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To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Thursday, March 6, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: S.C. Supreme Court hears arguments on whether DHEC had right to suspend state-mandated program

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/06/3308948/state-house-sc-supreme-court-hears.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

The S.C. Supreme Court heard oral arguments today in a lawsuit filed against a state agency for suspending a program that gives clearance to hospitals and nursing homes to build or expand. The Department of Health and Environmental Control suspended the Certificate of Need program after Gov. Nikki Haley vetoed the line item that included funding for it and other DHEC programs.

Associated Press: Hospital lawyers: Veto didn't nix approval process

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=IYjSumL8

Meg Kinnard

A program that regulates the building or expansion of medical facilities was not negated when Gov. Nikki Haley vetoed its appropriations funding and should be paid for through other channels, attorneys representing South Carolina's hospitals argued Thursday.

Note: Haley said that her veto, upheld by the South Carolina House, meant the program is finished, and that companies shouldn't have to get approval before they make business decisions.

Island Packet: Jobs program for National Guard members expanding to include all military branches

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/03/06/2985877/jobs-program-for-national-guard.html#storylink=cpy>

Matt McNab

An effort to help S.C. National Guard members find jobs will be expanded to serve all military members, Gov. Nikki Haley announced last week. Advisors for Operation Palmetto Employment will be stationed at the 12 S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce offices around the state, including the Beaufort County location on Castle Rock Road, to assist military members searching for jobs.

Associated Press: More than 700 crews clean SC highways after storm

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=k7wV2fHn

The massive job of cleaning South Carolina's roads following last month's winter storm continues with just over 700 crews working in 19 counties. The Department of Transportation reports crews have removed almost 200,000 trees either leaning over or with branches hanging over highways.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley has asked President Obama to declare almost half the state a federal disaster area.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Post and Courier: Tim Scott boosts school choice in CPAC appearance

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140306/PC16/140309605/1177/tim-scott-boosts-school-choice-in-cpac-appearance>

Schuyler Kropf

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott upped his national profile by getting one of the lead-off speaking slots Thursday at the season's largest gathering of conservatives - the CPAC conference outside Washington. Focusing on education, the South Carolina Republican drew applause when he told the Conservative Political Action Conference that school choice is a parental right. "Parents, and not bureaucrats in Washington, should decide the path of their child's education," Scott said.

National Review: Tim Scott: Trey Gowdy for the Supreme Court

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/372672/tim-scott-trey-gowdy-supreme-court-betsy-woodruff>

Betsy Woodruff

Trey Gowdy is a busy guy, and an up-and-coming senator says he should be on the Supreme Court. Over the past year or so, Gowdy, a South Carolina Republican congressman, has drawn substantial national attention, winning adulation from Tea Party activists who like his tough questioning in committee hearings.

S.C. Political News:

Associated Press: Rick Wade drops out of SC Senate race

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=vz5xxmzp

Bruce Smith

Democrat Rick Wade has dropped his bid for the South Carolina U.S. Senate seat held by Republican Tim Scott. The former U.S. Commerce Department official and member of former Gov. Jim Hodges' cabinet said in a statement on Thursday that he does not have enough time to raise the money needed to defeat Scott in November.

Post and Courier: Tim Scott Democratic challenger drops out

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140306/PC16/140309603/1006/>

Schuyler Kropf

A leading Democratic challenger against Republican U.S. Sen. Tim Scott has dropped out of the race. Rick Wade announced this morning he is ending his bid. "As a native South Carolinian who cares deeply about the future of our state, I have made the extremely difficult choice to halt my campaign for the United States Senate," he said in a media statement.

The State: Democrat Wade drops out of US Senate race

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/06/3308832/democrat-wade-drops-out-of-us.html#storylink=cpy>

S.C. Democrats can't keep a candidate in a race. Rick Wade, the former Obama Administration official and cabinet head under Gov. Jim Hodges, said Thursday that he will end his U.S. Senate race against Republican Tim Scott. Wade had been the prohibitive favorite to win the Democratic nomination to face Scott in the November general election.

Legislative Session News:

Associated Press: SC bill would repeal 'stand your ground' law

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

Seanna Adcox

Members of the Legislative Black Caucus said Thursday South Carolina's "stand your ground" law is wrong and should be repealed. The government should not tell people to confront force with force, rather than just walk away, said its chairman, Rep. Harold Mitchell. "We were taught in Sunday School to retreat," said Mitchell, D-Spartanburg. "It's wrong. We're taking back 'stand your ground' and protecting the citizens of this state."

Post and Courier: Lawmakers seek 'stand your ground' repeal

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140306/PC1603/140309591/1031/lawmakers-seek-stand-your-ground-repeal>

Jeremy Borden

Members of the General Assembly's Legislative Black Caucus began a push Thursday to repeal South Carolina's 2006 stand your ground law, which they said has been used by criminals to justify killing innocent people and needlessly escalated confrontations.

The State: Lawmaker introduces bill to repeal 'stand your ground' law

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/06/3309165/lawmaker-introduces-bill-to-repeal.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

The chairman of the state Legislative Black Caucus, backed by several ministers, former law enforcement officials and activists, has introduced a bill to do away with South Carolina's "Stand Your Ground" bill. The bill would not do away with a person's long-standing right to defend themselves with deadly force inside their homes, vehicles and businesses, Rep. Harold Mitchell, D-Spartanburg, stressed at a Thursday press conference at the State House.

Associated Press: SC bill allows cannabis oil for epilepsy treatment

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=vJC4T6hh

Seanna Adcox

People suffering from severe epilepsy could legally use oil derived from marijuana under a bill advancing in the South Carolina House. The bill says cannabidiol is not an illegal drug if a patient has a prescription or is participating in a clinical trial for treating severe forms of epilepsy. GOP Rep. Jenny Horne says she named her bill for a 3-year-old constituent who suffers dozens of seizures daily and whose family is moving to Colorado to access the potentially life-changing treatment.

Associated Press: Legislation would force sale of old SC port land

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=N4pJqi9m

Some state lawmakers want to force the sale of the property that once was the Port of Port Royal and have the State Ports Authority auction it to the highest bidder if no buyer is found. The Beaufort Gazette reports (<http://bit.ly/1e5cniR>) a bill introduced Wednesday by Beaufort Rep. Shannon Erickson would force the sale by June 30th of next year.

Local News:

Island Packet: Jasper County School District under investigation by IRS, FBI

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/03/05/2984358/jasper-county-school-district.html#storylink=cpy>

Sarah Bowman

Representatives from the IRS and FBI were at the Jasper County School District office in Ridgeland on Wednesday and have launched an investigation into its operations, according to district spokeswoman Shellie Murdaugh. Murdaugh could not provide further details about the nature of the investigation.

National News:

Washington Post: Health insurance marketplaces signing up few uninsured Americans, surveys say

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/health-insurance-marketplaces-signing-up-few-uninsured-americans-surveys-say/2014/03/06/cdae3152-a54d-11e3-84d4-e59b1709222c_story.html

Amy Goldstein

The new health insurance marketplaces appear to be making little headway so far in signing up Americans who lack health insurance, the Affordable Care Act's central goal. A pair of surveys released on Thursday suggest that just one in 10 uninsured people who qualify for private health plans through the new marketplace have signed up for one — and that about half of uninsured adults has looked for information on the online exchanges or plans to look.

The Hill: Ukraine aid bill clears the House

<http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/votes/200131-ukraine-aid-bill-clears-house#ixzz2vDOVUO2q>

Pete Kasperowicz

The House on Thursday approved legislation that would allow the Obama administration to provide loan guarantees to Ukraine. After a quick debate, the House voted for the bill 385-23, with the only "no" votes coming from Republicans. The hastily written bill, H.R. 4152, is seen by many as a first step toward shoring up Ukraine's economy, which was faltering even before Russia's military intervention this week.

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