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Subject: Morning Clips - Friday, March 18, 2016

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## Morning Clips – Friday, March 18, 2016

### Governor Nikki Haley News:

**The State:** Editorial: Midlands will be better off without Kelvin Washington and Donnie Myers  
<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/editorials/article66697477.html#storylink=apmobile>  
GOV. NIKKI HALEY was right to declare Kelvin Washington's seat on Richland County Council vacant after he confessed to not filing state income tax returns for three years. Relying on an opinion from the attorney general's office, Gov. Haley on Wednesday declared Mr. Washington's District 10 seat vacant because not filing income tax returns is a crime of moral turpitude. Local officials convicted of such a crime forfeit their positions, according to the attorney general's opinion. Unfortunately, Mr. Washington did not resign. Thanks to Gov. Haley, he's gone from office. Mr. Myers was accused of DUI in February after the car he was driving left a Lexington County road and hit a utility pole. The attorney general's office said Gov. Haley cannot suspend or remove the solicitor from office because DUI is not a crime of moral turpitude. However, Mr. Myers announced on Wednesday that he will not seek re-election in November to another four-year term.

**The State:** Crangle: For Haley, it's a great pay-to-play day  
<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article66697037.html>  
Letter

Gov. Nikki Haley is expected to use money for "It's a Great Day SC," a new \$1.5 million leadership PAC, to fight the reelection of Sen. Hugh Leatherman because she thinks he is blocking the ethics reform bill — which happens to ban leadership PACs. She also might use some of the money against Rep. Stephen Goldfinch because he did not want to cut the state income tax enough for her rich campaign donors. The ethics bill that Haley blames Leatherman for stopping, H.3184, proposes to codify the Senate and House bans on leadership PACs and extend the ban to the executive branch and local officials. If adopted, it would outlaw Great Day SC. The reason the Senate and House banned leadership PACs and the ethics bill would put that ban in state law is that they are a brazen abuse of public office, a pay-to-play scheme to entice and coerce special-interest groups to give money to officials' political slush funds to be handed out to cronies and used to attack enemies.

**Post and Courier:** Citadel cadets ask Gov. Nikki Haley for help in loosening gun rules on campus  
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160317/PC1603/160319465>  
Schuyler Kropf

What was billed as a leadership speech by Gov. Nikki Haley at The Citadel quickly turned into a platform for cadets who want to keep guns in their cars. A school senior went right to the top Thursday, asking Haley to help change the campus policy that prohibits cadets with concealed-weapons permits from storing guns in their vehicles. The issue surfaced during a question-and-answer portion of the governor's address. Cadet Austin Lee took to the microphone and told Haley that more than 1,100 students had signed a petition supporting the shift. According to Lee, Citadel policy conflicted with the state's permissible carry law. Haley, meanwhile, seemingly sided with the cadets. "State law does allow you to carry your firearm," she told them.

**WCSC:** Haley talks leadership, courage in vulnerable speech to Citadel  
<http://www.live5news.com/story/31498657/haley-talks-leadership-courage-in-vulnerable-speech-to-citadel>

Aaron Maybin

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley revealed some of her most vulnerable leadership moments of 2015 Thursday morning. 2015 brought two very public shootings, the first, of motorist Walter Scott in April and the second, of nine parishioners at Mother Emanuel AME Church in June; as well as a thousand year flood in October. Each one tested the governor. "South Carolina didn't show one time. They didn't show two times. They showed three times what the heart and soul of this state looks like," she said at The Citadel's annual Principled Leadership Symposium.

**WCIV:** Charleston County Council backs governor's budget request

<http://abcnews4.com/news/local/charleston-county-council-backs-governors-budget-request>

Brodie Hart

\$40 million. That's how much Gov. Nikki Haley requested the state allocate to renourish South Carolina's beaches. "I love our beach. I want to keep it beautiful," said Lauren Silver, who lives a block off the beach on Sullivan's Island. "I like to walk my dog on the beach every morning. He makes me get up and take him for a walk on the beach." The Charleston County Council threw its support behind Haley's budget request at a meeting Wednesday. The council also included a request asking that \$300,000 of the \$40 million be used to assess the impact of coastal tourism on the state's economy.

### **S.C. General Assembly News:**

**Greenville News:** Upstate senator complains of group's ethics bill campaign

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/03/17/upstate-senator-complains-groups-ethics-bill-campaign/81913110/>

Tim Smith

Senate Judiciary Committee Larry Martin of Pickens says a group's campaign against a pending ethics bill has gone too far. Martin told the Senate Thursday that the same group and tactics used to defeat any increase in the gas tax are being used by the group to attack a pending ethics bill dealing with income disclosure by lawmakers and who would investigate ethics complaints against them. The bill is the latest version of ethics reform, an issue that Gov. Nikki Haley and GOP legislative leaders say they want enacted but which has failed to pass in years of attempts.

**Post and Courier:** Bill aimed at protecting unborn children advances from Senate panel

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160317/PC1603/160319436>

Cynthia Roldan

A Senate panel advanced a bill that would let voters decide whether the state should protect unborn children once they are conceived. The measure calls for putting up to a popular vote whether the state's constitution should be amended to extend the protection of the residents of South Carolina to "preborn persons beginning at conception." Its author, Sen. Lee Bright, R-Roebuck, said he was pleased with the bill's advancement but acknowledged that it would likely face a difficult path toward enactment. The Senate has two bills set in priority slots that prevent the chamber from debating other measures, and both are taken up by bills that are expected to trigger filibusters — one already has.

**Post and Courier:** Lawmakers take the weekend to work on bill that would register, track refugees

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160317/PC1603/160319441>

Maya T. Prabhu

Democratic and Republican senators plan to use the weekend to work out a compromise to a bill that would make it illegal for state or local funds to be spent on refugees placed in South Carolina. Sen. Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg, proposed several amendments to the bill that would allow state money to be spent on essential services, such as educating a child or transporting a car crash victim to a local hospital. Sen. Kevin Bryant, R-Anderson, said he believes there is room to compromise in allowing some state money to be spent on services, as long as it didn't include benefits like food stamps or Medicaid. The Senate will reconvene at noon Tuesday to resume debate.

**WIS:** Lawmakers expect vote on refugee bill next week

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31497478/lawmakers-expect-vote-on-refugee-bill-next-week>

Jeremy Turnage

The debate over refugees in the Palmetto State may cool off over the weekend with lawmakers expecting a vote on the bill by next week. The debate on the refugee bill was short, and at times seemed as though it would end before it even really began. But in that hour of debate, Democratic lawmakers worked not to stop the proposal, but instead search for areas of common ground where they could work on what concerned them about the bill with three parts, requiring refugees to register with the Department of Social Services, security checks from SLED, and a stipulation that no state money be spent on any refugees. The bill has 35 amendments tacked on, but lawmakers say they'll get through them all next week before furlough.

**WACH:** Feds call South Carolina Senate refugee bill 'illegal'

<http://wach.com/news/local/feds-call-senate-refugee-bill-illegal>

Tara Petitt

A letter from the Federal Government is warning South Carolina's Department of Employment and Workforce that a refugee bill making its way through the Senate would break federal law and put businesses at risk. Some lawmakers say this could potentially kill the whole bill. Well-placed sources say the refugee measure is just asking to get hit with a federal lawsuit. According to federal law, any person who is in the United States legally, refugee or not, has a right to certain things, and sources say this bill breaks the law. The Senate continues debate next week. The letter from the Department of Labor has yet to be discussed on the senate floor. The Feds are requesting a response from the Department of Employment and Workforce.

**WIS:** House of Representatives chooses to talk about budget before roads bill

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31500416/house-of-representatives-chooses-to-talk-about-budget-before-roads-bill>

Warren Stocker

South Carolina Representatives passed up their first opportunity to discuss the roads bill Thursday—opting to wait until after tackling the budget. But one lawmaker said there's a reason why they need to deal with the budget first. The House won't take up the changes the Senate made to the roads bill until April and the reason all has to do with the money going to roads. Representative Gary Simrill, who wrote the initial House bill that was sent over to the Senate in 2015, said the gas tax question is completely off the table at this point.

**WLTX:** Roads Debate Held Until After Budget Debate

<http://www.wltx.com/sports/local/roads-debate-held-until-after-budget-debate/87126515>

The Senate-amended roads bill went back to the House last week, but debates will be held off until after the House's budget talks next week. Republican leaders in the House said they plan on amending the Senate's amendment, which would then send the bill to a conference committee. That committee, made up of 3 members from both chambers, would have to reach a compromise before bringing it back to their chambers. Sources close to negotiations said unless a compromise is reached in that 6-member committee, it could be the end of the roads bill, taking them back to square one.

**WLTX:** Survivor: "I Was Raped, And Beaten And Tortured"

<http://www.wltx.com/news/politics/survivor-i-was-raped-and-beaten-and-tortured/87135500>

Chuck Ringwalt

In an effort to combat sexual abuse, state officials announced their support for "Alicia's Law" Thursday. In an effort to fight internet sexual abuse and prevent children from falling into these traps, Representative Tommy Pope announced his support of "Alicia's Law". Pope introduced the bill with the support of the Attorney General's office and other agencies. "What the bill today was doing was

trying to find a funding mechanism that could be a long term solution," Pope said. The law would take six percent from the fines and fees one would pay for committing a crime. "That money would be designated to either training or hiring additional officers or equipment. The things you would need to fight these crimes," he said.

**Note:** Pope said he hopes the bill will be on the Governor's desk by June.

### **S.C. Politics News:**

**Associated Press:** Delegation learning civil rights lessons in South Carolina

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

Meg Kinnard

Civil rights movement veterans and U.S. Reps. Jim Clyburn and John Lewis will lead more than two 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. Organizers hope the Pilgrimage to South Carolina that starts Friday will be an exercise in forgiveness and strength in a state whose reaction to last summer's violence at Emanuel AME Church has been held out by some as a model of how to handle racially charged situations.

**Times and Democrat:** Congress members to visit Orangeburg

[http://thetandd.com/news/local/article\\_c54a4a34-3c7f-58ba-b84b-1cb48fdbcee9.html](http://thetandd.com/news/local/article_c54a4a34-3c7f-58ba-b84b-1cb48fdbcee9.html)

A delegation of up to three dozen members of Congress will visit Orangeburg today as part of a three-day pilgrimage. The Faith and Politics Institute is leading a bipartisan Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage to South Carolina this weekend. The participating congressional members taking part in the journey will explore the unique role of faith and the civil rights history of South Carolina. While touring Orangeburg on Friday, the delegation will stop at South Carolina State University and Claflin University.

### **Opinion/Editorial:**

**Post and Courier:** Combat opioid addiction in S.C.

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160318/PC1002/160319420>

Letter

The U.S. Senate just passed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. This legislation would give states more resources to combat heroin and opioid (painkiller) addiction, but that won't happen unless the House of Representatives also approves the act. The U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services will send \$1.1 million to health centers in South Carolina to fight opioid addiction. But, inexplicably, none of that money will come to the Charleston-based Fetter Health Care Network. A bill (H.3091), now stuck in the South Carolina House Judiciary Committee, would offer limited amnesty to drug users who call 911 when they see someone who has overdosed on heroin, opioids or alcohol. The bill's provisions are limited and complicated, but it's a start at trying to save lives when minutes count.

**Post and Courier:** Call out legislators who won't fix S.C. roads

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160318/PC1002/160319421>

Letter

So far our S.C. legislators have failed to approve a gas tax to improve our roads. It's time we take note of those folks in Columbia who are choosing to do nothing about our roads. They are more concerned about getting re-elected than about repairing and expanding our roads. We need new folks in Columbia. Please make note of these knuckleheads and vote for folks who will be brave enough to get the money needed to take care of our roads.

**The State:** Maxwell: Student debt is a racial-justice issue

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/op-ed/article66696622.html#storylink=apmobile>

Opinion

We all know student debt is a problem. The 43 million Americans who have student loan debt know it, their family and friends know it, and the millions more who feel the weight of \$1.3 trillion in student loan debt on the economy know it. What most people don't know is that this debt disproportionately impacts communities of color, and middle-class African-American and Latino families in particular.

**Aiken Standard:** Transparency is a requirement not a favor

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160318/AIK0201/160319486>

Editorial

Transparency should be the first order of business with any elected official. From the smallest town council to Congress, the first order of business should be transparency, not dirty-glass transparent, but as crystal clear as your grandma's living room window transparent. Elected officials often forget that the public are their customers. They serve us. They use our money to conduct our business.

**Post and Courier:** GOP should think before blocking Merrick Garland

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160318/PC1002/160319413>

Opinion

If Senate Republicans make good on their threat to refuse to approve any nominee, the chances are that the vacancy will be filled by President Hillary Clinton and confirmed by a Democratic Senate, right after the caucus votes to abolish the filibuster. That's all that should matter. There's been a lot of talk that the Senate has a constitutional obligation to hold a hearing and a vote on whatever nominee the President sends up. My own view as a constitutional scholar is that this is nonsense. In the system of balanced and separated powers, the Senate is involved in a constant struggle to assert its own prerogatives. It can vote or refuse to vote whenever and however it pleases.

**South Carolina News:**

**Island Packet:** Marines release fascinating Korean 'D-Day' exercise video

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/nation-world/article66784482.html>

Johnny Woodard

The U.S. Marine Corps released fascinating video this week from recent joint amphibious exercises with South Korea. News of the March 12 beach landing drills, called "Ssangyong" (twin dragons), prompted threats of a "preemptive nuclear attack" from North Korean state media. American and Korean forces were joined in the amphibious assault drills by members of the New Zealand and Australian armies, according to the video. Featuring 12,200 U.S. troops and 5,000 Korean soldiers, the drills at the southeastern Korean port of Phoang are the largest ever involving the two nations, according to a South Korean defense ministry spokesman.

**Aiken Standard:** MOX receives highest overall rating for sixth consecutive year

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160317/AIK0101/160319466>

For the sixth consecutive year, the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility achieved the highest rating from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The commission's most recent annual performance review of the MOX facility, which is under construction at the Savannah River Site, covers the 2015 calendar year and shows the project continues meeting the commission's highest standards with no negative performance issues identified.

**The State:** Water systems allowed to avoid lead testing for years

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article66809992.html#storylink=apmobile>

Sammy Fretwell

State regulators have allowed at least 20 water systems to avoid lead pollution testing for up to nine years under a law officials now say is too lenient amid growing concerns about exposure to lead, a toxic metal that can cause brain damage in children. While not all of the systems waited the full nine

years, DHEC officials said this week they no longer will allow water providers that flexibility. The department plans to require lead tests at least every three years for all small water systems and annually for schools, colleges and universities with their own water systems, said Baize, an assistant water bureau chief at DHEC.

**The State:** One-star general to become Fort Jackson commander

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/military/article66772172.html>

The Army's largest training installation is getting a one-star general as its new leader less than a year after its present commander took over. The Department of Defense has announced that Army Brig. Gen. John P. Johnson has been assigned as Fort Jackson's commander. Johnson serves as director of training for the Army's deputy chief of staff. Johnson has held combat posts in Iraq and Afghanistan and as deputy commander with the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii. The announcement was made on Tuesday.

**Post and Courier:** Cargo volumes back on the rise at Port of Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160317/PC05/160319430>

David Wren

The amount of containerized cargo passing through the Port of Charleston rebounded in February, after seven consecutive months of declining volumes. A total of 88,643 cargo containers moved through the port in February — a 2.8 percent increase over the same month last year and a 20.2 percent jump over the 2014 figure. For the fiscal year, which started July 1, containerized cargo volumes have risen 3 percent over the same period a year ago. That is about twice the projected growth rate for ports worldwide. The increase was reassuring for members of the State Ports Authority's board of directors, who said last month they were concerned about continuing cargo declines.

**Post and Courier:** Charleston airport unveils plans for Emanuel shootings memorial

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160317/PC05/160319438>

Warren L. Wise

The Charleston County Aviation Authority board on Thursday unveiled plans for a memorial just inside the terminal of the state's busiest airport. The more-than-\$175,000 project next to the rotunda will feature stained glass with the names of victims and survivors etched in, a round table with a Bible open to the Scripture being read when the shootings occurred, photographs of the historic downtown church and a seating area. The site of the planned memorial is outside of the terminal's passengers-only area. It was selected to allow the general public and travelers to visit.

**WIS:** State educators discuss ways to transform SC's public education system

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31500314/state-educators-discuss-ways-to-transform-scs-public-education-system>

Billie Jean Shaw

On Thursday more than 500 educators across the state met to discuss innovative ways to keep students engaged. The event was spearheaded by Transform SC, an organization made up of business leaders, educators and students who all have one goal: making sure students graduate. At the event, educators attended workshops which focused on launching active and innovative ways to get students hyped about learning. Three new schools also joined the organization, one of them being Lexington Elementary School.

**WMBF:** National survey shows needed health improvements in SC

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/31492326/national-survey-shows-needed-health-improvements-in-sc>

Meredith Helline

A nationwide study was released Wednesday comparing health differences on a broad range of measures among almost every county throughout the country, according to [countyhealthrankings.org](http://countyhealthrankings.org).

The county health study reviewed and compared statistics reported by South Carolina to provide you with a better sense of your county's health trends. What it found was dramatic differences between rural and urban counties.

### **Local News:**

**The State:** Richland County K-9 handler recognized for dedicated service

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article66765592.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

When Warren Cavanagh met Kevin Hoover in Irmo, it was a case of juvenile delinquent meets cop. Now, the two are close friends, and fellow police dog handlers at the Richland County Sheriff's Department, where Hoover supervises the K-9 unit. So when it came time to nominate Hoover for an award from Gov. Nikki Haley for dedicated service to the community, Cavanagh was the one who wrote the letter. The sheriff's department surprised Hoover with the award Thursday morning in the presence of his family and his fellow deputies.

**The State:** Candidate filings in Richland and Lexington counties Thursday

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article66756237.html>

These candidates have filed for elected office in Richland and Lexington counties. Filing opened Wednesday and will close March 30. Those who filed Thursday are marked by an asterisk. Incumbents are marked by an (i)....

**Independent Mail:** Political Pulse: More candidates file for office

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/political-pulse-more-candidates-file-for-office-2e4578e6-018a-7e9d-e053-0100007f63d9-372496521.html>

Nine more candidates from Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties filed Thursday to seek office, including a second challenger in the South Carolina House of Representatives District 8 race. Thursday was the second day of the two-week candidate filing period, which closes at noon March 30.

**Independent Mail:** Crowder says he won't seek re-election

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/crowder-says-he-wont-seek-re-election-2e43c00b-2c23-6200-e053-0100007f4590-372452751.html>

Nikie Mayo

Francis Crowder, who has served on the Anderson County Council for six years, said Thursday that he will not seek re-election. In his time on the council, Crowder, 82, has become one of its most powerful members, taking turns as its chairman and as the head of the finance committee, which scrutinizes every expenditure of \$5,000 or more. He is the representative of council District 1, which encompasses the city of Anderson. In an interview Thursday, Crowder said that he had spent a lot of time praying before coming to a decision. He said he plans to do more at Concord Baptist Church, where he is a Sunday school teacher. Explaining why he has decided to leave office after his term ends in December, he paraphrased Ecclesiastes 3 from the Bible.

**Herald-Journal:** Former magistrate to run for Union sheriff

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160317/articles/160319712>

Allison M. Roberts

Jeff Bailey recently entered the race for Union County sheriff, but said he's been planning a run for two years. "I decided in August 2014 to run for sheriff," Bailey said. "I just had to wait until it was time to file." Bailey, a former magistrate judge in Union County and former probation and parole officer, said there are three areas that are priorities for him.

**Post and Courier:** Mayor T: Tent city relocation more about helping people than anything else

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160318/PC16/160319461>

Brian Hicks

More than half of the 115 people who were living under the Interstate 26 overpass have moved on — some into apartments or other housing, the rest are in temporary shelters. By sometime next month, everyone should be out. That won't be the end of it, of course. A lot of people still need to find affordable, permanent housing. Some of the chronically homeless need help, need jobs, need mental health treatment. We have not solved the problem of homelessness. But the public safety and health crisis of Tent City, if you can call it that, will be over.

**Aiken Standard:** Aiken school district appoints three new school leaders

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160317/AIK0101/160319455>

Hammond Hill Elementary, Leavelle McCampbell Middle and the Center of Innovative Learning at Pinecrest will have new educational leaders next school year. Following an executive session to discuss personnel appointments and other issues at a special-called meeting to hear 2016-17 budget information Tuesday, members of the Aiken County Board of Education approved interview committee recommendations for Eric Jeffcoat to become principal of Hammond Hill Elementary, Michelle Padgett to lead Leavelle McCampbell Middle and Mark Dugar to transition as director of the Center of Innovative Learning at Pinecrest.

**Post and Courier:** Audit: School district lost control of its budget

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160317/PC16/160319437>

Paul Bowers

Out-of-control overtime payments and a “lack of basic budgetary control” helped create the Charleston County School District’s disastrous \$18.9 million budget shortfall last school year, according to a financial report commissioned by the district. Teachers and students are about to feel the consequences of financial quagmires that were several years in the making. Seeking to avoid another budget meltdown, the school board voted Monday to increase classroom sizes in most grades, cutting 117 of 2,014 general-education teaching positions to save \$7.35 million this fall. With a goal of cutting \$19 million from next year’s budget, the board is pondering other drastic measures including firing literacy specialists, closing small schools and forcing families to pay for transportation to magnet schools.

**Greenville News:** New details in GHS budget crunch

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/03/17/new-details-ghs-budget-crunch/81917560/>

Liv Osby

Both clinical and administrative positions across Greenville Health System’s network will be targeted as the hospital moves to close a \$16 million shortfall. GHS, which has about 15,000 employees at its eight campuses and 175 outpatient practices, said Tuesday that it plans to eliminate about 410 positions and reduce its capital budget by \$39 million to make up for the loss, which occurred during the first quarter of the fiscal year. Doug Dorman, vice president of human resources, said that while plans haven’t been finalized yet, the hospital will work to minimize the impact of the job cuts on clinical care. But since about half could come through attrition and a voluntary incentive exit program, he doesn’t know just how many positions will be impacted or in which areas.

**WLOS:** Ushers Machine & Tool Co. expansion to bring \$12.5 million investment to Greenville

<http://wlos.com/news/local/ushers-machine-tool-co-expansion-to-bring-125-million-investment-to-greenville>

Jennifer Saylor

Ushers Machine and Tool Co., Inc. is expanding its existing operations in Greenville County. The project will bring approximately \$12.5 million in investment and create 50 new jobs in the Upstate. Established in 1946, Ushers provides original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) with parts and services for power generation land-based gas turbines. With a long history of exceptional customer service, employee excellence and utilization of leading-edge technologies in precision machining, Ushers has seen impressive growth in recent years.

**WIS:** Work continues for new amphitheater coming to Lexington

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31499773/work-continues-for-new-amphitheater-coming-to-lexington>

Mike DeSumma

Work is underway on a project that will bring a new look to downtown Lexington. Crews are already busy laying a foundation for a new 900-seat amphitheater at Church and East Main Street. It's called Project Ice House. They're hoping to use the theater to host community shows and events. The site will also include two other buildings which will house space for restaurants, retail shopping and offices.

**WLTX:** Winnsboro Residents and Business Owners Working to Revitalize Downtown

<http://www.wltx.com/sports/local/winnsboro-residents-and-business-owners-working-to-revitalize-downtown/87223354>

Janae Frazier

With Walmart gone, folks in Winnsboro are working together to get more businesses in the area. According to Fairfield County Administrator Milton Pope, the county council has set aside \$100,000 to help attract entrepreneurs. Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce's Terry Vickers said Walmart gave \$30,000 to the Fairfield Community Development Corporation. The development organization is using that money to recruit businesses and to possibly get grants to revitalize downtown Winnsboro.

**Aiken Standard:** Developer looking to bring residential units to Seminole Mill site

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160317/AIK0101/160319472>

Christina Cleveland

Brian South, a developer with South Company's real estate division, provided a presentation about the proposed project to members of Aiken County Council during a committee meeting on Tuesday. The real estate division of the company is pursuing a contract to purchase a 15-acre portion of the 25-acre site to be developed into a combination of homes, townhouses and condominium rental units called Wellspring at Clearwater, according to South's presentation. The remaining 10 acres would be retained by the County and dedicated to public open green space for Clearwater Park, a "passive, low impact" park with a walking trail and exercise stations to connect Harrison Caver Park with the neighborhood, it states.

**Aiken Standard:** Aiken Training Track 'headed in the right direction,' says president

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160317/AIK0101/160319449>

Dede Biles

The Aiken Training Track hasn't bounced back completely from the loss of its biggest stable last year, but the facility's president is optimistic about its future. "The Training Track is headed in the right direction," said Brad Stauffer on Wednesday. "It's going to go on." Based on Stauffer's calculations, the Training Track needed to attract 100 horses during the 2015-16 winter training season to be able to pay its bills and it ended up getting 115.

**Independent Mail:** Anderson housing market gets boost from rising employment, falling gas prices

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/anderson-housing-market-gets-boost-from-rising-employment-falling-gas-prices-2e43d4c0-ae50-2384-e053-372497811.html>

Abe Hardesty

Von Nessen said 2015 "was by far the best year yet" for what he described as "strong, broad-based, statewide" employment growth — the best indicator for real estate prospects. "South Carolina is gaining momentum, and that's fairly unique. It was way ahead of the national average in all economic indicators until the October floods," Von Nessen said. General economic growth in the Greenville-Anderson area rose by 3.3 percent in 2015, well ahead of the state pace of 2.7 percent, Von Nessen said. In South Carolina, only the Charleston and Hilton Head areas grew faster. The Upstate has also enjoyed the fastest per capita income growth since 2013, he said.

**Times and Democrat:** Streets closed after cannonballs found

[http://thetandd.com/news/local/article\\_50bbb80c-2ffc-595d-824a-b0c5a5cfd5cd.html](http://thetandd.com/news/local/article_50bbb80c-2ffc-595d-824a-b0c5a5cfd5cd.html)

Martha Rose Brown

Borowsky and his crew of two discovered eight cannonballs in a crawl space of the home at 1080 Peake Street in Holly Hill around 10:45 a.m. Thursday. By 11 a.m., law enforcement and firefighters were on the scene. Borowsky and two others removed the cannon balls, which he described as “about the size of somewhere between a baseball and a softball,” and set them on nearby steps.

**Sun News:** No body parts found in seemingly bloody box marked ‘human remains’

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article66610712.html>

Elizabeth Townsend

Weeks shy of April Fool’s Day, a seemingly bloody box marked “human remains” was found in Horry County Thursday morning but contained only a tomato and onion. Police say it’s likely a hoax and likely will not investigate further. Multiple bright labels with the words “medical shipment” and “handle with extreme care” were stamped all over the box and red smears that looked like blood were also on the cardboard container found about 8 a.m. Thursday in the area of Palmetto Pointe Boulevard and Cape Landing Circle in Horry County. The red fluid on the outside of the box was not blood.

**The State:** Owner, publisher of Free Times dead at 67

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article66664352.html>

Avery G. Wilks and Sarah Ellis

The 67-year-old owner and publisher of the Free Times alternative weekly newspaper in Columbia was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head in an Augusta, Ga., hotel Wednesday afternoon. Charles Nutt, of Elgin, was pronounced dead at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Richmond County Coroner Mark Bowen confirmed. Nutt was found in the bathroom of a hotel room at the Fairfield Inn & Suites in Augusta.

## **National News:**

**Associated Press:** N. Korea fires ballistic missile into sea, ignoring UN ban

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:a0456461df09430bb5e2df15cb4219e2>

Hyung-Jin Kim and Kim Tong-Hyung

North Korea ignored U.N. resolutions by firing a medium-range ballistic missile into the sea on Friday, Seoul and Washington officials said, days after its leader Kim Jong Un ordered weapons tests linked to its pursuit of a long-range nuclear missile capable of reaching the U.S. mainland. South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that the missile fired from a site north of Pyongyang flew about 800 kilometers (500 miles) before crashing off the North’s east coast. It was the first medium-range missile launched by the North since it fired two in April 2014, said a South Korean defense official, requesting anonymity citing department rules. The launch came as North Korea condemned ongoing annual South Korean-U.S. military drills that it sees as an invasion rehearsal. The two sets of drills are the largest ever, in response to the North’s nuclear test and long-range rocket launch earlier this year.

**Associated Press:** Garland meets Dems, Senate recesses, groups amp up pressure

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:d95813db73c1408a97542cbda8fe39ea>

Alan Fram and Kathleen Hennessey

Merrick Garland has met with two supportive Senate Democratic leaders and spoken by phone to more of his Republican opponents. But he’s moved no closer to weakening the GOP barricade against changing his status from Supreme Court nominee to justice. President Barack Obama’s pick to fill the late Antonin Scalia’s seat made his first courtesy calls on Capitol Hill Thursday, receiving predictably favorable reviews from Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid and Sen. Patrick Leahy, top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee. Yet if anything, GOP leaders dug in even further against considering his nomination, and senators left town for a two-week recess.

**Associated Press:** Bangladesh Bank heist shows weak spots in finance safeguards

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:00bc44bf9764416a8b69e52dcccba7f7>

Teresa Cerrojano

The laundering through the Philippines of \$81 million stolen by hackers from a U.S. Federal Reserve account is adding to pressures on the Southeast Asian country to fix loopholes in its financial regime. It also highlights a potential pitfall in global anti-money laundering efforts, which in the case of the Philippines has focused more on vanquishing terrorist financing than on preventing misuse of the financial system by banks and casinos. The disclosure of the theft from an account of the Bangladesh central bank at the New York Fed, has given such issues fresh traction, with a front-runner for the May presidential election, Senator Grace Poe calling for a change to the Philippines' stringent bank secrecy law.

**Associated Press:** With lack of maintenance, DC subway system loses its luster

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:295fc161eb0f460081d6fa6fcb58ea78>

Ben Nuckols

The closure of the subways in the nation's capital in the middle of the workweek to inspect and repair power cables that could otherwise burst into flames was just the latest symptom of a lengthy decline for the Metro system, once a source of regional pride. Metro, which reopened Thursday morning after emergency repairs, is now known for broken escalators, frequent delays, an acrid smell in the stations and aging railcars with carpets caked in decades of grime. The system's board chairman, Jack Evans, says walking into the stations is like entering a "dungeon." "I am caught in a bind," said Evans, a D.C. Council member who became the Metro board chairman in January. "I have jurisdictions who won't pay more money, I have people who ride the system who don't want to pay higher fares, and I have labor who want to be paid more wages."

**Associated Press:** Trump intermingling business with politics as he campaigns

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:4443ca53122c461aa418ce2e52123dbf>

Jill Colvin

As he crisscrosses the country delivering speeches at rallies and calling into cable news shows, Trump's business ventures are never far from his mind and have been playing an increasingly prominent role in his campaign. In recent weeks, Trump has held election night parties at three of his Florida properties: golf clubs in Jupiter and West Palm Beach, Florida, and twice at his sprawling Mar-a-Lago club nearby. Each evening, members of Trump's clubs have been invited to observe the festivities, followed or preceded by lavish dinners or cocktail parties. Reporters have also been invited to transmit images of Trump's particular brand of opulence to the world.

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