

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
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Subject: Afternoon Clips - Wednesday, March 2, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Haley orders study of local governments' impact on business

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=18M1n3zk

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley says a statewide evaluation of local taxes and regulations will help counties attract and grow businesses. The Republican issued an executive order Wednesday creating the Local Government Competitiveness Council.

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley forms panel to make job-seeking counties more competitive

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160302/PC05/160309854>

Maya T. Prabhu

A newly formed council will rank the business-friendliness of local governments across South Carolina and establish guidelines to help counties attract jobs. Gov. Nikki Haley on Wednesday announced the Local Government Competitiveness Council, which will evaluate counties and rank them based on several of factors including public infrastructure, taxes and business regulation and workforce readiness, said Department of Revenue director Rick Reames, who is heading the task force.

Note: "Right now I have some of my counties saying, 'Why didn't that company come to us? What else could we have done?'" Haley said during a news conference. "My job is to bring companies to South Carolina. The counties' job is to win them."

WOLO: State to evaluate local governments

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/2016/03/02/state-to-evaluate-local-governments/>

Ben Hoover

Gov. Nikki Haley says a statewide evaluation of local taxes and regulations will help communities attract businesses. Haley issued an executive order Wednesday creating a Local Government Competitiveness Council. The council will evaluate local governments' performance on economic and quality of life issues. The council will be lead by state Department of Revenue director Rick Reames and will report its findings and recommendations to Gov. Haley.

Associated Press: Haley blames Senate president Leatherman for roads delay

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=gZH2yksP

Jeffrey Collins

Gov. Nikki Haley said the president of the South Carolina Senate is holding a bill to get more money to roads "hostage" because he wants to keep as much control as possible on how highway money is spent. But fellow Republicans in the Senate said that accusation was too simplistic because there are a number of groups, from the most liberal Democrats to the most conservative Republicans, combining to stop action on the bill.

Note: "He is holding hostage our roads in the name of power, and that's one of the worst things you can ever do," Haley said. "The senators need to get strong and listen to their constituents."

The State: Gov. Haley: SC Senate leader to blame for gridlock on roads fix

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article63617502.html>

Jamie Self

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley blamed the state's Senate leader for holding up progress on fixing the state's crumbling roads and bridges. Meanwhile, on Wednesday, a group of state senators opposed to raising the gas tax continued to block a roads bill.

Note: Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman is "holding the roads advancement hostage because he doesn't want reform to the DOT (S.C. Department of Transportation)," Haley told reporters at

the State House.

The State: Governor: Myers, Washington should resign after DUI arrests

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article63597397.html>

Andy Shain

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley said Wednesday that Richland County Councilman Kelvin Washington and 11th Circuit Solicitor Donnie Myers of Lexington, both recently arrested for drunken driving, should resign. "When you look at any elected officials that believe they are above the law, there's a problem," Haley told reporters. "They both should resign. Our office is looking at options."

WIS: Gov. Haley: Donnie Myers and Kelvin Washington should resign

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31368517/gov-nikki-haley-donnie-myers-and-kelvin-washington-should-resign?clienttype=generic>

Jeremy Turnage

Gov. Nikki Haley says two well-known public servants arrested on DUI charges in the past month should both resign, immediately. Richland County Councilman Kelvin Washington and 11th Circuit Solicitor Donnie Myers have both been charged with DUI in two separate crashes in February.

WACH: Haley says Myers and Washington should resign after DUI arrests

<http://wach.com/news/local/haley-says-myers-and-washington-should-resign-after-dui-arrests>

Matthew Stevens

At a news conference Wednesday, Governor Nikki Haley said solicitor Donnie Myers and Richland County councilman should both resign after being charged with DUI. "When you look at any elective officials, when they believe they're above the law, there is a problem," said Haley.

WLTX: Haley Says Washington, Myers Should Resign

<http://www.wltx.com/news/local/haley-says-washington-myers-should-resign-1/64742078>

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley says she thinks two Midlands politicians recently charged with DUI should step down, even if the law allows them to stay in office. Haley was asked about the current status of Richland County Councilman Kelvin Washington and Eleventh Circuit Solicitor Donnie Myers.

The State: Haley: Trump not going to win nomination

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article63656452.html>

Andy Shain

Asked Wednesday if she would support GOP presidential front-runner Donald Trump as the party's nominee, S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley said doesn't see a need to back the New York billionaire at the moment.

Note: "I don't think Donald Trump is going to be the nominee," Haley told reporters at the S.C. State House. "Right now, I'm an optimist. I believe in the people of this country. I believe in the fact we're going to have a good nominee that we all can be proud of."

WIS: Haley, Trump feud continues as governor hits back on billionaire's tax returns

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31369795/haley-trump-feud-continues-as-governor-hits-back-on-billionaires-tax-returns>

Jeremy Turnage

Gov. Nikki Haley is still mixing it up with Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump. During a 2 p.m. news conference, she sidestepped questions about whether she'd support Trump if he becomes the party's nominee. She also denied she's being inconsistent considering what she has said about Trump's tax forms and another tax form questions four years ago during Mitt Romney's run at the presidency.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Associated Press: American Legion national commander praises help for vets

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=DWYc20C6

The national commander of the American Legion is asking South Carolina lawmakers to cut taxes for the state's retired military veterans. Dale Barnett spoke Wednesday to a joint session of the House and Senate.

Associated Press: The Latest: 1st attempt to end Senate roads filibuster fails

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=XuiVgWV7

The Senate's first attempt in two weeks to stop a filibuster over road funding has failed by a wide margin. Only six senators voted Wednesday to force the Senate to begin voting on amendments to the road funding bill. Thirty-five senators - both Democrats and Republicans - voted against cloture and to allow a filibuster by conservative senators against a gas tax increase to continue. Business leaders have been pressuring the Senate to act on road funding.

WIS: Roads Filibuster Day 5: Is the deadlock finally reaching a boiling point?

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31369179/roads-filibuster-day-5-is-the-deadlock-finally-reaching-a-boiling-point>

Will Whitson

After a week and a half of filibuster, the deadlock of road funding in the South Carolina Senate may be reaching a boiling point. Cracks are beginning to show in the six-man filibuster team led by Sen. Tom Davis and Sen. Lee Bright. Other lawmakers are using those cracks to try and break the filibuster, and move to debate on the roads bill.

The State: FIRST ON BUZZ: S.C. House speaker appoints developer to Infrastructure Bank

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article63551377.html>

Cassie Cope

S.C. House Speaker Jay Lucas has appointed Bo Aughtry to the S.C. Transportation Infrastructure Bank board. Aughtry of Greenville is a former board chairman of the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. A graduate of The Citadel with a degree in business, Aughtry is also a real estate developer, best known in the Midlands for building the Columbia Hilton.

Associated Press: Cockfighting could be a felony in home of fighting Gamecocks

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/2d55a6c681634bf88bd90fbe92b2818f/cockfighting-could-be-felony-home-fighting-gamecocks>

Seanna Adcox

In a state where the flagship university's mascot is a fighting gamecock, some legislators are trying to toughen the penalties for cockfighting, which is illegal in all 50 states. But according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, South Carolina is among nine states where the crime is only a misdemeanor. Legislation considered Wednesday would make second and subsequent convictions a felony, bringing up to a \$3,000 fine and five years in prison. Senators postponed voting.

S.C. Political News:

Post and Courier: Jenny Horne will support Trump; hits Sanford for dismissing the GOP front-runner

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160302/PC1603/160309891/1006/>

Schuyler Kropf

A day after Republican U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford said he wouldn't support Donald Trump if he wins the GOP nomination, Sanford's challenger in the June primary said she would. State Rep. Jenny Horne said Sanford's refusal to accept the will of the party's electorate "is a slap in the face to all the Republican voters in South Carolina who gave him an overwhelming victory in our recent primary."

McClatchy DC: Lindsey Graham: Swallow hard, back Cruz, stop Trump

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article63603102.html>

Vera Bergengruen

Barely a month after comparing the choice between nominating Donald Trump and Ted Cruz to "being shot or poisoned," Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham said it may be time to reach for the arsenic to save his party. "Ted Cruz is not my favorite by any means, but we may be in a position where we have to rally around Ted Cruz as the only way to stop Donald Trump," the South Carolina senator told CBS in an interview as Trump swept seven states in the Super Tuesday primaries, adding that even so "I'm not so sure that would work."

Washington Post: In Super Tuesday aftermath, Sanford among those refuting Trump

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/state/south-carolina/article63557992.html>

David Weigel

As Donald Trump rampaged through the Super Tuesday states, adding Massachusetts and Georgia and Virginia to his map, the Republican Party's mainstream decided to trade panic for hope. "Trump is not sweeping the Super Tuesday states as expected," said Katie Packer, the Republican strategist whose Our

Principles PAC was loading new attack spots for the mid-March primaries.

Associated Press: Sanford-Horne at odds over Trump support

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=M4AXSB5F

U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford, who is running for re-election in South Carolina's 1st Congressional District, says he won't support Donald Trump if the businessman wins the GOP presidential nomination. But Sanford's primary opponent, state Rep. Jenny Horne of Summerville, said in a release Wednesday that she will.

Note: "Not that political views mean anything in this year, but because I believe in constitutionally limited government, his candidacy is one I certainly can't support," Sanford wrote.

Post and Courier: Mick Mulvaney draws Democrat challenge from former VP aide

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160302/PC1603/160309871/1006/former-biden-aide-challenges-mulvaney-for-congress>

Emma Dumain

Upstate Republican U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney unseated a Democratic incumbent in 2010, and four years later a different Democrat is going to try to win it back. On Monday, Fran Person announced he would challenge Mulvaney, the three-term congressman representing Rock Hill.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Greenville News: SC had key role in presidential races

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2016/03/02/sc-had-key-role-presidential-races/81144602/>

South Carolina's moment in the sun is over. It has been a remarkable several weeks that further solidified this state's ranking as one of the most important political states in the nation when it comes to presidential politics.

Though at times the tenor of the campaign took on the aura of a circus, South Carolinians should not take lightly the honor bestowed on them by hosting First in the South primaries for both the Democratic and Republican parties.

Island Packet: David's World: Top 10 things Nikki Haley could have said to Donald Trump

<http://www.islandpacket.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/david-lauderdale/article63545632.html>

David Lauderdale

SC Gov. Nikki Haley took the high road when Donald Trump attacked her on Twitter.

It was probably a sound strategic move, knowing he would not know his way around there. "Bless your heart," Haley tweeted back when the GOP presidential leader sent this out: "The people of South Carolina are embarrassed by Nikki Haley!"

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Post and Courier: Tim Scott rallies with anti-abortion supporters outside the Supreme Court

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160302/PC1603/160309888/1006/tim-scott-joins-anti-abortion-rally-outside-supreme-court>

Emma Dumain

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott shouted to be heard by anti-abortion activists Wednesday morning on the steps of the Supreme Court, his voice straining to rise above the competing rally in support of the practice. "If you support life, let me hear you scream!" he yelled.

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: Proper Polymers adding 87 jobs, \$15.4 million investment in Greenville

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/2016/03/02/proper-polymers-adding-87-jobs-154-million-investment-greenville/81203252/>

Amanda Coyne

Proper Polymers will add 87 jobs in Greenville with a \$15.4 million investment in a new manufacturing facility in the Upstate.

Associated Press: Auto parts company bringing 90 jobs to Greenville County
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=9TQnH2HL

A company that makes molded plastic parts for motor vehicles is locating in Greenville County, creating almost 90 new jobs. Proper Polymers announced Wednesday it plans to invest more than \$15 million in a new plant in Greenville County's Matrix Park. The plant is expected to begin operating in October with initial hiring during the second quarter of this year.

Business Facilities: Deal of the Year: Silver Award Goes To South Carolina Department of Commerce
<http://businessfacilities.com/2016/03/south-carolina-department-of-commerce-economic-deal-of-the-year-silver-award/>

Volvo Car Corporation's selection of Berkeley County, SC for its first North American manufacturing facility has earned the South Carolina Department of Commerce the Silver Award in BF's 2015 Economic Development Deal of the Year competition.

Note: "Volvo's presence and commitment to Berkeley County and the state will be felt for decades to come. We are proud to have this global leader in car manufacturing join and strengthen South Carolina's automotive industry," Gov. Nikki Haley said, in a press release announcing the deal.

Post and Courier: More S.C. residents walking, biking to work, report find
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160302/PC16/160309862/more-sc-residents-walking-biking-to-work-report-find>

Robert Behre

A growing number of South Carolina residents are getting around by bike or on foot, a report found — and that's especially the case in Charleston. Still, the state ranks near the bottom for fatalities and little investment in bike and sidewalk projects.

Post and Courier: Grand jury indicts postal worker accused of tampering with packages
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160302/PC16/160309886/1006/grand-jury-indicts-postal-worker-accused-of-tampering-with-packages>

Christina Elmore

A federal grand jury has indicted a postal worker accused of tampering with packages left in his care. Michael D. Hyde II, 28, is charged with one count of delay or destruction of mail, court documents filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court state.

Associated Press: Deputy fired for defacing poster map with a racial slur
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6NA6vL8l

A South Carolina sheriff says he fired and arrested a deputy for defacing a poster in a crime victim's garage by turning it into a racial slur. News outlets report that Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said Tuesday he fired 25-year-old Kaleb Broome and arrested him on a charge of misconduct in office.

Local News:

Greenville News: Greenville one of the 'Best Places to Live'
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/life/2016/03/02/greenville-one-best-places-live/81218814/>
Elizabeth Sanders

Greenville is among the best places to live in the United States, the 35th best place to live according to U.S. News & World Report. The newly released list boasts of Greenville's big-city amenities and lack of big-city unpleasanties.

Associated Press: Contractors get look at \$510M Charleston Harbor deepening
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=H34FhLK2

More than a dozen dredging companies are considering competing for the job of deepening the Charleston Harbor shipping channel. The Post and Courier reports (<http://bit.ly/1QrTVrg>) that representatives of 13 companies met with Corps of Engineers officials on Tuesday in a closed-door meeting to discuss aspects of the \$510 million project.

The State: Richland Council has concerns but gives tentative OK for \$1.2 million elections office request

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article63542962.html>

Sarah Ellis

Richland County Council members voiced a host of questions and concerns before tentatively approving a request for an additional \$1.2 million by the county Voter Registration and Elections office Tuesday night.

Associated Press: Lowcountry chamber appealing ruling in FOI case

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

The Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce will appeal a ruling requiring it to release financial information under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, according to an attorney for the chamber. Attorney Bobby Stepp said he plans to file an appeal to the state Supreme Court this week, The Island Packet of Hilton Head reported (<http://bit.ly/21CwOkR>).

Associated Press: Anderson County considers outlawing owners shooting dogs

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

Some Anderson County Council members want to make it illegal for a person to shoot his or her dog after an owner shot and left his dog for dead. State law recognizes dogs as property and there is no law saying owners cannot euthanize their dogs.

Associated Press: Dozens of homeless remain at tent city in Charleston

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=nJq8uzvk

Dozens of homeless people remain in a tent city near an interstate ramp in Charleston although the city has said it wants the area cleared by March 31. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports (<http://bit.ly/1RGjy6R>) that about 70 tents still remain in the area where there were 100 earlier this year.

Aiken Standard: Murder trial begins today for former Aiken County parole officer

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160302/AIK0101/160309885/1007/murder-trial-begins-today-for-former-parole-officer>

Tripp Girardeau

Pre-trial motions ended Tuesday and the trial is set to begin today for the former Aiken County parole officer charged with the 2013 murder of her boyfriend. Robin Herndon, 42, of North Augusta, is charged with the murder of 31-year-old Christopher Rowley.

Post and Courier: With deadline looming, Charleston County still hasn't publicly discussed I-526 funding shortfall

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160302/PC16/160309856/with-deadline-looming-charleston-county-still-hasn-x2019-t-publicly-discussed-i-526-funding-shortfall>

Diane Knich

Charleston County Council and the S.C. Transportation Infrastructure Bank are in a big-dollar game of chicken over who ultimately might have to pull the plug on the completion of Interstate 526 across Johns and James islands. County Council hasn't publicly discussed the future of the highway extension in recent months, despite the bank board in December passing a resolution that requires the county to develop a solid plan to cover the project's \$305 to \$353 million funding shortfall by March 30. If the county can't do that, it will lose the \$420 million set aside for the project, the resolution stated.

The Item: Disaster grants announced

<http://www.theitem.com/stories/disaster-grants-announced,264091?>

Sumter City Manager Deron McCormick said local communities will be eligible for some of the \$157 million in grants U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Juli n Castro announced will be awarded to South Carolina for disaster recovery efforts following significant rainfall and flooding in October. The money will help to meet remaining unmet housing, economic development and infrastructure needs that resulted from thousands of homes and small businesses being damaged or destroyed, according to a HUD news release.

The State: City again to offer no-interest flood recovery loans to small businesses

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article63553102.html>

Avery Wilks

Columbia again is offering help to small businesses affected by the historic October storm. The city's Office of Business Opportunities has restarted its no-interest loan program, which last month approved the maximum \$10,000 for five flood-affected businesses. The money can be used for inventory, equipment,

cleanup and repair, payroll and more, according to a city news release.

Greenville News: Fountain Inn earns state honor

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/golden-strip/2016/03/02/fountain-inn-earns-state-honor/81212244/>

Scott Keeler

Fountain Inn is one of nine cities in South Carolina that have earned an annual Achievement Award this year from the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC).

Post and Courier: \$1 million lottery ticket sold in Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160302/PC16/160309894/1006/-1-million-lottery-ticket-sold-in-charleston>

Dave Munday

A \$1 million unclaimed lottery ticket was sold in Charleston, according to lottery officials. The winning Mega Millions ticket was sold at the Quick Stop Market at 167 President St., according to S.C. Education Lottery spokeswoman Holli Armstrong. The ticket matched all five white ball numbers that were drawn Tuesday night: 1, 29, 33, 34 and 55. If the buyer had paid an extra \$1 for the Megaplier, the ticket would have been worth \$5 million.

National News:

Associated Press: AP delegate count: Trump not yet on track to win nomination

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:1bd3c0ddda05474490e01dc748673230>

Stephen Ohlemacher and Steve Peoples

Despite Donald Trump's string of Super Tuesday victories, the billionaire businessman must do even better in upcoming primaries to claim the Republican presidential nomination before the party's national convention this summer, an AP delegate count shows. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz is emerging as the candidate who might stop him — with a little help from Florida Sen. Marco Rubio.

Associated Press: Ben Carson says 'no path forward' in his bid for White House

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:6b6e2002d3214b249ba0a900f50d6e1b>

Bill Barrow

Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson said he is effectively ending his bid for the White House Wednesday, concluding a roller-coaster campaign that briefly took him to the top of a chaotic GOP field but ended with a Super Tuesday whimper. "I do not see a political path forward," Carson said in a statement posted on his campaign website, though he added, "I remain deeply committed to my home nation, America" and promised to offer details of his future when he speaks Friday at a conservative conference in Washington.

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Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044