: Beaufort County law enforcement agencies await body camera approval

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/article64047437.html>

Caitlin Turner

The use of body cameras for Beaufort County Sheriff's Office deputies has been approved by the S. C. Criminal Justice Academy. Law enforcement agencies were required to submit proposals for body camera use by March 7 to the academy. The Sheriff's Office had its proposal approved Feb. 4, Sheriff P.J. Tanner said Thursday. The cameras, once provided the S.C. Department of Public Safety, will be turned on at scenes of violent crimes, traffic stops, public disorderly conduct, arrests, situations where use of force is required, when weapons are present or alleged to be present, and other types of calls, according to the Sheriff's Office's policy proposal. Deputies can also turn them on and off at their discretion, depending on the sensitivity of the situation and whether probable cause or suspicion exists.

S.C. Political News:

Spartanburg Herald-Journal: Spartanburg native Chris Fedalei to challenge Gowdy

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160304/articles/160309856>

Chris Lavender

Political newcomer Chris Fedalei, a Democrat, has announced his intention to challenge Republican U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy. Fedalei, 26, of Greenville will officially launch his campaign for the 4th Congressional District seat at 4:30 p.m. March 16 at the Growler Haus in Spartanburg. Fedalei said he plans to devote his full attention to his campaign. "I want people to know they have a choice this year, that this year there is going to be a competitive campaign, this is going to be a very tightly contested seat," Fedalei said.

WSPA: Rare SC court rule leaves many victims without a prosecutor

<http://wspa.com/2016/03/04/rare-sc-court-rule-leaves-many-victims-without-a-prosecutor/>

Rebecca Collett

A South Carolina woman says she got her day in court after being beat up, but she says she didn't get justice. There wasn't a prosecutor at the jury trial, and the News 2 I-Team finds that's common, even in violent crimes. South Carolina is one of only three states where officers prosecute their own cases other than traffic citations. Former Attorney General Charlie Condon says a special rule in South Carolina allows arresting officers to prosecute their own cases, but he says it's not a fair fight in court. "It's an unfortunate situation," the judge said in court. "The officer is forced to prosecute his own case and he's not an attorney."

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Gitmo terrorists don't belong in South Carolina

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160305/PC1002/160309642>

Editorial: Jeff Duncan

Now, President Obama has decided to take things a step further, announcing his intention to close the strategically critical Guantanamo Bay facility entirely, sending the remaining terrorists to military installations located within the United States. One of the potential destinations is the Charleston Naval Brig. No state should become a terrorist dumping ground, especially not South Carolina. That's why I have introduced House Resolution 617, which would authorize Congress to bring a lawsuit against the President to stop any detainee transfer to the United States.

Post and Courier: Where is justice in Curnell death?

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160305/PC1002/160309635>

Letter

Although shoplifting is a crime and not to be taken lightly, reasonable people question whether capital punishment is an appropriate sanction. And how would such a draconian sanction be reconciled with these words in the Pledge of Allegiance: "... with liberty and justice for all." The operative word, of course, especially in the case of the late Joyce Curnell, is "justice." Furthermore, in a compassionate, egalitarian society such as ours aspires to be, arresting any seriously ill person in a hospital is beyond the pale. Please allow me to use this forum to implore the state Legislature to address this critical issue in the current session. And I would be so proud of my District 115 representative, Peter McCoy, if he were to take the lead on it.

Post and Courier: The Lord of Lowcountry literature

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160305/PC16/160309605>

Frank Wooten

Pat Conroy had a very special way with the written word. That inevitably intimidates just about anybody who tries to find the right words to describe his gift. So without further unworthy-wording ado, this column marks the former Citadel basketball player's passing Friday night at age 70 by offering some of my favorite passages from my favorite book of his, 1980's "The Lords of Discipline."

Post and Courier: Letter: Put infrastructure before development

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160305/PC1002/160309633>

Editorial

While I am not assuming that the necessary infrastructure was ignored, I did not see any mention of it in the editorial. One point that I thought questionable was your comment that the living residences would be close to each other and also close to the schools and jobs. What jobs you were referring to was unclear. You certainly could not assume that home buyers should invest and then patiently wait for jobs to appear. The initial homeowners would certainly have to commute to work. Before any approval for expansion is approved there must be plans for the new road work to allow traffic to be absorbed in a reasonable fashion. Without the proper plans we will just continue the congestion that is often complained about in The Post and Courier.

Post and Courier: A scary choice: Hillary vs. Donald

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160305/PC1002/160309644>

Editorial

On Wednesday morning many Americans woke up to the disconcerting awareness that, barring an increasingly unlikely (or timely) act of God or judicial intervention (i.e., the indictment and conviction of the leading candidate of the Democratic Party), the choice they will face in November is to cast their vote for either Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump. For more than a few this will mean holding their nose and choosing what they believe to be the lesser of two evils. It will either be that or staying home on Election Day, wondering how in hell, in a country of some 323 million people, neither the Democrats nor the Republicans could come up with better candidates to become president of the United States.

Post and Courier: Combating unfair trade

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160305/PC1002/160309631>

Letter

Two articles in the Feb. 27 paper caught my eye. First, Sen. Fritz Hollings' excellent column, "Boost economy via tax reform, trade protection." Second, President Obama signing the Trade Facilitation Act to combat unfair trade practices and illegal dumping of cheap, Chinese-made aluminum on our U. S. market. Well, looks like our president has been watching the Republican debates. Why did it take him seven years to make this move? Sounds to me that he has finally decided to "make America great again" in his last days in office. Wonder where he got that idea all of a sudden? Sen. Hollings knows, and so does Donald Trump.

Post and Courier: Letter: Reinstate draft

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160305/PC1002/160309638>

Editorial

U.S. military forces are clearly stretched (personnel wise and financially) and something must be done in the near future to relieve this stress. It may be time to give serious consideration to reinstating a national draft (two to three years) for all military forces. The professional (volunteer) military forces would continue as currently constituted but all support positions for these professional forces would be assigned to draftees. This approach would address two very important national objectives: 1) national investment in U.S. military forces and efforts; 2) public acknowledgment that our military forces deserve the undivided support of the national populace.

Post and Courier: Charleston's tour-guide regulations violate free speech

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160305/PC1002/160309643>

Editorial

There are thousands of stories to be told about Charleston. But picking your favorite and telling it to a tour group without the government's permission can land you in jail. In Charleston, it is illegal to tell stories to paying tour groups without a license — not to walk around with groups (that can be done by an unlicensed "tour escort") but to tell them things about the city. And before the city will give you a license to tell stories you care about to tourists, you must prove that you can tell the stories the city cares about — and do it to city officials' satisfaction.

The State: Letters: Fight terrorism with clean energy

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article64080617.html>

Letter

Whether you believe in global warming or not, realize that every gallon of gas that you put in your vehicle either directly or indirectly funds ISIL. Even if you don't believe there is a climate crisis, I cannot imagine that you can think carbon pollution is good for your health. If we truly want to make America great again, let's become the nation that leads the world in clean energy. Think of the potential jobs created, the economic value of exporting clean energy and the health benefits. It's also one of the best ways to defund and protect us from terrorism.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Revamped deal will make Port of Charleston state's biggest rooftop solar generator

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160304/PC05/160309663>

David Wren

The State Ports Authority is moving ahead with a rooftop solar energy project that will be South Carolina's largest, eclipsing the one atop Boeing Co.'s Dreamliner plant in North Charleston. The maritime agency said Friday it will lease rooftop space on warehouses at two of its terminals to Charleston-based SolBright Renewable Energy LLC, which will install panels generating up to 3.7 megawatts of electricity. When completed this summer, the project will overtake Boeing's 2.4-megawatt facility as the state's largest rooftop generator of renewable energy.

Note: "This is a cleaner option — not consuming capital and not taking us out of our core business," Jim Newsome, the SPA's president and CEO, said Friday. "We're not in the business of generating power. We're in the business of running a port."

Local News:

The State: Saluda deputies' patrol cars soon will sport 'In God We Trust' stickers

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article64100542.html>

Rachel Myers Lowe

Patrol cars of the Saluda County Sheriff's Department soon will sport a new sticker that declares "In God We Trust." The stickers will be put on all marked patrol cars at an afternoon ceremony on Monday, Saluda County Sheriff John Perry said in a news release Friday afternoon. The stickers, which will be permanently affixed to the 20 marked patrol cars of the sheriff's department, were paid for with a "local, private donation," Perry said. The initiative cost about \$100, Chief Deputy Chris Corkrell said.

Note: "We had no issue with the message," Corkrell said. "I want my guys to know that when they get in the car, and they hear the passenger door close, they know who is riding with them," he said.

Aiken Standard: 2,000 Aiken County residents could lose food stamp benefits after work requirement announcement

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160304/AIK0101/160309700>

Christina Cleveland

Around 2,000 Aiken County residents' food stamp benefits could be affected next month due to a work requirement added to the program. Starting April 1, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or "SNAP" recipients, who are between 18 and 50 and who qualify as an able-bodied adult without dependents, or ABAWD, will have to meet a work requirement to continue receiving benefits, the S.C. Department of Social Services announced this week.

Note: Karen Wingo, spokesperson for DSS, said the total number of food stamp recipients statewide as of February was 775,365. The number of able-bodied adults without dependents in roughly the same time period was about 60,000, she said. There were around 2,347 able-bodied adults without dependents in Aiken County as of last month.

Independent Mail: Al Means drops out of 10th circuit solicitor's race

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/local/al-means-drops-out-of-10th-circuit-solicitors-race-2d3cad1d-59fe-5b61-e053-0100007f5c4d-371074881.html>

Mike Ellis

Al Means dropped out of the race Friday for the 10th Judicial Circuit solicitor's post, leaving three candidates vying to be the top prosecutor for Anderson and Oconee counties. Means said one of the three remaining candidates, David Wagner, has more significantly more experience and Wagner not been part of any of the problems Means wanted to fix at the solicitor's office. He said he is not sure of his plans for the future, but he will care for a sick family member and explore options.

Post and Courier: Summerville mayor's adviser turns his attention to petition

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160305/PC16/160309668>

Brenda Rindge

The man accused of running the town from behind the scenes reiterated Friday that he is merely an adviser to Summerville Mayor Wiley Johnson but that he has now turned his attention to a new cause. Peter Gorman, 68, is spearheading an effort to collect 6,000 signatures on a petition to force a referendum on the town's form of government. In February, council passed two ordinances defining the mayor's role under its council form of government. Johnson said he now has only as much power as a council member. The form of government, plus a couple development issues, have caused a rift in council since the November election of Johnson and Councilwoman Christine Czarnik.

Post and Courier: Former Kiawah administrator, treasurer overpaid more than \$200,000 total, mayor says

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160304/PC16/160309649>

Prentiss Findlay

Unauthorized compensation payments totaling \$81,400 were made to former town of Kiawah Island staffers Tumiko Rucker and Kenneth Gunnells in 2011 and 2012, Mayor Charles Lipuma said Friday. Rucker was town administrator and Gunnells was town treasurer. Both resigned in May. Rucker received excess payments of \$23,222 in 2011 and \$33,449 in 2012. Excess payments to Gunnells were \$11,753 in 2011 and \$12,976 in 2012. The dollar amounts are from a forensic audit, Lipuma said.

Florence Morning News: Seventh-day Adventist pastors in Florence weigh in on Carson campaign

http://www.scnow.com/living/faith_and_values/article_3a88a546-e282-11e5-81ee-d76a0c28aa63.html

Shamira McCray

Joshua Nelson, pastor of two Seventh-day Adventist churches, says Ben Carson's presidential candidacy caused a lot of talk among church members about whether he was doing the right thing. "Traditionally, I've been taught, and what I teach is, you know, to keep church and state separate. Keep your political views to yourself," Nelson said. He said the kingdom and government of those of his faith are of another world. "We can't really play by the same rules," Nelson said. "I really think that church should have a voice to what the state does in terms of our Christian values, but it still needs to be separate in how you enforce it. And that respect was a bit pulling for me. I wasn't sure what to think." Carson dropped out of the presidential race Friday, but Nelson said he feels he will leave his mark in the political world. "I think he definitely left a mark, and he ran a positive campaign for the most part," Nelson said. "(He) really conducted himself as a Christian, I think, which was positive."

WSPA: Fire facility first of its kind for Spartanburg Co.

http://wspa.com/2016/03/04/fire-facility-first-of-its-kind-for-spartanburg-co/?preview_id=145628

Robert Cox

Boiling Springs Fire Department just installed a new fire training facility thanks to a grant from FEMA and private donors. The training facility offers several unique training scenarios, including training courses, obstacles, and a burn room, with ability to vent from the roof and control the flames. The roof also allows for industrial training. The mobile unit is unique because everything inside has the ability to be changed to make training different every time.

Greenville News: Does Greenville need a downtown convention center?

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/greenville/downtown/2016/03/04/does-greenville-need-downtown-convention-center/81274036/>

Eric Connor

For the first six weeks, the Chicago consulting firm hired to determine the feasibility of a new convention center in downtown Greenville spent its time trying to determine where to put one. But the

matter of where quickly turned into a matter of how — and everywhere the answer was the same: A convention center downtown would be a nice thing to have, but too costly and with not enough suitable land to choose from.

Note: “It’s not something we have to do,” Mayor Knox White said. “A lot of cities promote these ideas as a way to attract people and business to their downtowns. We don’t have that problem.”

WLTX: Sumter Plans Big Projects with \$1.6 Million in Grants

<http://www.wltx.com/sports/local/sumter-plans-big-projects-with-16-million-in-grants/68159584>

Colby Gallagher

Sumter Mayor Joe McElveen accepted four Parks, Recreation and Tourism grants totalling \$1.6 million dollars on Friday. "The things that we're going to do with this are not only going to enhance quality of life for those of us who are already here, it's going to make us more attractive to young people and others who want to come here and be a part of this," said McElveen. The money will be used for different projects, the largest being a \$750,000 Shaw Air Force Base Welcome Center.

Aiken Standard: Crews clear land ahead of Project Jackson development

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160304/AIK0101/160309699>

Bill Bengston

The massive \$200 million riverfront development project has yet to get North Augusta City Council’s final approval, but steps toward Project Jackson are in plainer view this week, with crews preparing entry/exit areas for heavy equipment and putting up silt fencing, to help with erosion control. Current activity also includes timber removal by “the private owner of the land along the site where Project Jackson is proposed,” as noted in a municipal news release. The announcement added, “The activity does not indicate the beginning of construction or final approval of Project Jackson by North Augusta City Council.”

Note: North Augusta City Councilman Ken McDowell noted, “No matter what happens, the land’s going to have to be cleared ... of the trees and debris.”

Aiken Standard: North Augusta Planning Commission passes stadium plan, nixes overlay district changes

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160304/AIK0101/160309696>

Scott Rodgers

The Planning Commission heard the preliminary major site plan for the stadium. While the entire project was not up for discussion at the meeting, City Administrator Todd Glover did confirm the project’s cost is now \$60 million – down from \$75 million. He said after the meeting that the cost of the project has dropped due to ongoing negotiations between the City and developers. The stadium received 6-1 approval from the Planning Commission, with Vice Chairman Larry Watts voting against it. Watts said that he believed the project should go to a referendum for the residents of North Augusta to vote on.

Post and Courier: Chicora Life project in balance as Charleston County Council considers breaking lease

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160304/PC16/160309659>

Prentiss Findlay

The effort to put public health services in the old Navy hospital in the economically depressed Chicora-Cherokee neighborhood appears to be in jeopardy. Charleston County Council’s Finance Committee voted, 5-3, on Thursday to end the lease with Chicora Life Center for part of the building. Council will take another vote Tuesday on whether to break its lease, which also was seen as a way to help revive the southern end of North Charleston. Councilman Henry Darby said terminating the lease would cost taxpayers millions of dollars if the developer files suit. He said the project has employed some 200 unskilled workers. “We really don’t need to rush,” he said.

Times and Democrat: City ready to open new, \$5 million gym

http://thetandd.com/news/local/article_9ebfcb6c-8789-5841-af98-430d3d6ec725.html

Princess Williams

City officials say they are excited about the upcoming grand opening of the new Orangeburg City Gym located on Broughton Street. "I don't have words to express how happy I am about this new facility!" Orangeburg Mayor Michael Butler said. Butler says health and wellness are very important to a city. "We want our citizens to have a place for recreation. We're just glad to provide these kinds of services for the citizens," he said. Officials are set to cut the ribbon for the new facility at 10 a.m. Friday, March 11. Approximately \$5 million from the 1 percent capital projects sales tax was used to build the gym.

National News:

NBC News: Ben Carson Suspends 2016 Campaign at CPAC

<http://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2016-election/ben-carson-suspends-2016-campaign-cpac-n532056>

Andrew Rafferty

Ben Carson on Friday announced he is "leaving the campaign trail" after a string of disappointing finishes in the GOP presidential primary contests and urged his former Republican rivals for more civility. "There's a lot of people who love me, they just won't vote for me," Carson said during a speech at the Conservative Political Action Conference taking place outside Washington, D.C.

CNN: White House considering additional appeals court judges for Supreme Court vacancy

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/05/politics/supreme-court-judges-antonin-scalia/index.html>

Pamela Brown and Evan Perez

Two additional federal appellate judges are among those being considered by the White House to replace late Justice Antonin Scalia on the Supreme Court, sources have told CNN. Judge Sri Srinivasan is one of those being vetted, people familiar with the process told CNN. His friends and former colleagues are being interviewed. Also being vetted is Judge Merrick Garland, sources familiar with the process told CNN. Associates of Garland have also been interviewed, a source said. Both men had been frequently mentioned on the list of a possible successor to Scalia following his death last month.

Associated Press: 5 more states ready to chip in delegates to Campaign 2016

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:f4b02560c4904afaac44c4af11cca0e2>

Nancy Benac

Five more states are chipping in verdicts on the Republican and Democratic presidential contests in races largely overshadowed by Super Tuesday and the big contests still to come. Yet candidates eager to gather enough support to snag their party's nomination — or at least stay relevant — are happy to scoop up delegates wherever they can. With the GOP field now down to a quartet, Donald Trump, Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio and John Kasich are competing in Maine, Kansas, Kentucky and Louisiana. Democrats Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders are vying for support in Nebraska, Kansas and Louisiana.

Associated Press: Things we learned from 50,000-plus pages of Clinton emails

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:d6408e1400814c36acb91a1d887db44a>

Bradley Klapper and Matthew Lee

Hillary Clinton's work-related emails from her private account are now public, more than 52,000 pages detailing her tenure as secretary of state but failing to resolve questions about how she and her closest aides handled classified information. The correspondence between Clinton and her advisers, friends and political acquaintances offers no shocking revelations, but it sheds light on a management style she would take with her to the White House.