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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Tuesday, March 18, 2014

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S.C. Sues US Department of Energy:

Associated Press: SC sues US Energy Department over MOX plan

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=TJVtSv9Q

Meg Kinnard

South Carolina filed a lawsuit on Tuesday intended to keep the federal government from defunding a multi-billion dollar project to turn weapons-grade plutonium into commercial nuclear reactor fuel, saying its closure would hurt an international nonproliferation agreement and eliminate hundreds of jobs.

Note: "They made a promise," Gov. Nikki Haley said at a news conference at the Statehouse, of President Barack Obama's administration. "They cannot, for whatever reason this is, decide that they are going to go on cold standby."

Note: "They have messed with the wrong state," Haley said, of the administration's decision not to finish the MOX project. "We are going to protect the people of the Savannah River Site. ... Enough is enough."

Aiken Standard: State sues US Energy Department over MOX plan

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140318/AIK0101/140319402/1083/state-sues-us-energy-department-over-mox-plan>

Derrek Asberry

The State of South Carolina is filing suit against the Department of Energy over its decision to freeze the funding for construction of the MOX facility at the Savannah River Site. Gov. Nikki Haley said the decision to put MOX in a cold stand-by is President Barack Obama's mission to follow his own rules rather than honor the MOX contract.

Note: "It's a facility that DC started, and with plutonium sitting there...and now you're going to stop MOX?" Haley questioned during a press conference in the Statehouse. "They're hurting the people of South Carolina, and we're not going to sit back and take it."

Greenville News: State suing Feds over MOX

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140318/NEWS03/303180031/State-suing-Feds-over-MOX>

Tim Smith

The state is suing the federal government over its plans to place a project at the Savannah River Site to covert weapons-grade plutonium to reactor fuel on hold because of costs, officials announced today. State Attorney General Alan Wilson said it is unconstitutional for the federal government to halt the mixed-oxide project and will cost about 1,800 jobs.

Note: "They have messed with the wrong state," Gov. Nikki Haley said.

The State: SC sues to save MOX plant

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/18/3333353/sc-sues-to-save-mox-plant.html>

Sammy Fretwell

South Carolina is suing the federal government in an attempt to save a plutonium fuel factory that boosters say will help the state's economy, but is years behind schedule and billions of dollars over budget.

Note: "This is President Obama saying that he'll follow the rules he wants to follow and he's not following the rules he doesn't want to follow," Haley told reporters. "When you're hurting the people of South Carolina, we're not going to stand back and take it."

Gov. Nikki Haley News:

WYFF: BMW to make 'significant' announcement

<http://www.wyff4.com/news/bmw-to-make-significant-announcement/25036452>

BMW officials say they will make a "significant economic and product" announcement at the Upstate plant

next week. The announcement is set for Friday, March 28 at 1 p.m.

Note: “You know it’s going to be fun, but every announcement in South Carolina is fun. They are all different. What I love is we build things in South Carolina and whether its pharmaceuticals or cars or planes or tires carbon fiber, we are showing were are a work force that can handle making things ...It’s an exciting time in South Carolina,” Haley said.

Charleston Business Journal: Haley: Rural jobs bonuses working

<http://www.charlestonbusiness.com/news/50802-haley-rural-jobs-bonuses-working?rss=0>

Bill Poovey

On a day when Gov. Nikki Haley talked about her administration’s economic development successes and South Carolina’s unemployment rate again dropping below the national average, she said there is an “interesting problem.” She said the state is running out of sites for new and expanding businesses.

Note: “We have, in South Carolina, started to run out of inventory,” she said. “When companies want to come to South Carolina we have actually almost started running out of space. So every county is working with us on new industrial parks, new areas so we have our inventory going. We don’t want to run out. So we are going ahead and working on that.”

Greenville News: Orangeburg auto supplier investing \$10 million for new machinery

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140318/BUSINESS/303180021/Orangeburg-auto-supplier-investing-10-million-new-machinery>

Koyo Bearing of North America is investing at least \$10 million over a five-year period on new machinery and machinery upgrades at its Orangeburg facility, which produces bearings for major automotive manufacturers, the Governor’s Office said this morning.

Note: “We are excited to see growth in Orangeburg County and we celebrate with Koyo as they invest \$10 million in Orangeburg and help support the continued success of South Carolina’s automotive industry,” said Gov. Nikki Haley.

Post and Courier: Machinists union opens North Charleston office to organize Boeing plant

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140318/PC05/140319349/1177/machinists-union-opens-north-charleston-office-to-organize-boeing-plant>

Warren L. Wise

The union trying to organize the 7,200-employee Boeing plant in North Charleston has opened an office on Dorchester Road and plans to hold its first meeting Thursday. The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers is trying to rally workers in the 787 Dreamliner assembly plant to join the union in a right-to-work state where Gov. Nikki Haley constantly says unions are not welcome.

Charleston Business Journal: Machinists set up in North Charleston

<http://www.charlestonbusiness.com/news/50815-machinists-set-up-in-north-charleston?rss=0>

Liz Segrist

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers opened an office in North Charleston in an effort to organize the Boeing Co.’s local operations.

Note: “We’ve fought against the unionization of South Carolina, cherishing the direct relationship between our companies — who know how to take care of those that take care of them — and their employees,” Haley said in her 2013 State of the State Address.

Fort Mill Times: Tega Cay Water Service apologizes for erroneous alert; Haley weighs in

<http://www.fortmilltimes.com/2014/03/18/3357969/tega-cay-water-service-apologizes.html>

John Marks

A surprise message to Tega Cay residents about their drinking water on Friday shouldn’t alarm them, according to Tega Cay Water Service. On the heels of more than 50,000 gallons of raw sewage spilled already this month, S.C. Governor Nikki Haley sent a letter to Tega Cay Mayor George Sheppard, assuring him that DHEC will “ratchet up the pressure” on the utility company.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Most Spartanburg County school districts announce June 2 as snow make-up day

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140318/ARTICLES/140319740/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Most-Spartanburg-County-school-districts-announce-June-2-as-snow-make-up-day>

Zach Fox

Most Spartanburg County school districts have announced the final required make-up school day from

February's snowstorm. Students in districts 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 will now have to attend school on June 2.

Note: On March 12, Gov. Nikki Haley signed a bill into law, allowing school districts to forgive any missed days beyond the three required make-up days inserted into school district calendars.

Legislative Session News:

Associated Press: Bill increases penalties for speeding in work zone

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Vph00zKg

Seanna Adcox

A bill to encourage drivers to slow down in highway construction zones across South Carolina would increase penalties and state troopers' presence. Supporters say the measure is essential to the safety of drivers and workers in the dangerous areas.

Associated Press: SC Statehouse Medicaid protest logs 3rd week

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Ep4a3IHc

Susanne M. Schafer

Sixteen protesters were ticketed for obstructing traffic Tuesday as they knelt, prayed and entreated South Carolina lawmakers to accept federal money and expand Medicaid under the nation's new health care law.

S.C. Political News:

Post and Courier: Lindsey Graham opens Charleston office, defends government's role

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140318/PC1610/140319382/1031/lindsey-graham-opens-charleston-office-defends-governments-role>

Robert Behre

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham greeted several dozen supporters at his new Charleston re-election headquarters Tuesday morning and asked them to rally Republicans to vote this June not just to renominate him but also to send a message to the country that Ronald Reagan conservatism is alive and well in South Carolina.

The State: Det Bowers announces campaign for US Senate

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/18/3333256/election-2014-det-bowers-announces.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

Columbia pastor and former attorney Det Bowers officially announced his candidacy for U.S. Senate Tuesday in Columbia to a crowd of about 30 people including friends and family. Bowers quietly has been raising money for his campaign to unseat U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-Seneca, leaving only light footprints as he's traveled the state meeting with GOP leaders and potential supporters.

The State: Who's filed for the SC primary

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/17/3331775/election-2014-whos-filed-for-the.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain, Jamie Self

Who's filed for federal, statewide and State House seats for the June 10 primary, according to the S.C. Election Commission website. (List Provided)

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Charleston School of Law president and dean supports sale to InfiLaw System

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140318/PC16/140319380/1006/>

Diane Knich

Andy Abrams, president and dean of the Charleston School of Law, said he thinks a sale to the for-profit InfiLaw System is the best viable option for the school's future. In a campuswide email Monday, Abrams said he has "come to realize that there is a significant difference between preferences and viable options" for the school's future. After exploring the issue for six months, he thinks InfiLaw presents the best viable option.

Local News:

Post and Courier: U.S. Department of Education shoots down Dorchester District 2's request to use alternative tests

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140318/PC16/140319375/1006/>

Diane Knich

The U.S. Department of Education shot down Dorchester District 2's plan to use standardized tests designed by ACT instead of the PASS and the high school exit exam. In a March 10 rejection letter, Deborah Delisle, the department's assistant secretary for elementary and secondary education, explained that federal law requires that all students within a state be held to the same standards and tested on the same tests.

National News:

Washington Post: GOP governors' jobs advantage

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/right-turn/wp/2014/03/18/gop-governors-jobs-advantage/>

Jennifer Rubin

Republican governors up for reelection in 2014 and/or considering a presidential run in 2016 will no doubt make good use of recently released unemployment numbers. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports on January's numbers: "The largest over-the-month increases in employment occurred in Texas (+33,900), Ohio (+16,700), and Arizona (+8,900)."

Associated Press: Concerns about cancer centers under health law

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=OTuAvH88

Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar

Some of America's best cancer hospitals are off-limits to many of the people now signing up for coverage under the nation's new health care program. Doctors and administrators say they're concerned. So are some state insurance regulators. An Associated Press survey found examples coast to coast. Seattle Cancer Care Alliance is excluded by five out of eight insurers in Washington's insurance exchange.

Brian Symmes

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