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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Friday, April 29, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Washington Post: Mattis is a no, so who else is there?

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/right-turn/wp/2016/04/29/mattis-is-a-no-so-who-else-is-there/>

Jennifer Rubin

Let's address Romney first. The drawbacks are obvious. He's considered part of the GOP establishment. He lacks blue-collar appeal and was a less-than-comfortable candidate, to put it mildly. It's hard to think of states he could pull away from Hillary Clinton. His stance on immigration was a huge turnoff among Hispanics and deepened the GOP's problem with minorities. And finally, it's a somewhat pathetic statement on the state of the conservative movement that it would have to rely on a loser in the last election.

Note: On the other hand, Romney has run before, has a donor network, has loyal staffers and has 100 percent GOP name ID. He has been strong, consistent and outspoken against Trump and Trumpism. He is looked upon with far more respect now, having been right on so many foreign policy issues. He knows the agenda from last time is unworkable, but he could easily pick up the Jeb Bush campaign policy book or House Speaker Paul D. Ryan's agenda to focus on opportunity, reform and inclusion. And putting someone young and dynamic on the team — South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley for example — could spice things up a bit.

CNBC: Ted Cruz can save the GOP by losing to Hillary Clinton

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/04/26/ted-cruz-can-save-the-gop-by-losing-to-hillary-clinton-commentary.html>

Stephen Myrow

The Republican presidential nominee will be either Donald Trump or Ted Cruz and regardless of who it is, he will lose to Hillary Clinton in November — badly. But if Trump is the nominee, his loss will only further empower Cruz and other obstinate members like him of the Grand Old Party — who wear their unwillingness to compromise as a badge of honor — to argue that they are the only answer to both the party's and America's problems.

Note: Rather than simply pining for the glory of the bygone Reagan era though, the next generation of Republican leaders needs to forge its own modern vision of conservatism. They should start by following the example set by South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, who in her response to President Obama's State of the Union Address this past January, eloquently asserted, "During anxious times, it can be tempting to follow the siren call of the angriest voices. We must resist that temptation." Indeed, whatever policy positions the 2020 Republican nominee adopts, they need to be premised on the principles of civility and inclusivity if he or she is going to truly "Make America (and the GOP) Great Again."

Communities Digital News: Cruz chose Fiorina over far better options

<http://www.commdiginews.com/politics-2/cruz-chose-fiorina-over-far-better-options-62563/>

Eric Golub

After Donald Trump seized the momentum in the Republican presidential race, Texas Senator Ted Cruz took a drastic step to reclaim the news cycle. With the critical Indiana primary only days away, Cruz went big and bold. Rather than wait until the July GOP Convention in Cleveland, Cruz immediately announced his choice for Vice President. He went with former Hewlett Packard CEO Carly Fiorina. Cruz is the right

man for the presidency. Fiorina is the wrong choice for the number two spot on the ticket.
Note: Meg Whitman was a far more successful CEO. South Carolina's Nikki Haley is a successful Governor. So is New Mexico's Susanna Martinez. Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin is magnificent.

Powerline: Cruz Picks Fiorina

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2016/04/cruz-picks-fiorina.php>

Paul Mirengoff

Ted Cruz has named Carly Fiorina as his running mate, should he buck the odds and receive the Republican presidential nomination. In my opinion, Fiorina was not the optimal choice either for purposes of halting Donald Trump or winning the general election. Marco Rubio and John Kasich strike me as the best bets for the first purpose. For the second, Rubio and Kasich would be better than Fiorina, as would South Carolina governor Nikki Haley, it seems to me.

Chron: Why Carly Fiorina seems like a terrible vice president pick for Ted Cruz

<http://www.chron.com/opinion/article/president-Carly-Fiorina-Ted-Cruz-bad-terrible-vice-7379324.php>

Matt Levin

Ted Cruz just named Carly Fiorina as his pick for vice president if he is the party's White House nominee. This leads to a perplexing question: Why would he do that?

The pick seems awfully presumptuous since Cruz remains unable to even win the nomination before the convention. But even worse, The former Hewlett Packard CEO – who dropped out of the Republican race in February – hardly seems like the type of candidate to move the needle in Cruz's favor.

Note: But if Cruz were going to pick a running mate based largely on gender, why not hold out for a more successful candidate like current GOP governors Nikki Haley or Susana Martinez?

LGBT Laws:

The Herald: Bill to repeal anti-transgender NC law sent to committee that never meets

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article74619842.html>

Colin Campbell

State Senate Democrats' proposal to repeal House Bill 2 appears to be dead just a day after it was filed. On Wednesday, Sens. Jeff Jackson of Charlotte, Terry Van Duyn of Asheville and Mike Woodard of Durham filed Senate Bill 784, which would repeal the controversial LGBT law in its entirety. The bill is identical to one filed Monday by House Democrats. Senate leaders assigned the bill to committees on Thursday. Because of a budget item included, its first stop is the Senate Appropriations Committee. But if it gets approval from that panel, its second assigned stop is the Senate Ways and Means Committee – which is something of an inside joke in the Senate.

Charlotte Observer: Becoming Liam: The journey of a transgender man and HB2

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/living/health-family/article74652892.html>

Karen Garloch

Liam Johns wears a scraggly beard and a mustache, a jeans vest and boots, and big black tattoos on his arms. He's not burly or tall, but he clearly looks like a man. Still, the new state law, HB2, requires that he use the women's restroom in public buildings because his birth certificate says he was born female 27 years ago at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte. Liam still has female reproductive organs, but he's been taking male hormones since 2009. And in early March he underwent surgery to remove his breasts and reshape his chest. He uses the men's room, because it seems most appropriate, even though it could mean breaking the month-old law that has brought so much attention to North Carolina.

SC Agency News:

WIS: Agencies seeking man who tried to throw contraband over Broad River Correctional fence

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31849374/agencies-seeking-man-who-tried-to-throw-contraband-over-broad-river-correctional-fence>

Jeremy Turnage

Law enforcement agencies are responding after someone attempted to throw contraband over the fence surrounding Broad River Correctional Institution. Details remain limited, but a spokesperson for the state Department of Corrections says law enforcement officials in the area continue to seek the person responsible. No word on if anyone has been apprehended or what was trying to be thrown over the fence.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Friend of alleged Charleston church shooter pleads guilty

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:aacae69acfd4aa2a9910efa4014b17d>

Meg Kinnard and Bruce Smith

A friend of the white man accused of fatally shooting nine black parishioners in Charleston last year pleaded guilty Friday to lying to federal authorities during their investigation. He also revealed that the suspect told him he planned to kill himself after the slayings, which he had planned for months. The plea by Joey Meek, 21, marked the first conviction in a mass killing that stunned the country, reignited discussions about race relations and led to the removal of a Confederate battle flag from the South Carolina Statehouse. Dylann Roof, who is charged with the slayings, had previously posed for photos with a rebel flag.

Associated Press: The Latest: Son of Victim: I don't understand why he did it

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Wj36T5Ls

SC State Wire

The son of one of the victims of the 2015 Charleston church shootings says he just doesn't understand why the gunman did it. Gary Washington is the son of Ethel Lance who was one of nine parishioners killed at Emanuel AME Church last June. Washington appeared before a federal judge Friday during a sentencing hearing for Joey Meek. Meek who is a friend of the suspect, Dylann Roof, admitted he was told about Roof's plans for the shooting a week earlier and never notified authorities.

The State: Roof friend Joey Meek pleading guilty Friday to lying to FBI

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article74651222.html>

John Monk

Joey Meek, friend of accused killer Dylann Roof, admitted Friday in federal court that he knew details about Roof's plan to kill black people at a Charleston Church a full week before last June's execution-style killing of nine parishioners. Meek, 21, of Red Bank made the admission to U.S. Judge Richard Gergel during his guilty plea hearing Friday afternoon in Charleston. Under questioning by Gergel, Meek said Roof planned the shooting for six months. Meek also admitted that he knew many details of the plan a week before the shooting.

Post and Courier: Joey Meek pleads guilty; friend of Dylann Roof admits he was told of plan to attack Emanuel AME

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160429/PC16/160429323>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

A friend of the man accused of gunning down nine black parishioners at a Charleston church plead guilty Friday to knowing about the deadly plot but not alerting police and then lying to authorities investigating the massacre. Joey Meek, who admitted guilt under a plea agreement, faces up to eight years in prison. However, he could receive a much shorter sentence if he cooperates fully with state and federal prosecutions of Dylann Roof.

Associated Press: SC health officials report 1st case of travel-related Zika

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=jjXUXe5b

SC State Wire

Public health officials say the first South Carolinian to test positive for Zika virus contracted it while traveling abroad and wasn't contagious upon returning home. The Department of Health and Environmental Control announced the case Friday. Dr. Teresa Foo told The Associated Press the person went to the doctor as a precaution, though symptoms experienced while traveling had subsided. Foo gave no details on the person or the trip, citing patient confidentiality.

Post and Courier: Zika confirmed in South Carolina

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160429/PC1211/160429313>

Derrek Asberry

South Carolina has its first confirmed case of the Zika virus. The state Department of Health and Environmental Control confirmed Friday that a resident contracted the virus after traveling to a country with active transmission of Zika.

Associated Press: South Carolina officials search records for foam's use

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8m6nm4m

SC State Wire

South Carolina is one of a dozen states beginning to investigate whether a toxic firefighting foam that could be linked to groundwater contamination was ever used in the state. The state is acting as the military is checking 664 bases nationwide for potential contamination that could have been triggered by use of the foam. The foam contains chemicals - known as perfluorinated compounds, or PFCs - which have been linked to prostate, kidney and testicular cancer, along with other illnesses. DHEC spokesman Robert Yanity said that given the new concern over the potential toxic possibility of compounds in the foam the state will search records for fires where the foam may have been used and evaluate whether environmental sampling may be warranted at those sites.

Associated Press: Biggest gets bigger: Army's biggest training post expanding

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Hr4V4pXa

SC State Wire

The Army's biggest basic training post is getting bigger by adding another battalion that will be training an additional 2,000 recruits by 2018. Commanders at the South Carolina post tell The State newspaper (<http://bit.ly/1YWbHnS>) Fort Jackson is adding the battalion in October of 2017. That will mean an additional 500 recruits trained during each 10-week basic training cycle. Fort director of operations Lt. Col. James Allen says about 44,000 recruits are now trained at the post in Columbia and that number will increase to 46,000 by 2018.

The State: South Carolina ranks in top 10 states with highest unemployment rates

<http://www.thestate.com/news/databases/article74625577.html>

Nick Selbe

At the peak of the Great Recession in October 2009, the national unemployment rate sat at 10 percent — the highest the U.S. had seen since June 1983. The past seven years have seen a much-needed steady decline to today's rate of 5 percent, a welcomed sight for the country's workforce. The dropping unemployment rate has been felt nationwide, but at the state level, the results have been more mixed. While each state has seen its unemployment rate improve since October 2009, not all have enjoyed as steep an improvement as others. SOUTH CAROLINA #10 Unemployment rate: 5.70 percent...Total employed: 2.17 million...Total unemployed: 131,345.

Greenville News: Here's why SC ranks No. 5 in DUI danger

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/04/29/why-sc-ranks-no-5-dui-danger/83697232/>

Elizabeth Sanders

Yesterday, USAToday published an article saying Northern and Midwestern states are the most dangerous for drunken driving, but we noticed something else. South Carolina was the only Southern

state to make the top 10 in the rankings (put together by carinsurancecomparison.com). A closer look at the statistics shows the Palmetto State is doing some things right, when it comes to punishing DUI drivers. But there's tragedy in the fatality ranking. South Carolina's worst ranking was the fatality rank category where it landed at No. 3 worst. Statistics show 50 percent of fatal accidents in SC involve alcohol in some way.

The State: Nonprofits working on flood recovery get another \$420,000 in grants

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article74662032.html>

Avery G. Wilks

Nonprofits working on flood recovery in South Carolina will receive \$420,000 in the third round of grants from the One SC Flood Relief Fund. To date, the fund has awarded \$1.68 million to nonprofits working in South Carolina. The 10 nonprofits who received grants this round were...

Local News:

Associated Press: Report: SC firefighter killed after trying to jump on truck

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kzI3E3eq

SC State Wire

A report from state troopers says a South Carolina firefighter who died last month had tried to jump onto a fire truck. The South Carolina Highway Patrol's incident report said 42-year-old Christopher Ray of Green Sea slipped as he tried to leap onto the truck as it backed up at about 5 mph at a fire March 20. The report says after slipping, Ray became tangled in the fire hose and the truck backed over him. He had been with the Conway Fire Department for six years and died at the scene.

Greenville News: Fire chief charged with embezzling \$23K

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/04/29/fire-chief-charged-embezzling-23k/83708616/>

Anna Lee

A Greenville County fire chief was arrested Friday after more than \$23,000 in public funds was used to buy appliances and RV parts, authorities said. Gregory Keith Merritt, 43, the fire chief for Clear Spring Fire and Rescue, was charged with embezzlement of public funds value \$10,000 or more and two counts of misconduct in office, according to warrants.

Herald-Journal: Rolling Thunder leads to 36 arrests, seizure of more than \$41K

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160429/articles/160429606>

The statistics from Operation Rolling Thunder show that the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office arrested 36 people and seized more than \$41,000 during the week-long traffic enforcement blitz. Law enforcement officials from across the state come together in Spartanburg County each year for Rolling Thunder, with a heavy focus placed on the areas of Interstates 85 and 26. This year, deputies seized 122.26 pounds of marijuana, .28 pounds of meth and issued hundreds of traffic tickets. A total of 236 speeding violations were issued, along with 213 improper lane change violations and 278 following too closely citations, data from the Sheriff's Office showed.

Post and Courier: Judge's ruling expands fired Charleston airport worker's lawsuit

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160429/PC05/160429315>

Warren L. Wise

A fired Charleston airport spokeswoman's lawsuit against her former employer will be expanded to include more defendants and more claims of wrongdoing. Judge J.C. Nicholson recently ruled the complaint against Charleston County Airport District by former longtime spokeswoman Becky Beaman can be amended to include civil conspiracy and grossly negligent supervision. The ruling also officially adds two current airport employees — Tammy Alexander and Lori Stover — and the airport's former

deputy director Al Britnell to the suit.

Post and Courier: Army Corps releases North Charleston rail study

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160429/PC16/160429321>

Robert Behre

A new federal report has found significant impacts would result from running a new rail line north of the former Charleston Naval Base, and now the public will get a chance to speak out. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released its draft environmental impact statement Friday on the project — a report that says the corps has determined that the proposed Navy Base ICTF has the “potential to significantly affect the quality of the human and natural environment.”

Associated Press: Go back to Africa: Mother says teacher made remark to son

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=pezJ2bkX

SC State Wire

The Beaufort County School District is investigating after a black woman complained that a white teacher told her son he should go back to Africa. Nicole Whitmore tells The Island Packet of Hilton Head (<http://bit.ly/1qZJ91Z>) her 14-year-old son was sitting with other students during the Pledge of Allegiance on Tuesday when the teacher asked them to stand. Whitmore says her son told a friend it didn't matter whether they stood because "Donald Trump is going to send us back to Africa." Whitmore says the teacher then told her son he should go back. District spokesman Jim Foster says officials are investigating. Foster didn't release the Battery Creek High School teacher's name.

National News:

McClatchy DC: 'West Wing' press secretary cameos in White House briefing

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/article74686437.html>

Elizabeth Koh

White House reporters got an unexpected showing of “The West Wing” Friday afternoon as actress Allison Janney reprised her TV role as White House press secretary C. J. Cregg — if only for a few minutes. The Emmy-Award-winning actress of the political drama stepped out and delivered a mock press briefing in character, before being interrupted by real press secretary Josh Earnest. “Good afternoon,” said Janney as she took her place at the podium. “I was going to tell you all to be seated but I see you are already seated, so we can begin. Josh [Earnest, the real White House press secretary] is out today.” “He has, I believe, I think, it’s a root canal,” Janney as Cregg joked, a reference to the show. “But let’s be honest. I’m better at this than he is anyway.”

Associated Press: Trump making case to GOP insiders after chaotic rally scene

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:6999185353f94bcc858dca58abb1d264>

Michael R. Blood

Donald Trump, the outsider, is making his case to California's Republican establishment after he kicked off his crucial campaign for the state's presidential primary with a rally marred by confrontations between protesters and his supporters on the streets. The front-runner and his two rivals pitch their campaigns from the stage and in behind-the-scenes cajoling at the GOP convention outside San Francisco, with Trump and Ohio Gov. John Kasich appearing Friday and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and his new running mate, Carly Fiorina, up Saturday.

Associated Press: Cruz gets Indiana governor's endorsement

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:5b8691d2249f4f12b0db38afc3184040>

Scott Bauer and Steve Peoples

In a setback for Donald Trump, Indiana's governor endorsed the front-runner's chief rival, Ted Cruz, on Friday, just days before the state's critical Republican primary contest. Indiana Gov. Mike Pence made his support for the Texas senator official during an afternoon radio interview, casting Cruz as "a principled conservative." "The man has shown the courage of his convictions," Pence said, citing Cruz's fight against

government spending and the federal health care law, and his "strong and unwavering stand for the sanctity of life."

Associated Press: Governor facing impeachment push: I've done nothing illegal

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:97d0b5ba953248f68b031a4a95cf3be6>

Melissa Brown

Embattled Gov. Robert Bentley on Friday maintained he has done nothing wrong, just a day after Alabama lawmakers revived an impeachment effort against him. At a press conference in his office, Bentley initially tried to side step impeachment questions but relented when pressed, imploring Alabamians to trust him. "I've done nothing — absolutely nothing — that is illegal or unethical," Bentley said. Bentley faces accusations of corruption and willful neglect of duty a month after he acknowledged making inappropriate remarks to a female political adviser, but the governor says Alabamians shouldn't worry about the possibility of impeachment.

Associated Press: Punishments but no criminal charges in US attack on hospital

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:99f076ae2568408e90020b29bb5b514e>

Robert Burns

A U.S. aerial gunship attack on a hospital in Afghanistan that killed 42 people occurred because of human errors, process mistakes and equipment failures, and none of the aircrew or U.S. ground troops knew the target was a hospital, a top U.S. general said Friday. "This was an extreme situation" complicated by combat fatigue among U.S. special operations forces, Gen. Joseph Votel told a Pentagon news conference. Votel headed U.S. Special Operations Command at the time of the tragic attack last fall. In March he took over U.S. Central Command, which oversees military operations in Afghanistan and the Middle East. Sixteen military members have been disciplined for their roles in the tragedy, Votel said. None face criminal charges.

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