

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, February 24, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

WIS: USC, state help launch new cyber security initiative

<http://www.live5news.com/story/31303540/usc-state-help-launch-new-cyber-security-initiative>

Mike DeSumma

Public and private entities across South Carolina are now planning to work together to fend off cyber hackers and other threats to the state's online infrastructure. Gov. Nikki Haley was at the University of South Carolina on Wednesday for the official launch of SC Cyber, a new statewide initiative that includes the help of the university, IBM, and the South Carolina National Guard along with other partners.

Note: In her remarks, Haley said training to prevent hacks has become a routine component of several state departments. This comes after the state Department of Revenue was hacked in 2012.

Note: "We're constantly trying to break in to every one of our systems to see how foolproof it is," Haley said, "because what we have to remember is those who attack are patient, and those that attack never stop trying. So if that's the case, we can never stop working to make sure we keep things safe."

Associated Press: S. Carolina joins cybercrime fight after massive data breach

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

Susanne M. Schafer

The state Revenue Department's massive 2012 data breach gave Gov. Nikki Haley a firsthand lesson on the need for efforts to counter cybercrime, she said Wednesday.

Note: "Today, there is never a day I don't think about cybersecurity," Haley told academics and business, government and military officials who gathered to kick off a new, statewide program in cooperation with the University of South Carolina.

Note: "Those that attack are patient and those that attack never stop trying," Haley said, adding that she hoped the consortium's work will put South Carolina "at the forefront of cybersecurity."

S.C. General Assembly News:

Greenville News: Day 3 of Senate roads filibuster lasts about 7 hours

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/02/23/day-3-senate-roads-filibuster-goes-into-night/80794898/>

Tim Smith

Sen. Tom Davis, a Beaufort Republican who wants the Senate to give the governor direct control of the state's highway commission and to use existing money to fund transportation needs, spent Tuesday in the well of the Senate for a third day railing against the "legislative state," parochialism by highway commissioners and the impact of raising the gas tax on South Carolina's poor.

Associated Press: Chief Justice: Courts should not depend on fines to operate

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1qtlJla5

Seann Adcox

South Carolina's chief justice is asking legislators to reduce the courts' dependency on fines and increase judges' salaries. Chief Justice Costa Pleicones (Pluh-KOH-Nus) said Wednesday he's deeply concerned by the judiciary branch's dependence on court fines and fees to operate. He says that's an unstable funding method.

S.C. Political News:

The State: First on Buzz: Columbia mayor in new Clinton ad

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article62165227.html>

Andrew Shain

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin is featured in a new television advertisement for Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton, discussing a letter he wrote to his daughters about why he is supporting the former secretary of state.

CNN: African-American voters hold the key for Democrats in South Carolina

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/02/24/politics/african-american-voters-south-carolina/>

Brenna Williams

As the Democratic presidential nomination race turns to South Carolina, African-American voters will take center stage for the first time. Both former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders have sought to woo the influential voting bloc ahead of Saturday's Palmetto State primary, and with good reason.

Note: "This is a state where the two most popular politicians right now are an African-American senator in Tim Scott and an Indian-American female governor in Nikki Haley," Knotts said. "Though two minorities are leading the Republican Party, they draw almost all their support from whites."

The State: Bernie Sanders: 'Not writing off South Carolina'

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article62195102.html>

Jamie Self

U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, leaving South Carolina to campaign in other states, said Wednesday that he is "not writing off South Carolina." Sanders trails Hillary Clinton by an average of 24 points in recent polls. Talking to reporters at a Columbia hotel, the Democratic presidential hopeful counted narrowing Clinton's lead in South Carolina as a success.

Post and Courier: Bernie Sanders says his campaign is fighting for S.C. 'as hard as we can'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160224/PC1603/160229672>

Cynthia Roldan

Democratic Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders insists South Carolina remains a priority state for his campaign, even though he'll be splitting his time with Super Tuesday states. The Vermont Senator rebuffed on Wednesday the notion that he did not care about winning South Carolina.

Greenville News: Clinton, Sanders have different challenges to land black votes

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/elections/2016/02/24/clinton-sanders-have-different-challenges-land-black-votes/80802024/>

Amanda Coyne

A few hours before he rallied 5,205 people in the Bon Secours Wellness Arena on Sunday evening, Bernie Sanders made a stop at the Brookland Baptist Church buffet in West Columbia.

Aiken Standard: Bill Clinton to stump for wife Hillary in Aiken on Friday

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160223/AIK0101/160229743>

DeDe Biles

Bill Clinton is coming to Aiken. The former president will be here Friday to campaign for his wife, 2016 presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, ahead of South Carolina's Democratic primary on Saturday. Stephanie Formas, South Carolina communications director for Hillary for America, confirmed Bill Clinton's visit Tuesday afternoon.

Post and Courier: Keeping primary day holy: What happens when the Jewish Sabbath coincides with election day?

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160224/PC16/160229654>

Adam Parker

This year in South Carolina, last week's Republican primary and this week's Democratic primary are on Saturdays — the Jewish Sabbath. For observant Jewish voters, this poses a dilemma, for the Sabbath is meant to be a day of rest and reflection, a day to be with family and to thank God for those blessings he has bestowed.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

New York Times: Voters Might Not Miss Jeb Bush, but Campaign Reporters Will

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/23/us/politics/voters-might-not-miss-jeb-bush-but-campaign-reporters-will>

[html?_r=0](#)

Ashley Parker

By the time I was assigned to cover Jeb Bush, he was already becoming the exclamation point that couldn't. Even his gait — long-limbed and newly gangly courtesy of the Paleo diet — and the way he seemed to curl slightly into his 6-foot-4 frame told the story: A campaign that was supposed to be “joyful” had become a slog.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor funding reauthorized by U.S. House

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160224/PC1603/160229659>

Emma Dumain

The Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor will benefit from federal resources for another five years. The U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday afternoon gave swift approval to legislation reauthorizing the initiative, first passed in 2006. For a Congress that typically has difficulty finding common ground, the bill had bipartisan support — and a bipartisan roster of representatives speaking on the measure's behalf during debate on the House floor.

Post and Courier: Congress to Obama: Gitmo closure plan not going anywhere anytime soon

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160224/PC1603/160229668>

Christina Elmore, Emma domain

Members of Congress aren't backing down a day after President Barack Obama issued a proposal to close Guantanamo Bay and relocate terror detainees to facilities in the United States that could include the Naval Consolidated Brig in Hanahan.

Post and Courier: DOT warning of strong winds on bridges

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160224/PC16/160229682>

Dave Munday

Strong winds this morning could make driving over the Ravenel and Don Holt bridges hazardous. As of 11:30 a.m., DOT has put out wind alerts for the bridge between Charleston and Mount Pleasant and the one between North Charleston and Mount Pleasant. The Highway Patrol reported a tree on I-26 west between Ridgeville and Harleyville.

Local News:

The State: 14 members from 'Cowboys,' 'Wildboys' street gangs indicted on federal charges

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article62225822.html>

Harrison Cahill

Fourteen alleged gang members from two South Carolina street gangs were indicted in federal court in Charleston Wednesday on federal racketeering and attempted murder charges, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Sun News: Horry, Georgetown counties shift to OPGON 4 ahead of storm

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article62165387.html>

“OPCON 4 puts Horry County on “alert” status, which means that county officials have begun discussions with South Carolina Emergency Management, the National Weather Service, and other coastal communities. Horry County will continue to monitor the storm closely and review all operational plans,” Lisa Bourcier, Horry County spokeswoman said in a press release Wednesday morning.

National News:

Washington Post: Republican governor of Nevada Brian Sandoval being considered for Supreme Court

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/wp/2016/02/24/brian-sandoval-republican-governor-of-nevada-is-being-vetted-for-supreme-court-vacancy/>

Mike Debonis, Juliet Eilperin

Top Senate Republicans vowed Wednesday to continue blocking President Obama's nomination to the Supreme Court ahead of November's presidential election, even if Obama chooses the Republican governor of Nevada to fill the slot of the late Justice Antonin Scalia

Associated Press: Probe: HealthCare.gov 'passive' on heading off fraud

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160224/PC1211/160229655>

Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar

While the Government Accountability Office stopped short of alleging widespread cheating in President Barack Obama's signature program, investigators found that the administration has struggled to resolve eligibility questions affecting millions of initial applications and hundreds of thousands of consumers who were actually approved for benefits.

Brian Symmes

Cell: 803-673-9437

Office: 803-734-0304