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Subject: Afternoon Clips - Wednesday, March 9, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Haley, military supporters seek end to military retiree tax

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=lu0mj2rt

Susanne M. Schafer

Military boosters are trying to get South Carolina lawmakers to sharply reduce - and ultimately end - the state's income tax on military retirement benefits. For the first time, Gov. Nikki Haley inserted a one-year, \$9.8 million tax cut in her 2016-2017 budget proposal. It's the first cut in a proposed three-year-phase-in that would ultimately cost the state \$33 million annually.

Note: The governor argues that many who have put in 20 years in uniform are still in their mid-40s or 50s and ready to start second careers. "To get them to retire in South Carolina is a win for us," said Haley, who often refers to herself as a military spouse. Her husband Michael serves in the South Carolina Army National Guard. The retirees' second incomes would be taxed normally, contributing to the state's economy, Haley argues.

Sun News: Haley continues refusal to help farmers with flood losses

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article64987052.html>

Frank Knapp

With little inventory to sell, S.C. farmers faced a year's worth of farming expenses that many couldn't pay by Dec. 31. Hundreds of farmers traveled to Columbia in December to ask Gov. Nikki Haley for some of the flood-relief money to cover part of their uninsured crop losses." According to the McClatchy story, Governor Haley turned down the farmers, saying that she did not want to give them special treatment over other businesses impacted by the floods. "Doing that would be going to taxpayers to say, 'Give them money because they're farmers.' So I am not comfortable doing that. What we did do is say we're going to treat everybody exactly the same, and that's what we did."

Note: The federal flood-relief money for South Carolina arrived last week, \$157 million. The struggling farmers already deep in debt again asked for some of the money to help cover a small part of their losses. And again Governor Haley said "no", sticking to her "fairness to all businesses" excuse.

WSPA: Schools participate in statewide tornado drills Wednesday

<http://wspa.com/2016/03/09/schools-participate-in-tornado-drills-wednesday/>

Rachelle Spence

Wednesday, a statewide tornado drill was issued at 9 a.m. for schools, businesses, non-profits, and homeowners to gauge how prepared they are for severe weather. 7 News was at Lone Oak Elementary School in Spartanburg as students were reminded how big of a threat severe storms, tornadoes, and flash flooding can be in South Carolina.

Note: Governor Nikki Haley proclaimed March 6th-11th as 'South Carolina Severe Weather and Flood Safety Week.'

S.C. General Assembly News:

Associated Press: Republicans reject powerful colleague in SC roads debate

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kchor7vl

Jeffrey Collins

Republicans in the Senate on Wednesday rebuffed a proposal by the chamber's leader for a bond issue of up to \$2 billion to upgrade and repair South Carolina interstates. Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman had asked his colleagues to consider a legislative amendment to set aside \$200 million from the general fund that could be used to loan more than \$2 billion to fix interstates and widen dozens of miles of what he called "the lifeblood" of the state. But Republicans interrupted him and called for the amendment to be tabled. Only one GOP colleague joined the Florence Republican in an unsuccessful attempt to keep his amendment alive. There are more amendments to be heard later Wednesday.

The State: SC Senate rejects Leatherman roads proposal

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article64972757.html>

Andy Shain

The proposal from Leatherman, who also heads the Senate's budget-writing panel, was rejected by a 27-17 vote. Leatherman and S.C. Sen. Ray Cleary, R-Georgetown, were the only Republicans voting in favor on the plan. When approved, the Senate plan would go to the S.C. House, which passed a different roads funding bill last year that includes a 10-cent gas tax increase as well as a state income tax decrease. The House will vote either to negotiate with the Senate or adopt the Senate plan. The Senate plan would arrive in the House during the week when filing for state elections start. Many Republicans do not want to be associated with a tax increase while seeking re-election. The House's plan was developed before the General Assembly learned the state had an extra \$1.2 billion to spend in extra tax revenue.

WIS: Senate GOP in position to push roads bill through

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31426876/senate-gop-in-position-to-push-roads-bill-through>

Will Whitson

A passing vote on the much filibustered, little debated road funding bill could take place in the South Carolina Senate before the body adjourns Wednesday, according to Senate Majority Leader Harvey Peeler. "I don't want to leave here today without a second reading," Peeler, a Republican from Gaffney, said during a Senate recess for lunch. The Senate requires three readings, or votes, of a bill in order to pass it, but the third reading is seen more as a formality and the second is the major vote.

Note: The current roads amendment received the blessing of Gov. Nikki Haley last week, but it could face stiff opposition when it returns to the House. House Speaker Jay Lucas blasted the plan saying it "kicked the can down the road."

The State: 'Tucker Hipps' bill headed to SC House

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article65022252.html>

Andy Shain

A bill requiring state public colleges to post misconduct violations by fraternities and sororities is heading to the S.C. House floor. Two House panels approved the bill — dubbed the "Tucker Hipps Transparency Act" — Wednesday. The proposal is named after a Clemson University fraternity pledge whose body was found in Lake Hartwell after a pre-dawn run with other chapter members in 2014. Some colleges, including Clemson and the University of South Carolina, already post online sanctions against fraternities and sororities. All S.C. public colleges would have to post misconduct reports by this fall, but they could seek a one-year waiver.

Post and Courier: S.C. House panel clears Planned Parenthood

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160309/PC1603/160309370>

Cynthia Roldan

An investigation by a Statehouse panel into the dealings state agencies have with Planned Parenthood revealed no criminal wrongdoing by the embattled organization. The investigation was

triggered in August drawing charges from Planned Parenthood supporters that abortion opponents were following a “purely partisan political agenda” after secretly recorded videos were released. The videos showed organization officials from other parts of the country matter-of-factly describing how they sometimes provide fetal tissue to medical researchers. But the S.C. House Legislative Oversight Committee found no one had broken the law at the group’s Columbia location and that no criminal wrong doing is connected, said Rep. James Smith, D-Columbia.

WRDW: Two bills on the table in Georgia and South Carolina impact women's health

<http://www.wrdw.com/home/headlines/Two-bills-on-the-table-in-Georgia-and-South-Carolina-impact-womens-health-371525531.html>

Kelly Wiley

In South Carolina, for years, Senate Democrats have blocked a bill banning abortion past 19 weeks. But this week, the bill didn't get knocked down. The bill was approved by the senate Tuesday, and the bills next step is a final vote in the house. That vote would then send it to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk. Which is much farther than it has ever been before. While South Carolina lawmakers are voting to redefine abortion restrictions in the state. Georgia lawmakers are voting on whether or not to give state money to a new program that opposes abortion all together.

Associated Press: Panel OKs bill to have SLED investigate all S.C. police deaths

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160309/AIK0105/160309358/panel-oks-bill-to-have-sled-investigate-all-sc-police-deaths>

A bill requiring all police shootings in South Carolina to be investigated by the State Law Enforcement Division is moving forward. A subcommittee approved the bill Wednesday. Nearly all police agencies in South Carolina turn over officer-involved shootings to SLED. The biggest exception is Richland County, where Columbia is located, which does its own investigations. Supporters say having SLED investigate all police shootings would assure professionalism and impartiality.

Island Packet: SC lawmakers change bill requiring ‘In God We Trust’ display

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/state/south-carolina/article64973342.html>

Mandy Matney

South Carolina lawmakers are no longer pushing to require “In God We Trust” displays in public schools. According to reporting from Morris News Service, a House education subcommittee tabled H. 4395 on Tuesday, which made major changes to a bill that would have mandated that schools place a plaque or other display in the lobby of each school building with the phrase that Congress adopted as the national motto in 1956. According to the bill, the goal is “to increase student understanding of and familiarity with American historical documents, historically important excerpts from or copies of the documents should be prominently displayed in public school buildings.” The bill was proposed in December by Rep. Alan Clemmons, R-Myrtle Beach.

S.C. Political News:

WACH: Sen. Tim Scott: Leave Gitmo open

<http://wach.com/news/local/sen-tim-scott-leave-gitmo-open>

Matthew Stevens

US Senator Tim Scott introduced a resolution that rejects President Obama's plan to transfer detainees from Guantanamo Bay to the main land of the United States. Scott along with four other senators put forward the measure Tuesday. President Obama issued a plan to have detainees that are at Guantanamo Bay be placed in other facilities in the United States. One of the proposed facilities is located in Charleston, SC. The resolution says any transfer of these fugitives to the United States will be a 'threat' to national security. The resolution is demanding that the president abandons his plan immediately to house these detainees in potential facilities in South Carolina, Kansas and Colorado.

Note: "The President's effort to transfer as many detainees as possible out of Guantanamo before

removing the remaining terrorists to domestic soil is misguided and reckless," said Senator Scott. "Our resolution makes the Senate's position clear, leave Gitmo open and do not send dangerous terrorists to US soil," he added.

Post and Courier: Tim Scott will likely oppose nominee for Education Secretary based on school choice policy position

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160309/PC1603/160309357/tim-scott-will-likely-oppose-nominee-for-education-secretary-based-on-school-choice-policy-position>

Emma Dumain

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott will likely oppose President Barack Obama's nominee for Secretary of Education on the Senate floor. The South Carolina Republican was one of six lawmakers Wednesday to vote against advancing John King's nomination out of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. Scott and the others were overruled by the majority of committee members, but their opposition represents an early potential hurdle for King in his path to getting confirmed. Scott said he was concerned with King's support for Common Core. The biggest issue for Scott, however, appeared to be King's opposition to a Washington voucher program that allows certain students to attend charter or parochial schools on scholarships.

The State: Mayor Benjamin's longtime aides have left; he's seeking replacements

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article64991522.html>

Clif Leblanc

Mayor Steve Benjamin is looking for two key aides now that both of the employees who have been at his side since Benjamin's first term have left. Sam Johnson, who has been attending law school at the University of South Carolina, left Feb. 15, the mayor said Wednesday. Johnson is a law clerk at the Nexsen Pruet law firm, Benjamin said. Johnson began working about a week ago for Benjamin's predecessor, Bob Coble, the former mayor said. Michael Wukela held the media and policy post until he left late last year to become a director of a nonprofit advocacy group. His salary was \$69,332, according to city records. Wukela and Johnson had been Benjamin's key aides since his 2010 election and had worked on Benjamin's campaign staff before he was elected Columbia's first African-American mayor.

Associated Press: Florence GOP chair challenging state Sen. Hugh Leatherman

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=aDysm30t

SC State Wire

Florence County Republican Party Chairman Richard Skipper is challenging one of South Carolina's most powerful lawmakers. Local media outlets report that Skipper announced Tuesday that he will run in the June GOP primary against State Sen. Hugh Leatherman in rural Florence County. Leatherman has held the office for more than 36 years and is state Senate president pro-tempore and chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. Skipper says he will resign from his job as county GOP chair. He says there is a need for change in Columbia. Skipper has served in the South Carolina Army National Guard and has owned and operated an insurance agency in Florence for the last 25 years.

Union Times: Bailey to run for Sheriff of Union County

<http://uniondailytimes.com/news/4246/bailey-to-run-for-sheriff-of-union-county>

Charles Warner

A Union County Magistrate has resigned his seat on the bench to run for Sheriff of Union County. In a press conference this morning in the USC Union Student Activity Lounge Jeff Bailey announced that he had resigned as a county magistrate to run as a Republican for sheriff.

Note: Bailey told the crowd attending the announcement that he had sent a letter to Gov. Nikki Haley informing her of his resignation which was effective at 5 p.m. Tuesday.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Sun News: Many ways to get money to fix roads

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article64987377.html>

Letter

There has been too much discussion about how to get the money to fix S.C. roads which are in need of repair. I offer a few suggestions: Instead of raising the gas tax 16.7 cents a gallon, why not raise it .05 cents a gallon. That way it will not hurt everyone. Another idea is to raise the tax on auto purchases from \$300.00 to \$500.00. Where most of us northerners came from, we paid up to 7 percent on a purchase of a car. Another way is to make everyone who drives a scooter or mo-ped be required to have a driver's license and insurance. There are many who have lost their license and are using mo-peds to get around. Our S.C. government has been talking about fixing our roads but has done nothing about it long enough. Let's get busy and fix our problems.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: SC State moving toward finding a new president

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=iiMBAcy2

SC State Wire

Financially troubled South Carolina State University is moving forward to find a permanent president for the Orangeburg school. Local media outlets report the board of trustees met for four hours behind closed doors Tuesday to discuss the search. But no action or votes were taken. Trustee Doris Helms heads the presidential search committee and says the board hopes to hire a professional search firm by May to submit possible candidates. The budget proposed by the House Ways and Means Committee gives the university until the end of December to hire a president as a condition for approving next year's budget. W. Franklin Evans has led the university for the past year since former President Thomas Elzey was removed by the previous board.

Post and Courier: Death of trucker at State Ports Authority being investigated as criminal act

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160309/PC05/160309379>

David Wren

The death of a truck driver at the State Ports Authority's North Charleston Terminal is being investigated by that city's police department as a criminal act, according to court documents. Derek Boyd, 47, of Orangeburg died following an accident at the terminal on Dec. 11. Responding to a wrongful death lawsuit filed by Boyd's wife, the SPA said "information and evidence indicate the matter may be criminal in nature" and that an investigation has been turned over to North Charleston police.

Island Packet: South Carolina ranks 13th worst state for health care access

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/health-care/article64934482.html>

Mandy Matney

In a list compiled by HealthGrove, South Carolina ranked 13th worst state for health care access, while Georgia earned the worst score in the country. Each county in every state was scored on a scale from 0-100 with 100 being the highest. Beaufort County scored 56.21 while the state of South Carolina scored 34.47. Lee County scored the worst in the state.

WIS: Lexington 2 teacher finalist for SC Teacher of the Year

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31427202/lexington-2-teacher-finalist-for-sc-teacher-of-the-year>

Staff

A Lexington School District Two teacher has been named a finalist for the South Carolina Teacher of the Year. R.H.Fulmer Middle School social studies and humanities teacher Sabrina Williams learned Wednesday she is one of five finalists for the award. The announcement was made Wednesday morning in her classroom. For being selected a finalist, Williams wins \$10,000. She has been teaching for 32 years. The state winner will be announced on April 20. the winner gets \$25,000 and a

one-year lease on a BMW.

Local News:

The State: Columbia students send water and love to Flint, Mich.

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article64949307.html>

Sarah Ellis

Students at Sandel Elementary School are paying forward the generosity that was shown to the Columbia area after the devastating October floods. On Wednesday, they loaded up hundreds of cases – thousands of bottles – of water to send to a school in Flint, Mich., where lead-contaminated water has caused a community crisis. “It’s kids our age getting poisoned” by the water, 11-year-old Dillon Eldridge said. “If it was us, we wouldn’t like it. That’s why we’re donating.”

The State: Chapin Town Council members win round in fight with mayor

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article64979617.html>

Tim Flach

Chapin Town Council members won a round Wednesday in their power struggle with Mayor Skip Wilson over control of their agenda. Council members have the final say on what to consider in meetings called by a majority of the five members, the state Court of Appeals ruled Wednesday. The ruling opens the door for council members to thwart changes in Town Hall operations that Wilson made singlehandedly. It overturns a lower court ruling that gave him sole authority to decide what items will be discussed at all council sessions.

Independent Mail: Seneca police to have body cameras soon

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/seneca-police-to-have-body-cameras-soon-2d94c0a2-e620-34ee-e053-0100007faca7-371511791.html>

Ray Chandler

Seneca police will soon wear body cameras, as per a state law passed last year. “Within 30 days,” Seneca Police Chief John Covington told members of the City Council at a meeting Tuesday. The council unanimously approved the police department’s acquisition of 27 body cameras and 27 Taser electroshock weapons from Taser International.

Note: The city faces a June 1 deadline to comply with the state mandate Gov. Nikki Haley signed into law last June. Haley signed the law in North Charleston, which had been the scene of a controversial fatal shooting of a suspect by a police officer.

Island Packet: \$30 million request for Hilton Head Island arts center rankles sales tax panel

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/politics-government/article64804117.html>

Lucas High

An ambitious plan to build a new arts and entertainment center on Hilton Head Island came under fire Tuesday. The Beaufort County Capital Sales Tax Commission, a panel that evaluates infrastructure project proposals from local governments and colleges, grilled town leaders as they made their pitch for the center. Preliminary plans call for a roughly 3.5-acre campus with several exhibit halls and meeting rooms, a 1,500-seat concert hall, and a 5,000-seat outdoor amphitheater. Several residents used a public comment session to speak out against portions of the plan. There were concerns that the center could exacerbate traffic problems and calls for the potential sales tax revenue to be used for more pressing issues such as public safety.

Sun News: Horry County Council holding line on taxes, fees this year

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article64849237.html>

Charles D. Perry

Horry County residents should not see a tax increase under the spending plan county leaders outlined Tuesday. Unlike last year when county officials approved a tax hike and a \$20 jump in the road maintenance fee, this year they plan to hold the line on any increases for taxpayers. On the

expense side, the council is considering spending about \$3.4 million more on merit raises for county workers. County Council Chairman Mark Lazarus said the latest projections show there is enough money in the budget for the raises, but he said the county's departments — with the exception of the police force — will largely have to make due with the status quo.

Sun News: Parking rates increase in Surfside Beach

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article64977517.html>

Emily Weaver

Visitors coming to Surfside Beach will need to bring two more quarters to park in metered spaces. Surfside Beach Town Council approved hourly parking rate increases of 50 cents to align with the rates of nearby towns with an amended ordinance at Tuesday night's meeting. Hourly rates for pier parking stations increased from \$1.50 to \$2 with the change. Rates at the town's 112 13th Ave. S. value parking lot, west of Ocean Boulevard, are set at 50 cents per hour. All other parking lot meters and pay stations are set with hourly rates of \$1.75 under the amended ordinance. Daily rates for parking increased from \$8 to \$10 with a daily pass expiring at 7 p.m. on the day of issuance. Weekly charges for parking will remain at \$40 and expire at midnight on the seventh day of issuance.

National News:

Associated Press: Iran fires 2 missiles marked with 'Israel must be wiped out'

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:c9e2945ea3ef4dd9972f23cf663ac99e>

Jon Gambrell

Iran test-launched two ballistic missiles Wednesday emblazoned with the phrase "Israel must be wiped out" in Hebrew, Iranian media reported, in a show of power by the Shiite nation as U.S. Vice President Joe Biden's visited Jerusalem. The new missile firings were the latest in a series of tests in recent days, aimed at demonstrating that Iran will push ahead with its ballistic program after scaling backing its nuclear program under the deal reached last year with the U.S. and other world powers. Israel, long an opponent of Iran, offered no comment on the test, though Biden issued a strong warning over any possible violation of the nuclear deal. "A nuclear-armed Iran is an absolutely unacceptable threat to Israel, to the region and the United States. And I want to reiterate which I know people still doubt here. If in fact they break the deal, we will act," he said.

Associated Press: Bangladesh loses \$100 million, allegedly to Chinese hackers

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:d6ba8595100f45e78ee8bc27ac838da7>

The Bangladesh central bank says it is working to recover some \$100 million allegedly stolen by Chinese hackers from an account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Authorities have given few details about how the money disappeared. But Finance Minister A.M.A. Muhith says authorities are considering suing the U.S. bank over the money's apparent transfer to accounts in the Philippines. Muhith said the U.S. bank has "no way to avoid their responsibility." In a statement Wednesday, the New York Fed said it had not detected any hacking attempts, and there is "no evidence that any Fed systems were compromised."

Associated Press: Trump won't repay presidential campaign loans, manager says

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:006a462b35d64e82a69e991c1b6e927d>

Julie Bykowicz

Donald Trump says he has spent \$30 million so far running for president, and his campaign manager says he's never getting that money back. As Trump brags about "self-funding" his surging Republican bid, he has been lending, rather than giving, money to his campaign. That has raised the question: Would he ever raise donor money to pay himself back? "He is not going to repay himself," campaign manager Corey Lewandowski said in an interview this week with The Associated Press.

Associated Press: The Latest: Bush to meet with GOP candidates _ except Trump

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:8e02cbd803fb4ebcab5c1cd06349445a>

An aide with Jeb Bush's failed bid for the Republican nomination says the former Florida governor is meeting privately with all of the remaining GOP candidates, except front-runner Donald Trump. The aide, who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak with the media, says Bush plans to meet with Florida Sen. Marco Rubio on Wednesday, and has scheduled meetings with Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and Ohio Gov. John Kasich on Thursday. Bush and Trump engaged in heated confrontations throughout Bush's campaign, the two repeatedly referring to each other as "loser." A number of GOP elites have spoken out against Trump's unorthodox candidacy, saying he does not offer a suitable representation of the party.

Associated Press: Clinton emails: GOP sues, senators press attorney general

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:5286390e53854b44bfd37f9a04c7802b>

Michael Biesecker and Eric Tucker

The investigation deals with the potential mishandling of sensitive information that passed through the former secretary of state's private email server, and Lynch's assurance to the Senate Judiciary Committee came shortly after the GOP sued for access to Clinton's emails. The two lawsuits spring from Freedom of Information Act requests filed last year seeking copies of emails and text messages sent or received by the Democratic presidential candidate and her top aides. In court filings, the GOP says it has not received any documents in response to the requests. The GOP litigation brings the total to at least 34 civil suits so far involving requests for federal records related to Clinton's service as secretary of state between 2009 and 2013. The Associated Press is among those with a pending case at the Washington courthouse.

The Hill: Another judge withdraws name from SCOTUS consideration

<http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/272376-another-judge-withdraws-name-from-scotus-consideration>

Jordan Fabian

Federal Appellate Judge Adalberto Jordan has taken himself out of consideration to become President Obama's Supreme Court nominee, CNN reported Wednesday. The Miami-based judge was reportedly a contender to fill the vacancy left by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia and would have been the first Cuban-American to sit on the high court. "He pulled himself out of consideration," Sen. Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) told CNN, explaining that Jordan was dealing with a "personal, family situation" involving his mother.

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