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To:
Date: 3/7/2016 8:21:04 AM
Subject: Morning Clips - Monday, March 7, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

McClatchy DC: S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley zings 2016 race and Donald Trump at Gridiron Dinner
<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/election/article64412912.html>

Vera Bergengruen

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley poked fun at the chaotic 2016 presidential election, Donald Trump, and herself as the featured Republican speaker at Saturday night's annual Gridiron dinner in Washington, D.C. Haley and the Democratic speakers, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro and Rep. Joaquin Castro, D-Texas, were serenaded with songs that teased them for being vice presidential wannabees on their respective tickets. Haley found the humor in the state of her party, which is in the midst of a panicked scramble to stop Trump from being the Republican nominee.

Greenville News: 'Pay For Success' will help state families

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/contributors/2016/03/07/pay-success-help-state-families/81272334/>

Joe Waters and Megan Golden

Pay for Success Financing holds great promise to improve child health outcomes.

Recently, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Director Christian Soura announced the nation's first Pay for Success project aimed at improving health outcomes for mothers and children living in poverty, and the first Pay for Success project of any type in the South.

Nancy Reagan News:

The State: Former first lady Nancy Reagan dies at age 94

<http://www.thestate.com/news/nation-world/article64405437.html>

William Douglas

Nancy Reagan, a movie actress who assumed the role of a lifetime in the White House as one of the most influential and controversial first ladies in American history, has died, it was announced Sunday. She was 94. The former first lady died at her home in the Bel-Air section of Los Angeles of congestive heart failure, assistant Allison Borio told The Associated Press. "Mrs. Reagan will be buried at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California, next to her husband, Ronald Wilson Reagan, who died on June 5, 2004," a statement from Reagan's office said.

TIME: Tributes Pour In For Former First Lady Nancy Reagan

<http://time.com/4248896/nancy-reagan-dies-tributes/>

Melissa Chan

Touching tributes have been pouring in from mourners honoring former First Lady Nancy Reagan, who died Sunday from congestive heart failure. The 94-year-old wife of President Ronald Reagan was remembered for her deep love for her husband as well as for her legacy that included devoting her service to drug education and the prevention of drug abuse among young people.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley, "Nancy Reagan inspired us with strength & grace & we can all take comfort that she is with her sweet Ronnie again."

Associated Press: Reaction to death of former first lady Nancy Reagan at 94

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:37cc70110d3e4ca0b59ec101f350c221>

Here's how U.S. and world political leaders are reacting to the death of former U.S. first lady Nancy Reagan:

"Today our nation mourns the loss of Nancy Reagan, a true example of integrity and grace. My prayers are with the entire Reagan family." — Marco Rubio, Republican presidential candidate and U.S. senator from Florida.

Associated Press: Nancy Reagan remembered for her forceful, private style

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:e5f6c216941e438a84ae11c17ef3943a>

Hillel Italie

Unlike other presidential wives, Nancy Reagan didn't testify before Congress about health care, celebrate controversial Supreme Court decisions or sit in on Cabinet meetings. "She never emerged as a political player in her own right. Nor did she seek to," says historian David Greenberg, the author of "Republic of Spin: An Inside History of the American Presidency." "On the other hand, neither did she confine herself to the domestic sphere. And by taking an active role in her husband's business, she helped to reconcile conservatism to the reality of women's changing roles. Her views may have been conservative, but her political involvement implied that it wasn't improper for women to participate in what conservatives considered the man's sphere."

S.C. General Assembly News:

The State: Controversial bill proposed to get stalled SC executions back on track

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article64471007.html>

John Monk

South Carolina, known as a tough-on-crime state, cannot put a condemned inmate to death nowadays – unless that inmate agrees to be executed using the electric chair. And the chances are slim to none that a death row inmate will choose the electric chair. And for now, lethal injections aren't possible. That's because under state law, the DOC must use fresh drugs when executing killers. But all the expiration dates have passed on the toxic drugs the department uses to execute the condemned. And there's no easy way of getting new drugs. Drug companies are refusing to sell the state those chemicals. A bill proposed in the General Assembly could help get executions back on track, advocates say. But like the death penalty itself, it is not without controversy.

Note: Stirling calls the proposed law now in the Senate that would keep secret the identity of a company that sells lethal injection drugs to South Carolina a "shield" law.

Note: Stirling said, "It's not my job to be either for or against the death penalty. I am simply the conduit to carry out the court's order."

Times and Democrat: Flood-ravaged farmers hoping state aid comes in time to plant

http://thetandd.com/news/article_ae924b53-1326-56b7-a11d-9713a635993d.html

Gene Zaleski

The October floods submerged many fields in The T&D Region, damaging crops and preventing farmers from harvesting their produce. But some help may be on the way. The S.C. House Ways and Means Committee Feb. 11 unanimously approved legislation that would allow farmers to receive up to \$40 million in state aid to stay afloat. The entire House voted 95-6 to pass the bill Feb. 25. The legislation is now in the Senate. The bill would allow farmers to apply for grants of up to \$100,000 each. The grants could equal 20 percent of a farmer's total loss. Farmers have to prove they sustained a 40 percent loss, and the monies can only be used for direct crop inputs such as seeds, fertilizer and other expenses related to planting this year's crops.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley has said farmers shouldn't be treated differently than other flood-impacted businesses in South Carolina. She has said crop insurance should suffice, noting she's asked the federal government to expedite the insurance claims.

Post and Courier: Road costs creep faster than state funds

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160307/PC1603/160309720/1031/road-costs-creep-faster-than-state-funds>

Gavin Jackson

South Carolina's gas tax, the state's primary road repair cash source, has not been raised since 1987. And the purchasing power of a dollar has dropped by more than half. Failure to keep up with inflation while decades of lawmakers have dueled between increased tax rates and minimal maintenance has left an annual \$1.2 billion in needs, transportation officials say. State senators think they found a solution last week when Republicans rallied around a plan to use money from a growing budget — without resorting to a gas tax increase or other fees.

Note: That is one of the main problems behind the state's road woes. Gov. Nikki Haley says she is concerned about cost increases, although she did not get into specifics. "I was worried about that last year," Haley said about cost increases. "I expect them to move for the good of economic development, for the good of safety and for the good of moving South Carolina forward."

S.C. Political News:

Post and Courier: Lindsey Graham: 'I know what I'm getting with Ted Cruz'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160306/PC16/160309565>

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham told Meet The Press' Chuck Todd on Sunday that Texas Sen. Ted Cruz may be the only realistic option for Republicans who want to stop Donald Trump's march to the GOP nomination for president. "At the end of the day, I know what I'm getting with Ted Cruz," Graham said. "If Ted is the alternative to Trump, at least he's a conservative Republican." Graham said Sunday that the party cannot win in November with Trump, citing the GOP's "demographic death spiral."

Politico: Graham dislikes Cruz less than he dislikes Trump

<http://www.politico.com/story/2016/03/graham-dislikes-cruz-less-than-he-dislikes-trump-220326>

Louis Nelson

Asked by panelist David Brooks of The New York Times to outline Ted Cruz's accomplishments in the Senate, Graham answered that the Texas senator "basically made most people in the party believe that the reason we don't repeal Obamacare is because of me and Mitch McConnell." Still, forced to choose between Cruz and GOP front-runner Donald Trump, Graham was clear that the Texas firebrand is his pick, if only because Cruz checks the "conservative" box. "Ted is a conservative. He's more ideological than I am, but he is a Republican conservative and Donald Trump is not," Graham said. "If I had to support Ted Cruz over Donald Trump, I would because I think he is a Republican conservative, and he might could beat Hillary Clinton."

Post and Courier: Palmetto Politics: Conservative PAC says it will help defeat "liberal legislators"

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160307/PC1603/160309536>

Maya T. Prabhu

A conservative political action committee last week launched a website residents can use to oust a lawmaker he or she has determined to be too liberal. The S.C. Club for Growth PAC launched www.DefeatMyLiberalLegislator.com Friday — almost two weeks before filing for all 170 seats opens — and asks users to name which state legislator is "too liberal" and suggest a candidate for the spot instead.

SC Agency News:

Post and Courier: State agency underpaid its disabled employees, former worker states in lawsuit

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160307/PC16/160309723>

Lauren Sausser

A Charleston man is suing the S.C. Department of Vocational Rehabilitation for wrongful termination

after he raised concerns with his boss that the state agency was underpaying hundreds of disabled adults enrolled in a work training program. The U.S. Department of Labor determined in 2014 that South Carolina owed 548 adults in the Charleston area more than \$23,000 total. All of them suffered from physical or mental disabilities. Garry Conway, 51, who was diagnosed with brain tumors 10 years ago and manages his seizures with medication, lost his job as a training coordinator at the state agency on Dec. 5, 2013, after he repeatedly said that the disabled employees weren't being paid enough. Conway contends that some of the employees were earning as little as 66 cents an hour at the time. One week after Conway was fired, he tipped off the federal government with his concerns.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

The State: SC needs to regulate, hold dam owners responsible

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/op-ed/article64160982.html>

Letter

Members of the House Agricultural Subcommittee, we are told, gutted Speaker Jay Lucas' bill to strengthen South Carolina's dam-safety law because they didn't want to burden the owners of dams that fall under state regulation. South Carolina's citizens have shown great strength and resiliency in their collective response to the historic floods of October. It is now time for the Legislature to show its strength by overcoming the poorly conceived changes to this legislation approved by the House subcommittee. Our legislators must seize the opportunity this session to move South Carolina up from the bottom of the nation's dam-safety programs and better protect the people they were elected to represent.

Aiken Standard: Breaking the Senate roadblock

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160307/AIK0201/160309707>

Editorial

The state Senate finally ended the months-long impasse over road funding last Wednesday night, with meaningful governance reforms and additional money for improvements, but without a long overdue gas tax increase. The reforms, however, are substantive and should eventually pave the way for a better funding model for the cash-strapped agency. The Senate bill, given first reading on Wednesday, would have the governor, rather than the legislative delegations of highway districts, appoint members of the state highway commission. And it would provide needed oversight for the State Infrastructure Bank, which has been accurately described as "a shadow highway commission" with little accountability in its decision making.

Post and Courier: Rep. Clyburn scores for conservation votes

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160307/PC1002/160309551>

Letter

Rep. Clyburn earned a score of 83 percent on LCV's 2015 scorecard. He was the only member of our House delegation to support the crackdown on the trafficking of ivory that feeds the poaching of African elephants. He was also alone in supporting the president's historic authority to preserve historic and natural places as national monuments. And of special interest to communities in South Carolina, Rep. Clyburn was our only vote upholding the classification of toxic coal ash as hazardous.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Monday is deadline for submission of body camera rules in SC

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=33pYEuKU

The deadline (Monday) for South Carolina police agencies to submit rules for body cameras to the state's Law Enforcement Training Council is here. Each agency's policy must address issues such as who is required to wear a camera, when the camera should be activated and how long footage is stored. Policies should comply with minimum standards set by the training council. A spokeswoman

for the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy says the council has approved policies for between 150 and 175 agencies out of about 320 in the state. Maj. Florence McCants says the academy will help agencies that don't meet the deadline. Agencies are not required to purchase cameras until they have funding.

The State: SC law enforcement agencies approach deadline for body cam policies

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article64420022.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

Police in South Carolina are coming up fast on the Monday deadline to put together body-worn camera rules and submit them for approval to the state's Law Enforcement Training Council. The council set Monday's deadline after a decision by S.C. lawmakers in 2015, which required all state law enforcement agencies to implement body cams. Each agency's policy must address things such as who is required to wear a camera, when the camera should be activated and how long footage is stored. Policies should comply with minimum standards set by the Training Council.

Associated Press: State, federal officials mark start of Severe Weather Week

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=wldqHPx4

This week is Severe Weather and Flood Safety Week in South Carolina. State and federal officials are drawing attention to the dangers of severe thunderstorms, tornadoes and flooding during a Monday news conference at the State Emergency Operations Center in West Columbia. Those participating in the briefing include the state's adjutant general, the director of the state Emergency Management Division and forecasters from the National Weather Service for the briefing. On Wednesday, the National Weather Service is conducting its annual statewide tornado drill.

Local News:

Beaufort Gazette: Conroy funeral services may draw thousands

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article64433012.html>

Rebecca Lurye

Funeral services for celebrated Beaufort author Pat Conroy are expected to draw one of the largest gatherings of loved ones, friends and devotees the area has ever seen. Anderson Funeral Home, which is handling the arrangements, said it anticipates 1,500 to 2,000 people will attend both the visitation and funeral for Conroy, who died at age 70 on Friday, just about four weeks after he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Sun News: Fatal Garden City Beach fire leads to lawsuit against golf cart maker

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article64252737.html>

Charles D. Perry

The family of a Timmonsville couple who died in a Garden City Beach house fire in 2014 blames a defective golf cart for causing the disaster and is suing the cart's manufacturer and one of its parts suppliers, according to court records. The 71-page case was filed in federal court Feb. 25 against the cart maker, Club Car, LLC, of Evans, Georgia, and Curtis Instruments, Inc., a Mount Kisco, New York-based producer of motor controllers and other instruments for electric vehicles. "Obviously we're just beginning our investigation, but we remain concerned based on the tragic deaths," said Kevin Dean, a Mount Pleasant attorney representing the plaintiffs. "There is a serious electrical problem with certain [types] of these golf carts."

Greenville News: Fire reported at Oconee Nuclear Station

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/03/06/fire-reported-oconee-nuclear-station/81409432/>

Ron Barnett

A transformer burned for about 30 minutes Sunday afternoon at Oconee Nuclear Station, Oconee County Emergency Management said. No evacuations were necessary and there was no threat to

the public, officials said. The cause of the fire has not been determined, said Scott Batson, Oconee Nuclear site vice president. The transformer fire itself was classified as an "unusual event," the least serious type of accident at a nuclear facility.

Associated Press: Housing construction ban considered for parts of York County

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=9UN5goLJ

The Herald of Rock Hill reports (<http://bit.ly/1TjBAPv>) the proposal would ban the county from issuing any new housing plats in the Fort Mill and Bethel townships until the county sets criteria for how the development will affect public facilities such as roads and utilities. The proposal was made last month and comes in response to complaints about overdevelopment, traffic jams and crowded schools. No action is planned in the agenda for Monday's county council meeting, although several speakers have asked to address council on the proposal.

Associated Press: Santee Cooper, Conway discuss plans for smokestack site

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ji2zlcKp

Santee Cooper and Conway officials are discussing the future of the site of the former Grainger plant, which the city is interested in buying. The Sun News of Myrtle Beach reports (<http://bit.ly/24JNaHt>) Santee Cooper wants to convert the 12-acre property into an industrial site. City leaders are interested in buying the property for a recreational area, such as a park. For 50 years, the 300-foot smokestacks of the coal-fired Grainger Generating Station sat on the property. The smokestacks were destroyed last month. Pinson said two coal ash ponds will be gone by 2023.

The State: Builders press to reduce buffers on Lexington County streams, ponds

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article64471457.html>

Tim Flach

Builders are pressing Lexington County officials again to let homes, shops and offices be placed closer to many streams and ponds. They want to relax a ban on development within 100 feet of waterways, a standard adopted in 2008 to lessen pollution from erosion. The new push from builders for smaller buffers comes after county public works recommended sticking with the larger size to help meet clean water goals. Some County Council members see larger buffers as added protection from flood damage, particularly after several streams overflowed during record rain Oct. 4. The nine council members have the final say on any change. Builders can seek exemption from the buffer requirement on a case-by-case basis when terrain makes it impractical.

Post and Courier: Local law enforcement: Access to encrypted data not just the FBI vs. Apple

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160229/PC16/160229296>

Melissa Boughton

While much controversy has surrounded the FBI's attempts to get Apple to unlock an iPhone used by one of the San Bernardino attackers, the fight is not isolated. Lowcountry law enforcement agencies say that lack of access to locked phones is a serious problem they face every day. "The technology that we now use and take for granted provides some wonderful benefits but also provides the worst kind of criminals a method of hiding," said Charleston County Sheriff Al Cannon. Cannon said that without access to key evidence in criminal cases, authorities can lose out on finding suspects even in the most urgent, time-sensitive situations.

Post and Courier: YMCA fighting to remain in MLK district while other black organizations moving out

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160306/PC16/160309683>

Diane Knich

The YMCA at 61 Cannon St., which has faced tough times in recent years, is the oldest continuously operating YMCA developed for African-Americans in the country. And it wants to reinvent itself instead of closing or following other institutions out of the neighborhood, Harrison said. YMCA President Paul Stoney said it was local black residents and the black business district that for years

sustained the YMCA. "Now the demographics have changed and we need to change," he said.

Aiken Standard: Aiken officials strive to make hospitality tax expenditures 'transparent'

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160306/AIK0101/160309585>

Dan Brown

The hospitality tax survived a 4-3 repeal vote during Aiken City Council's Feb. 22 meeting and will continue to be a funding source for many of Aiken's capital improvement projects. The hospitality tax is a 1 percent tax on prepared meals and food, including beverages, in Aiken restaurants, grocery stores, delis and shops. Through February, \$110,972 has been collected, which is \$91,000 ahead of the \$100,000 per month budgeted, and well ahead of the \$1.2 million the City hopes to collect annually. To date \$891,338 in hospitality tax funds have been collected. "We've been very pleased with the funds the hospitality tax has generated," said City Manager John Klimm. "As you recall, we were very conservative in our estimates."

Times and Democrat: 'Tremendous asset' retiring from chamber

http://thetandd.com/news/local/article_97855c70-fd41-5511-9a86-0e0d99679ce6.html

Gene Zaleski

Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce President Dede Cook is retiring after two separate stints leading the organization. Cook will retire on May 26. Chamber Chairman Josh Ridley said, "Dede is a tremendous asset to this chamber and to Orangeburg County as a whole. "She's worked selflessly and tirelessly to carry out our mission and position Orangeburg for success on so many fronts."

National News:

Associated Press: Some in GOP start seeing Cruz as best alternative to Trump

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:c951f3ce70d44811b9a3b3188401d9d1>

Julie Pace

Republican leaders on Sunday grappled with the prospect that the best hope for stopping Donald Trump's march to the nomination may be Ted Cruz — the only candidate who causes as much heartburn among party elites as the billionaire businessman, if not sometimes more. The Texas senator split contests with Trump in Saturday's voting, bolstering his argument that only he can defeat the real estate mogul. Trump and Cruz are now significantly outpacing Marco Rubio in the delegate count, further shrinking the Florida senator's already narrow path to the nomination.

Note: "If Ted's the alternative to Trump, he's at least a Republican and conservative," South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham said. While Graham made sure to note that it's "not like I prefer Ted Cruz," he encouraged Rubio and Ohio Gov. John Kasich to "decide among themselves" whether they can be a realistic alternative to Trump.

Associated Press: Marco Rubio: A candidate still searching for a viable base

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:7f1669ca5354445d99eb3ed693faad74>

Bill Barrow

Marco Rubio finds his Oval Office ambitions squeezed by Donald Trump's outsider ambush and the Republican Party's resulting identity crisis. The Florida senator has struggled to reconnect with the kind of voters who sent him to Capitol Hill six years ago as a tea party favorite, instead watching them fuel Trump and his closest challenger to winning the GOP presidential nomination, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

Note: Rubio insists he feels "real good about the map as we move forward," telling the Associated Press in an interview late Sunday he believes voters across the GOP spectrum want "an optimistic message of conservatism," not just "anger and frustration."

Note: Rubio has campaigned with South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and former Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal. He lost both their states, registering just 11 percent on Jindal's home turf.

Associated Press: Possible Supreme Court pick championed black history museum

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:86458053805440489ed36906c922e854>

Jessica Gresko

Wilkins was instrumental in advocating for the National Museum of African American History and Culture, which is set to open in September, quitting his job as a public defender to push for it and later serving on a presidential commission whose work led to its creation. Now a judge on the powerful U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, Wilkins has credentials that would make him an attractive nominee to fill the Supreme Court seat of Justice Antonin Scalia, who died last month. A native of Muncie, Indiana, who was raised by a single mother, he graduated from Harvard Law School and spent a decade as a public defender in Washington.

Associated Press: North Korea again threatens nuke strikes on US, South Korea

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:ab7f41931a9c4e4ebd455dc1923a5c6c>

Foster Klug

North Korea on Monday issued its latest belligerent threat, warning of an indiscriminate "pre-emptive nuclear strike of justice" on Washington and Seoul, this time in reaction to the start of huge U.S.-South Korean military drills. Such threats have been a staple of young North Korean leader Kim Jong Un since he took power after his dictator father's death in December 2011. But they spike especially when Washington and Seoul stage what they call annual defensive springtime war games. Pyongyang says the drills, which started Monday and run through the end of April, are invasion rehearsals.

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