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Subject: Afternoon Clips - Friday, March 18, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Nashville Post: SC gov to keynote Republicans' Statesmen's Dinner

<http://www.nashvillepost.com/politics/article/20491913/sc-gov-to-keynote-republicans-statesmens-dinner>

J.R. Lind

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, likely to be on the short list of running mates for whomever wins the Republican nomination, will keynote this year's Tennessee Republican Party Statesmen's Dinner. "I am thrilled to welcome Governor Haley to the Volunteer State as the keynote speaker of the 2016 Statesmen's Dinner," stated TNGOP Chairman Ryan Haynes. "Guests at the Statesmen's Dinner have come to expect dynamic messengers for the Party and Governor Haley certainly fits that role. I look forward to hearing from the Governor about her solutions to unite our country and heal the divisions we've witnessed over the last seven years." Haley is routinely mentioned as a potential 2016 Vice Presidential candidate for the Republican Party.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Associated Press: Ex-state senator runs for former seat while on probation

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=R5lyW4ns

Seanna Adcox

former South Carolina senator who resigned amid an ethics investigation and who returns to court next month for violating probation is seeking his old Senate seat. Robert Ford of Charleston filed this week to run for the Senate seat he held for 20 years before resigning in 2013. He was sentenced last May to five years of probation after pleading guilty to misdemeanor charges of misconduct in office, forgery and ethics law violations. He was also ordered to pay \$70,000. According to the state's probation agency, Ford must appear in court April 11 for missing nearly \$9,000 worth of monthly payments. A judge could sentence him to jail time.

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: House budget week looms

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160318/PC1603/160319405>

Gavin Jackson

A long week looms for House members when they return to the chamber Monday afternoon. Representatives will debate and amend the \$7.5 billion budget the House Ways and Means Committee has approved. Budget staff members are drafting amendments and preparing over the weekend for the slog. Amendments are already coming in, such as one from Rep. Mike Pitts, R-Laurens, that adds \$2.9 million for new criminal domestic violence prosecutors and \$1.1 million for three judges to handle an increased caseload. South Carolina is one of just three states in the country where police officers, not attorneys, are called upon to prosecute domestic violence crimes in the courtroom.

S.C. Politics News:

Associated Press: Civil rights tour comes amid heated political climate

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:ee810b1692004565b7a9c7af77185b11>

Meg Kinnard

Civil rights movement veterans and U.S. Reps. Jim Clyburn and John Lewis are leading more than a dozen members of Congress on a three-day history and race relations tour of South Carolina, culminating Sunday with services at the Charleston church where nine black parishioners were gunned down last June. The event comes during the vitriolic and sometimes violent presidential campaign season that has seen blacks and whites face off at rallies for Republican Donald Trump. Just 150 miles away, a white Trump supporter was captured last week on video punching a black protester who was being escorted from a North Carolina rally. Both Democrats and Republicans are part of the civil rights tour, including GOP South Carolina Sens. Tim Scott and Lindsey Graham, a one-time candidate for president.

Associated Press: The Latest: Civil rights the focus of Congress members trip

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

SC State Wire

South Carolina's sole congressional Democrat says there is still much to be learned about the state's dark civil rights past. U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn told reporters in Columbia on Friday that he hopes his fellow members of Congress who are traveling the state can learn some of that history over the next three days. Clyburn is hosting more than a dozen members of Congress who are taking part in the Pilgrimage to South Carolina.

The State: Who's running for Congress in S.C.?

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article66870732.html>

Andy Shain

These candidates have filed for U.S. Senate and House of Representative seats in South Carolina with the S.C. Election Commission as of noon Friday. Filing opened Wednesday and will close March 30. Incumbents are marked by an (i). See House district maps here.

Post and Courier: Updated 2016 Democratic and Republican party filings for federal, state and local offices

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160318/PC1603/160319392>

Opinion/Editorial:

The Herald: Remove cloud cover from SC public information, let sun shine in

<http://www.heraldonline.com/opinion/article66793692.html>

Opinion

Here in South Carolina we frequently hear lawmakers state their staunch support for the public's right to access public information, but let meaningful legislation hit the floor and watch how quickly the particulars are debated and kept at bay from a vote as it is batted back and forth in committee until – suddenly and quite deliberately – another session has come and gone with little or nothing accomplished. Do not be fooled by lawmakers who claim to be staunch supporters of open, transparent government who then stonewall efforts to open the doors and windows to the public eye instead of working in concert with other lawmakers to remodel a state law in need of repair on the public's behalf.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Container volume continues to increase at SC ports

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=qHAgIF6L

SC State Wire

Cargo volume continues to increase at South Carolina's ports. The South Carolina Ports Authority board was told Thursday that container volume is up more than 4 percent since the fiscal year started

last July. Authority president and CEO Jim Newsome says container volume last month showed a modest gain compared to February of 2015. Newsome said he expects continued increases in the coming months. In February, the ports handled the equivalent of nearly 160,000 20-foot shipping containers, an increase of more than 3 percent over February of last year.

Associated Press: Memorial to church shooting victims planned for airport

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=9IBNy7Sy

SC State Wire

Travelers passing through South Carolina's busiest airport will be able to reflect on last year's shooting at Mother Emanuel AME Church. Plans were unveiled Thursday for a memorial in an alcove at the Charleston International Airport terminal. Local media outlets report the memorial will include stained glass etched with the names of the victims and survivors. It will also include a table with a Bible open to the Scripture being read at the time of the shootings. The memorial will also have photographs of the church and a seating area. The \$175,000 for the memorial is being raised through private donations. Nine people were shot and killed during a Bible study at the church last June.

Local News:

Associated Press: Manufacturer adding 50 jobs in Greenville County

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=CBwIN7JX

SC State Wire

A company based in upstate New York that makes parts for gas turbines is expanding its South Carolina plant and adding 50 new jobs. Ushers Machine and Tool Co. announced it is investing almost \$13 million in its plant in Greenville. The expanded facility should be in operation by the end of September. Ushers has its headquarters in Saratoga County, New York, and also operates a facility in New Hampshire.

Independent Mail: Anderson University student center on pace for summer completion

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/anderson-university-student-center-on-pace-for-summer-completion-2e4399f8-00f0-5aed-e053-0100007f4e8-372576371.html>

Mike Eads

The new \$15 million G. Ross Anderson Jr. Student Center at Anderson University is almost ready for business. "Our substantial completion date is still mid-July," said Dane Slaughter, the school's facilities' vice president overseeing the project. The soggy weather in December held up work a bit. But Donnie Joyner, the superintendent for general contractor Rodgers Builders, said crews have worked some weekends since to stay on schedule. Once the center is ready, the university will turn its attention to raising money for new classroom space and further upgrades to the athletic campus, Whitaker said.

WMBF: McLeod unveils new ER facility in Horry County, promises more to come

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/31500210/mcleod-unveils-new-er-facility-in-horry-county-promises-more-to-come>

Josh Robertson

McLeod Seacoast unveiled its new Emergency Center today, and given the fact that they handled 27,000 patients last year, reps say the new space will be put to good use. The North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce hosted the event, inviting the public to view the new 28-room ER for the first time. Administrator Dick Tinsley says the opening couldn't come at a better time, with the tourist season getting underway. This new facility will consist of several new services, with trauma, orthopedic, and OBGYN rooms, which will lower waiting times for those in need of immediate care, but Tinsley says that's not all: "This is the first completed part of our expansion."

Greenville News: GHS enters telehealth world with SmartExams

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/03/18/ghs-enters-telehealth-world->

Liv Osby

Greenville Health System patients with minor ailments will soon be able to access a remote health care provider using technology instead of going to the doctor. With SmartExams, established patients contact a service and provide their symptoms while a nurse practitioner or physician assistant calls them back to discuss a diagnosis and treatment plan. SmartExams, which launches April 4, is one of several telehealth services popping up around the country in response to consumers who are looking for more convenient care in their busy lives and as the physician shortage makes it increasingly difficult to get a timely appointment with a doctor.

Sun News: Clock ticking on bonds for new performing arts center, amphitheater

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article66778657.html>

Emily Weaver

The clock is ticking on an expiring voter-approved bond referendum to fund a performing arts center before 2018, making the project a potential priority in next year's budget. A joint performing arts center and amphitheater that could seat upwards of 16,000 guests was delayed last year by an economic impact study and a parking issue that may now be resolved. Myrtle Beach City Council members expressed concerns about parking at a budget retreat last April after hearing there needed to be about 3,000 dedicated parking spaces to accommodate the facility.

Island Packet: Hilton Head renourishment could require sea turtle protection

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/article66837487.html>

Wade Livingston

An already-delayed beach renourishment project – which will begin June 15, according to a Friday news release from the town of Hilton Head – could affect both the nesting and hatching processes of Hilton Head Island's sea turtles. "The issue is that the new time frame is right in the middle of nesting and hatching season," said Amber Kuehn, manager of the Coastal Discovery Museum's Sea Turtle Protection Project. "So now we don't have to just worry about nesting females, we have to worry about hatchlings, too." Nesting season officially begins in May and runs through October, according to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources' website. Hatchlings often begin appearing in early July, Kuehn said. She and her staff will be on patrol just like they are every year, ready to relocate nests to safer areas.

Post and Courier: "Top Chef" to film in Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160318/PC05/160319394/-x201c-top-chef-x201d-to-film-in-charleston>

Warren L. Wise

Against a backdrop of towering church steeples and cobblestone streets, TV's "Top Chef" cooking competition is headed to Charleston to film its next season. The award-winning culinary contest credited with helping to usher in the current era of upscale food obsession will begin production in the spring, Bravo Media announced Friday. "Charleston is the perfect location to inject our new batch of chefs," Bravo Media's executive vice president Shari Levine said in a release. "We know Charleston and are excited by the possibilities it brings with its rich cultural and historical background, which has played an important role in shaping South Carolina's unique cuisine."

Post and Courier: Law enforcement not easing up on security measures at Cooper River Bridge Run

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160317/PC16/160319448>

David Quick

Ever since security at the Cooper River Bridge Run and Walk was ramped up following the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings, the event has presented no major problems. In fact, the net result of the increased security has been a better organized race. Yet security measures taken for the 39th Bridge Run on April 2 by a coalition of local, county, state and federal authorities appear to be intense, if not

increasing, notably with the advance background checks of medical personnel and even the initial request of Social Security numbers of media covering the event being among them.

WACH: Church leaders in Newberry gather to learn more about keeping their sanctuaries safe
<http://wach.com/news/local/church-leaders-in-newberry-gather-to-learn-more-about-keeping-their-sanctuaries-safe>

Leah Holloway

June's horrifying Mother Emanuel shooting lead people to ask a question they never even dreamed of, just how safe are we in a house of worship. Since then, there have been a number of safety workshops around the state that address that very question. In order to educate and keep people safe, the Newberry County Sheriff's Department held church safety training. Church leaders who attended tonight's training were briefed on what to do in active shooter cases.

Greenville News: Greenville police officer killed; suspect shot, killed himself
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/03/18/greenville-police-investigating-officer-involved-shooting/81970702/>

Anna Lee, Elizabeth Sanders, and Lauren Petracca

A Greenville police officer is dead and a known gang member reportedly took his own life while officers were trying to arrest him in the Nicholtown Community on Friday afternoon. The officers were trying to serve a warrant at a house in the Nicholtown Community Friday afternoon. The suspect ran out of the house and officers gave chase, Miller said. The suspect opened fire on the officers, Miller said. The officer who was killed was hit with multiple gunshots, he said.

Aiken Standard: Bart Blackwell announces candidacy for S.C. House District 81 seat
<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160318/AIK0101/160319441>

Christina Cleveland

Local businessman Bart Blackwell has announced his candidacy for South Carolina's House District 81 seat. Blackwell made the announcement in front of family, friends and invited guests on Friday at B & S Machine Tool. Blackwell, a Republican, spent the past six years as a member of the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors, and was the chairman of the board in 2015. In the run for the House seat, Blackwell joins Aiken GOP Chairman KT Ruthven, who announced his run for the District 81 seat in January after S.C. Rep. Don Wells, R-Aiken, announced he would not be seeking re-election in November.

The Herald: Conservative forum to feature York Co. sheriff candidate Scurlock
<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/politics-government/election/local-election/article66864532.html>

Bristow Marchant

A conservative forum for candidates running for office this year has added York County sheriff candidate Michael Scurlock Jr to the lineup. Scurlock, a former defensive back for the Carolina Panthers before he became a sheriff's deputy, is running as a petition candidate to replace longtime sheriff Bruce Bryant in November. He will speak to a meeting of the GPS Conservatives for Action PAC at a public forum in Rock Hill on March 29. Also speaking at the forum will be Scurlock's opponent, Republican candidate Kevin Tolson, the son-in-law of the current sheriff. Both candidates will be given an equal amount of time to speak and answer questions, but otherwise will not directly debate each other.

Charlotte Observer: Worried about leaks, Charlotte council members suspected media bugged city meeting rooms

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/politics-government/article66846712.html>

Steve Harrison

Last fall, some Charlotte City Council members were so concerned about local media reporting on their private conversations during closed session meetings that they asked city staff to investigate whether reporters were bugging them. The issue has long rankled city officials, but a September story

in the Observer about negotiations between the city and former police officer Randall “Wes” Kerrick was particularly frustrating to former at-large council member Michael Barnes. Kerrick, who shot an unarmed man in 2013, resigned from the city in October 2015 after receiving nearly \$180,000 in back pay and benefits. In an email to his colleagues, Barnes pleaded for quiet. He was frustrated that details of the negotiations were published “practically before we left the building.”

Charlotte Observer: Pittenger campaigns as federal probe enters second year

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/business/article66745422.html>

Rick Rothacker

U.S. Rep. Robert Pittenger plans to file for re-election Friday in a newly drawn district, amid a federal investigation of his former real estate company that is entering a second year. FBI and IRS agents have interviewed at least two investors with Pittenger Land Investments in recent weeks, sources familiar with the situation told the Observer, a sign that the probe that began last spring is ongoing. Pittenger is seeking re-election to a third term in a district that the state legislature dramatically reshaped last month.

Greenville News: New grading scale should add to students' opportunities

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/education/2016/03/18/new-grading-scale-should-add-students-opportunities/81960368/>

Bob Castello

David Crane spent six years as a high school teacher and coach in Georgia, where the schools grade on a 10-point scale. That could happen as early as the 2016-17 school year. Molly Spearman, the state's superintendent of education, addressed the South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association Monday in Charleston and discussed the move from a 7- to a 10-point scale. Department of Education spokesman Dino Teppara said Spearman will present a proposal to the State Board of Education for its review this spring or summer. The uniform grading policy working group is still putting together the proposal, so Teppara could not comment on what grade levels would be affected. Its recommendations have not been finalized.

National News:

Associated Press: The Latest: Official: Paris attacks fugitive shot, detained

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:0dad28e21f054199b6b89b00053860a6>

The deputy mayor of the Brussels neighborhood of Molenbeek says he's received confirmation from the Belgian federal prosecutor's office that Paris attacks fugitive Salah Abdeslam has been shot in the leg and detained. Ahmed El Khannouss tells The Associated Press that Abdeslam was hurt and police have taken him away. He says police are still searching for one person who is holed up in a house. Abdeslam has been on the run since the November attacks that killed 130 people.

Associated Press: Paris attacks fugitive Abdeslam arrested in Brussels raid

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:2bb2bf5851854642af9d145a4107a421>

John-Thor Dahlburg and Lori Hinnant

The main fugitive from Islamic extremist attacks in Paris in November, Salah Abdeslam, has been arrested in Belgium's capital after four months at large, French police officials said Friday. The officials told The Associated Press that he was arrested Friday in a major police operation in the Brussels neighborhood of Molenbeek. Both officials are in contact with people involved in the operation and spoke only on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about an ongoing operation. Abdeslam, 26, was among the attackers who killed 130 people at a rock concert, the national stadium and cafes on Nov. 13 in Paris.

Associated Press: American IS fighter: I made a bad decision

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:33409c625b7f45d9bf846b45daa07e97>

Balint Szlanko

The American Islamic State group fighter who handed himself over to Kurdish forces in northern Iraq earlier this week said he made "a bad decision" in joining the IS, according to a heavily edited interview he gave to an Iraqi Kurdish television station. In the TV interview, which aired late Thursday night, Mohamad Jamal Khweis, 26, from Alexandria, Virginia detailed his weeks-long journey from the United States to London, Amsterdam, Turkey, through Syria and finally to the IS-controlled Iraqi city of Mosul. "I didn't agree with their ideology," he said, explaining why he decided to escape a few weeks after arriving. "I made a bad decision to go with the girl and go to Mosul."

Associated Press: Only On AP: Airmen at nuke base probed for illegal drug use

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:f4e5ef3811674b3f97071a4c104fce3c>

Robert Burns

The Air Force is investigating 14 members of a nuclear weapons security force for alleged illegal drug activity, in some cases including cocaine use, defense officials said Friday. The probe is a fresh blow to a nuclear missile corps that has been under intense scrutiny for a string of lapses in training and personal conduct over the past three years. The investigation at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, home of the 90th Missile Wing, near Cheyenne, Wyoming, was announced by Gen. Robin Rand, the four-star commander of Air Force Global Strike Command. The command is responsible for the entire fleet of Minuteman 3 land-based nuclear missiles; one-third of the Minuteman 3 force is operated by the 90th Missile Wing in missile fields in portions of Wyoming, Colorado and Nebraska.

Associated Press: No clear path to government-lowered drug prices

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:58abdb8532b148f298c8a8bdf27aae1d>

Matthew Perrone

Most Americans support it. Virtually all other developed countries already do it. And the two leading presidential candidates on both sides of the aisle agree: the federal government should lower drug prices. But experts say the chances for government action in the near-term are close to nil. The reasons are familiar: political gridlock in Washington, pharmaceutical industry influence and the structure of the U.S. health system itself, which limits government intervention. Looking ahead, a Democratic president with majorities in the House and Senate might be able to pass major pricing reforms. But even if Democrats retake the Senate this year, Loss and others don't expect Democrats to regain the House.

Associated Press: Michelle Obama tells SXSW crowd she won't run for president

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:bdd6a56029204b8fa6bf27eb4b575d43>

Paul J. Weber

"No, no. Not going to do it," she told the packed convention center crowd in liberal Austin. She mentioned her teenage daughters, Malia and Sasha, as two of the main reasons. "The daughters of a president. Just think about it. Come on, young people. Not so easy," Mrs. Obama said. "They've handled it with grace and with poise, but enough is enough." She also says she won't disappear from public view or slow down once she leaves the White House next year. "Sometimes there's much more you can do outside the White House without the constraints, the lights and the cameras, and the partisanship," Mrs. Obama said. "There's a potential that my voice can be heard by many people who can't hear me now because I'm Michelle Obama, the first lady. I want to be able to impact as many people as possible in an unbiased way to try to keep reaching people. I think I can do that just as well by not being president of the United States."

Kansas City Star: Republicans both fear and hope for a contested convention

<http://www.kansascity.com/news/politics-government/article66864622.html>

Dave Helling

A so-called "open" convention, they think, is the only way to stop Trump from heading the ticket in November. It would be historic, exciting — and chaotic. "It's not going to be pretty," said Kenneth Warren, a political science professor at St. Louis University. Some GOP leaders think the danger of a Trump candidacy is worth the risk of a unique, messy gathering in Cleveland. "It may be the only real

remaining route,” U.S. Rep. Bill Huizenga, a Michigan Republican, told The Hill newspaper last week. “If that is the case, then, you know, let’s move boldly into it.” But other Republicans say disregarding votes cast in primaries and caucuses would infuriate supporters of the front-runner, and permanently rip the party apart.

McClatchy DC: U.S. steps up fight over Yosemite names, asking trademarks be canceled

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/crime/article66878672.html>

Michael Doyle

The battle over Yosemite National Park trademarks is now sprawling across multiple fronts, and it could take more than a year to sort out. Going on the offensive, the National Park Service has formally urged the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board to cancel the Yosemite-affiliated trademark registrations secured by the famed park’s former concessionaire. The former concessionaire’s attorneys, in turn, have called the National Park Service’s trademark cancellation demands “particularly astounding,” and they are urging the trademark board to back off until a separate lawsuit is resolved in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

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