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Subject: Morning Clips - Wednesday, March 23, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Times and Democrat: Claflin honors governor

http://thetandd.com/news/local/claflin-honors-governor/article_423dddc1-e680-5564-a934-a8d304bf51fe.html

Princess B. Williams

Gov. Nikki Haley was presented with the First Lady's Visionary Award for her accomplishments during the First Lady's Hats and Gloves Scholarship Tea at Claflin University. An array of hats of all colors, shapes and sizes, decorated in feathers and bows, filled the Jonas T. Kennedy Health and Physical Education Center on Tuesday as women took their seats in their finest threads. Over the last 10 years, the scholarship tea has grown from 30 women to well over 480 women and men.

Note: Haley said she has amazing respect for Claflin University President Dr. Henry N. Tisdale and First Lady Tisdale. "There's no place that they will go that I won't follow," Haley said. Haley spoke of the courage of the 12 people who walked into Mother Emanuel on June 17 for a Bible study at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston.

Aiken Standard: Gov. Haley suggests 'someone' run against Chris Corley

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160322/AIK0101/160329769>

Maayan Schechter

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and House Rep. Chris Corley, R-Graniteville, let it all out on social media Tuesday after Haley called out House members for taking money "from the roads that need repair most to pay for local pet projects." "The House is about to take money from the roads that need repair most to pay for local pet projects like Hwy 51. Makes zero sense. Send it all to SCDOT," Haley posted to Facebook. Corley, who in the past hasn't shied away from controversy, responded to her Facebook post, first questioning where she received her posted information.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: House burns midnight oil to pass budget

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160323/PC1603/160329786>

Maya T. Prabhu

After 15 hours of amendments and debate, the South Carolina House voted 111-1 to give initial approval to the \$7.5 billion budget shortly before midnight Tuesday. "In my 18 years I've never had a budget process go so smooth," House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Hartsville, said just before the vote at 11:47 p.m. The vote came after just two days of discussion. Rep. Jonathan Hill, R-Townville, was the only vote against the budget. Members will reconvene 11 a.m. Wednesday to give the budget a perfunctory third reading before sending it to the Senate.

Post and Courier: House gives preliminary approval to \$7.5 billion state budget

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160322/PC1603/160329846>

Cynthia Roldan

South Carolina's House of Representatives gave preliminary approval to the state's roughly \$7.5 billion budget just before midnight on Tuesday, after running into delays when some legislators began pushing their own proposals.

Associated Press: House budget includes flood relief, road money

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=YkSPZ0ZS

Seanna Adcox

The South Carolina House has passed a budget that provides \$366 million for roadwork next fiscal year and spends nearly \$190 million on expenses related to last October's catastrophic floods. The House voted 111-1 around midnight Tuesday on a roughly \$7.5 billion spending plan for state taxes.

Associated Press: House votes to spend more to fix crumbling primary roads

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=sTSM6pfb

Seanna Adcox

The House voted late Tuesday to give the Department of Transportation a greater share of the \$415 million its budget plan designates for roads to focus on South Carolina's crumbling primary highways. The 84-23 vote came after DOT Secretary Christy Hall told legislators the state's major, non-interstate highways are in a "state of crisis." It means the House budget plan provides DOT an additional \$316 million for roadwork next fiscal year, plus \$49 million to cover emergency road repairs after last October's devastating floods.

Greenville News: House rejects gas tax hike, spends \$415 million on roads

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/03/22/dot-leader-asks-house-focus-primary-roads/82122242/>

Tim Smith

The House has defeated a proposal to increase the gas tax, reversing their vote of a year ago and agreeing to spend \$415 million toward road and bridge repairs in next year's budget. The 64-43 vote to defeat a gas tax proposal came late Tuesday night as the House prepared to give key approval to a \$7.5 billion General Fund budget.

Note: "A majority of South Carolina drivers and businesses depend upon local routes and highways for everyday use," House Speaker Jay Lucas said later in a statement. "More than half of these roads are in critical need of maintenance or repair. To address this problem, the House directed an overwhelming majority of the \$415 million towards our primary road system. We stand ready to work with Secretary Christy Hall so that we can keep South Carolina drivers safe and improve the condition of our deteriorating infrastructure."

The State: House OKs 2% pay hike for SC employees, nearly \$400 million for roads

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article67484857.html>

Cassie Cope

The S.C. House approved a 2 percent pay hike for state workers Tuesday as part of the \$7.5 billion general fund budget that takes effect July 1. "State employees deserve better from us," said state Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, D-Orangeburg, who has advocated for a 5 percent raise for state workers. Cobb-Hunter tried unsuccessfully to push through a larger pay hike for state employees.

Associated Press: South Carolina's refugee registry sponsor seeks compromise

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=dHlz0nrA

SC State Wire

A South Carolina senator backing a bill to require refugees to register with the state and holding sponsors liable if they turn out to be terrorists is dropping part of his bill requiring the state spend no money on refugees. Sen. Kevin Bryant said Tuesday it will take too much time to write a proposal that would not lead to the state losing federal money. The Anderson Republican says he'll let the House work on that later this year. Democratic opponents of the bill say it is illegal and sends a wrong message that South Carolina is not welcome to all people in need. Bryant says he expects the Senate to vote on the bill Wednesday. New York is the only other state in the country considering a refugee registry.

The State: Gun bills aim to relax concealed carry laws, increase reciprocity

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article67504012.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

Two House bills set to go before a Senate panel Thursday could mean big changes for South Carolinians who carry concealed firearms. House Bill 3799 would recognize concealed weapons permits from North Carolina and Georgia, while House Bill 3025 would recognize permits from all other states – as well as allow concealed carry in South Carolina without a permit. House Bill 3025, sponsored by Rep. Alan Clemmons, goes further, allowing S.C. residents to carry a concealed handgun without a permit. The bill does not explicitly mention permitless carry, but removes language currently requiring those carrying a firearm to also be carrying a valid permit.

S.C. Politics News:

Post and Courier: Supreme Court to hear case that would expand domestic violence laws to unwed, same-sex couples

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160322/PC1603/160329808>

Maya T. Prabhu

The South Carolina Supreme Court on Wednesday will hear an argument to expand the state's domestic violence laws to same-sex couples. Attorneys Bakari Sellers and Alexandra Benevento in August requested the hearing after a woman, who is remaining anonymous, was denied a protection order by a Richland County court after being hit and choked by her ex-fiancee, who is also a woman. The lawyers say the state's law violates the Fourteenth Amendment because it does not protect same-sex, unmarried couples.

Aiken Standard: Lindsey Graham: 'We're at war' with an ideology, not Islam

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160323/AIK0101/160329758>

Maayan Schechter

Lindsey Graham didn't mince words hours after the Belgium terror attack that claimed more than 30 lives Tuesday, and injured dozens more at the Brussels airport and metro station. The U.S. Republican senator from South Carolina made it clear to the Aiken Standard in a sit-down interview: the U.S. is not at war with Islam, but an ideology. Graham called for an increase to the United State's military force in the areas of Iraq and Syria from 3,500 to 10,000 soldiers on the ground. He said the U.S. must work with Iraqi security forces and encourage large armies, including Egypt and Saudi Arabia to be part of those forces.

Aiken Standard: Sen. Lindsey Graham tours BAE Systems in Aiken

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160322/AIK0101/160329767>

Thomas Gardiner

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., toured BAE Systems in Aiken on Tuesday to assess progress under its current contract and learn about the company's plans for the future. Of the company's mission, Graham said, "this is not a job, it's a calling." Graham added that during his military career and deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, he personally rode in many of the vehicles serviced by BAE components. Graham told the company, "The part you play in the future is going to be critical. My pledge to you is to fight for you, to fight for your company and make sure we get as much business as possible in South Carolina."

SC Elections:

Index-Journal: U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan seeks re-election

<http://www.indexjournal.com/news/U-S--Rep--Jeff-Duncan-seeks-re-election-15803730>

U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan, a Ware Shoals native, will seek a fourth term to his Congressional District 3 seat. The Laurens Republican filed his paperwork last week and is the only candidate in the race as of

Tuesday.

The Herald: Lake Wylie Republican runs for Congress; Mulvaney 'too far right'

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article67612422.html>

Bristow Marchant

A local Republican plans to launch a long-shot campaign for Congress on Wednesday, hoping to unseat one of the U.S. House's most conservative members because he's gone "too far right." Ray Craig, a Clover native and Clemson University graduate who previously did mission work in developing countries, says he will launch his campaign in front of the historic Courthouse in York at noon Wednesday. Craig is betting voters tired of partisan gridlock will be willing to vote for a more moderate choice.

Independent Mail: Gambrell and Burgess will meet in primary runoff for S.C. Senate District 4 seat

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/gambrell-and-burgess-will-meet-in-runoff-for-sc-senate-district-4-seat-2eab2d95-ac29-415e-e053-01000-373162791.html>

Kirk Brown

State Rep. Mike Gambrell of Honea Path and Williamston Town Councilman Rockey Burgess will meet in an April 5 runoff after collecting the most votes in Tuesday's Republican primary for the vacant South Carolina Senate District 4 seat. Based on unofficial results, Gambrell collected 46 percent of the votes and Burgess received 32 percent. The winner of the runoff is not expected to face any opposition in a May 17 special election for the seat that Billy O'Dell held until he died in January with a year left in his term.

The State: Special election to fill vacant Richland council seat set

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article67649392.html>

Sarah Ellis

The Richland County elections office has set dates and a tentative budget for a primary and potential runoff and special election for Kelvin Washington's vacated District 10 council seat. The interim representative could be elected in as few as one and as many as three elections, depending on whether there is a clear winner in the primary and whether there are candidates from multiple parties.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley last week removed Washington from his seat after determining his failure to file income taxes for three years to be a crime of moral turpitude.

Clinton Chronicle: Incumbents Dominate Filing For Laurens County Offices

<http://www.clintonchronicle.com/breaking-news/incumbents-dominate-filing-laurens-county-offices>

Larry Franklin

A number of Laurens County incumbents have filed for re-election in the Nov. 8 general election. Some of them will face opposition in the June 14 Republican and Democratic primaries.

Opinion/Editorial:

Post and Courier: Legislature shouldn't pass road plan that hurts public schools

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160322/PC1002/160329801>

Opinion

South Carolinians who drive every day over battered roads and bridges might be gratified to learn that the General Assembly has taken the first, modest step this year to improve an infrastructure that has been neglected for decades. They might be less gratified to learn that the Senate's plan does this in the most typical and most damaging way possible — by pirating \$400 million from the General Fund that would otherwise be available for the state's core services.

South Carolina News:

Aiken Standard: Bill Bennett addresses workforce in South Carolina, Georgia

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160322/AIK0101/160329787>

Christina Cleveland

Preparing a workforce to fill 37,000 job openings within and surrounding a five-county region of South Carolina and Georgia will require engagement between industry and education leaders, former U.S. Secretary of Education Bill Bennett said Tuesday. What will bridge the gap is a “clear signal from the business industry about what’s needed and required and being candid about what’s needed,” Bennett told the Aiken Standard following his keynote speech at the 2016 Regional Workforce Summit held in Augusta. “There’s great opportunity,” Bennett said. “All sorts of companies see the virtues of this area of Georgia and South Carolina so you’ve got this great place to live, a wonderful environment for families, it’s just a question of readiness.”

Local News:

Herald-Journal: Wofford students in Brussels shaken but resolute after terror attacks

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160322/articles/160329908>

Zach Fox

Wofford College junior Tucker Johnson has never been more thankful to have been on a flight that arrived on time. Johnson returned to Brussels, Belgium, on Monday afternoon. Less than 24 hours later, the Brussels Airport and other areas of the city were rocked by deadly terrorist attacks. “One student blurted out, ‘OK, they got the metro,’” said Morgan Schweers, another Wofford junior studying in Brussels. “I didn’t feel scared until he said the metro stop. That stop is the one I use and my friends have used a countless number of times. When he said that, I immediately thought, I hope my friends are all OK.” Schweers decided to return to the home where she’s staying, which is outside the heart of the city. Jean Ndayambaje, a Belgian who lived in Oconee County last year through a student exchange program, said the events of the day were “terrifying.”

WIS: USC: 4 students in Belgium accounted for after Brussels terror attack

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31538596/usc-4-students-in-belgium-accounted-for-after-brussels-terror-attack>

Jeremy Turnage

The University of South Carolina says four students who were studying in Belgium during the terrorist attacks in Brussels are safe and have been accounted for. Kevin Saxe, who studied at USC last semester, said he was at the very same metro station just 30 minutes before Tuesday morning’s terror attack. USC Study Abroad program director Magdalena Grudzinski-Hall says they’re continuing to monitor the situation in Belgium where at least 30 people were killed and dozens of others were injured as a result of the bombings that happened Tuesday.

Beaufort Gazette: Family: Parris Island says recruit jumped to his death

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/bg-military/article67646387.html>

Wade Livingston

The family of a deceased Marine recruit says it has been told by the military that their son died when he ran and jumped over a wall, falling three stories to his death. In an interview with a Detroit TV station, the family said a casualty report sent to them by Parris Island officials says their son threatened to commit suicide on his first day on base if he were not allowed to leave but later said he was committed to the training and was deemed a low risk to hurt himself.

Associated Press: State House rally seeks respect for all

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article67654952.html>

Students gathered on the South Carolina State House steps On Tuesday urging people to be respectful of people with intellectual disabilities. Sponsored by the Special Olympics of South Carolina, the rally drew participants from schools around the state.

WOLO: Thousands rally to “End the R-word”

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/2016/03/22/thousands-rally-to-end-the-r-word/>

Ben Hoover

Spreading the word to end the R-word. An event took place Tuesday afternoon on the South Carolina State House grounds. Approximately 2,000 students, teachers, family members and volunteers gathered to celebrate the Special Olympics and to pledge to support the elimination of the R-word and advocate for respect. Barbara Oswald with the South Carolina chapter of Special Olympics says, "They are here speaking out for inclusion, respect and acceptance of our students with special needs."

Post and Courier: Tent City residents likely will move to county "warming shelter"

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160322/PC16/160329799>

Diane Knich

Charleston City Council Tuesday unanimously approved a plan to use the county's "warming shelter" in North Charleston to house residents of the homeless encampment known as "Tent City" for up to 60 days. Mayor John Tecklenburg was authorized to negotiate a lease with the county for the vacant building at the work camp facility next to the Cannon Detention Center on Leeds Avenue. Charleston County Council's Finance Committee also unanimously approved the plan Tuesday. Tecklenburg said 44 people remain in Tent City.

The State: Slower emergency response, less road paving forecast in Lexington County

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article67619647.html>

Tim Flach

Tight finances may shelve Lexington County's plans to improve emergency assistance response times and pave more dirt roads, officials said Tuesday. That warning came after County Administrator Joe Mergo said minimal revenue growth is likely due to cuts in state aid and state limits on how high local taxes can be raised.

Associated Press: Auto supplier adding 40 new jobs in Aiken County

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ZHUYeU6k

SC State Wire

A company that makes materials to reduce heat and noise in the passenger compartments of vehicles is expanding in Aiken County by adding 40 jobs. Switzerland-based Autoneum announced it is spending \$35 million on the expansion at its Aiken plant. The company is now hiring for the new jobs in Aiken. The company has 50 locations in 20 countries and employs about 11,000 workers worldwide.

National News:

Associated Press: Belgian broadcaster identifies 2 suspects in attacks

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:7d170ea35cdb429581272120d8dde3b7>

Raf Casert and Lorne Cook

Police conducted raids overnight and circulated a photo of three men seen at the airport wheeling trollies that presumably contained explosives-filled suitcases. Belgian state broadcaster RTBF identified two of the attackers as brothers Khalid and Brahim El Bakraoui, and said they are believed to have blown themselves up. According to the report, which did not say who its sources were, Khalid El Bakraoui had rented an apartment that was raided last week in an operation that led authorities to top Paris attacks suspect Salah Abdeslam. One of the men pictured at the airport is at large. Authorities have not identified him, but Belgian newspaper DH reported that he might be Najim Laachraoui, whom Belgian authorities have been searching for since last week as a suspected accomplice of Abdeslam.

Associated Press: In Buenos Aires, Obama aims to boost Argentina's new leader

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:59ee1d7b6abc4e05bce177788bdcc5db>

Josh Lederman

After years of anti-American posturing by its leader, Argentina has a new president whose outstretched hand has been eagerly accepted by the United States. President Barack Obama will reward the South American nation on Wednesday with a state visit aimed at keeping that promising trajectory on track.

Associated Press: Trump and Clinton win Arizona; Bush endorses Cruz

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:73a82ed2560b49a79eb3df8982d9b920>

Steve Peoples

A clash of worldviews is intensifying as the presidential contenders in both parties fight to convince voters they can best protect the nation from a renewed threat of Islamic extremism. As the world grappled with a new wave of attacks in Europe, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton traded wins with their chief rivals on Tuesday in primary contests across three Western states.

Associated Press: Jeb Bush endorses Ted Cruz for president, calling Cruz a 'consistent, principled conservative' who can unite the party

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:67a1521a3622458092a2560be1e493a9>

Jeb Bush endorses Ted Cruz for president, calling Cruz a 'consistent, principled conservative' who can unite the party.

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