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Subject: Afternoon Clips - Friday, March 4, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Florence Morning News: Leatherman not satisfied with \$400 million roads deal, vows for viable plan this session

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_c00c737a-e23a-11e5-b4a9-bbad95634644.html

Joshua Lloyd

Senate President Pro-tempore Hugh K. Leatherman Sr. said Friday the \$400 million agreement to fix South Carolina's shoddy road system is a good start, but ultimately won't work because it takes away from the state's general fund.

He said the announced deal would give money to the department of transportation and take away funding from other critical state agencies.

Note: The debate over road funding has grown contentious in the past year, specifically between the Senate leader and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley.

Last week, Haley accused Leatherman of sending money exclusively to Florence for road repairs, with no economic development to show for it. "Where is the economic development?" Haley said. "It is in the Lowcountry, the Upstate and the Midlands, but we have the best roads in Florence because that is where the Senate president lives. We have to get our priorities straight."

Note: Leatherman said Haley may have forgotten about Honda of South Carolina, Otis Elevator, QVC, Ruiz Foods and Johnson Controls – all major companies located in Florence. "I'll let the governor say what she wants to say and I'll try not to second guess what she's thinking," Leatherman said. "Maybe the governor ought to come down here and listen to the people in the Pee Dee section of South Carolina."

S.C. General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: 'Leave altar of gun lobby' Whipper asks S.C. lawmakers

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160227/PC1603/160229297>

Cynthia Roldan, Schuyler Kropf and Robert Behre

North Charleston Democrat state Rep. Seth Whipper is one of the quieter members of the Statehouse. But last week he made an impassioned but futile attempt to stop his colleagues from giving final approval to a bill that prevents the state from enforcing federal gun laws that took effect this year. Whipper wanted his colleagues to think about what they were doing.

Note: "We really need to respect what happened in this state," he told his colleagues. "I think it's time for this General Assembly, and general assemblies of the South in general, to leave the altar of the powerful gun lobby."

Savannah Morning News: Cockfighting could be a felony in home of fighting Gamecocks

<http://savannahnow.com/news/2016-03-03/cockfighting-could-be-felony-home-fighting-gamecocks>

In a state where the flagship university's mascot is a fighting gamecock, some legislators are trying to toughen the penalties for cockfighting, which is illegal in all 50 states. Currently a misdemeanor in South Carolina, the crime would become a felony on second and subsequent convictions under legislation considered Wednesday by a Senate panel, punishable by up to a \$3,000 fine and five years in prison.

Note: Sen. Katrina Shealy, R-Lexington, said cockfighting is just as bad as dogfighting. "I don't think you should put any animal in a ring to fight to the death and watch as amusement," said Shealy, the measure's sponsor. "It's wrong, regardless of the animal."

S.C. Political News:

Greenville News: Tim Scott says Clinton would continue weak foreign policy

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/03/03/tim-scott-says-clinton-would-continue-weak-foreign-policy/81275956/>

Mary Orndorff Troyan

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott warned a national gathering of conservatives Thursday that, if elected president, Hillary Clinton would continue the same foreign policies pursued by President Obama. "We simply cannot afford four more years of Obama-style foreign policy led by Hillary Clinton," Scott said. Scott was also critical of the nuclear deal with Iran that lifted economic sanctions in exchange for restrictions on the country's nuclear program. "Do we think that by giving \$100 billion to Iran that they're going to stop working on a nuclear weapon? No," Scott said. In a speech in September, Clinton called the accord imperfect but strong.

Post and Courier: In jab at Trump, Lindsey Graham asks Joint Chiefs chairman to clarify laws regarding torture

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160304/PC1603/160309685>

Emma Dumain

On Friday afternoon, Graham's office publicly released a letter the lawmaker sent to Gen. Joseph Dunsford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Graham wants Dunsford to weigh in, on the record, as to whether a future president could order the military to target the families of terrorists, including children, as a reprisal. He also wants Dunsford to clarify whether the military would have to follow presidential directives to use waterboarding as an interrogation tactic.

Note: "Recently, questions have been raised about the tactics that have been employed to fight the War on Terror," wrote Graham, who asked Dunsford if he would "share your views as to whether waterboarding or other extreme interrogation techniques are authorized and legal for the United States military?"

Politico: Graham: A brokered convention wouldn't be fair to Trump

<http://www.politico.com/story/2016/03/lindsey-graham-brokered-convention-220214>

Eliza Collins

Lindsey Graham has had some harsh words for Donald Trump, but that doesn't mean he thinks a brokered convention would be fair to the Republican frontrunner.

In an interview with former Obama adviser David Axelrod on his podcast "The Axe Files," Graham said a fractured nomination process also wouldn't be good for the GOP.

Note: "If he got two-thirds of what he needs, which I think he's well on his way to doing, for us to steal from him is not going to help the party," he said in the interview, which was recorded before Trump's Super Tuesday rout and Mitt Romney's fiery speech against the real estate mogul on Thursday.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Breaking the Senate roadblock

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160304/PC1002/160309741>

If the bill's reforms improve accountability, as intended, the effect will be to heighten public confidence in the state's administration of its road program. That would bolster the argument that raising the gas tax is a justifiable cost. Certainly, the gas tax is a better way to deal with the shortage of needed road funding than tapping the general fund, year after year. The gas tax is more equitable and, if adjusted regularly, more reliable. Still, the Senate action was an important advance for safer roads and bridges. And it finally clears the way for the chamber to begin making headway on other legislative business, such as ethics reform.

Greenville News: Senate roads bill is not good enough

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2016/03/04/editorial-senate-roads-bill-not-good-enough/81265854/>

Editorial

South Carolinians should be used to this by now, but the "good" news from the state Senate this past week is predictably not as good as it could be. Yes, Republican senators finally gave up a self-serving filibuster of a bill that would increase funding for the state's highways. But they did so at the likely expense of additional funding that would be supplied by a stable revenue source that could have made significant improvements in the state's infrastructure. If the bill senators agreed to discuss this week finally is approved by both houses and signed by the governor, it will be another half-step by a Legislature that routinely fails to do all it can when faced with an important issue.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Port of Charleston adding rooftop solar panels at 2 terminals

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160304/PC05/160309719>

John McDermott

The State Ports Authority said Friday it will install solar power systems on warehouse rooftops at its Wando Welch and Columbus Street cargo terminals. The SPA said it will make the maritime agency the largest rooftop solar host in South Carolina. They will be capable of generating 3.7 megawatts and would offset the port's reliance on conventional energy sources while lowering its utility bill. Power can be returned to the grid during peak demand periods.

Note: "The solar project is an exciting step that deepens the port's ongoing efforts to be an environmental leader in our industry," said Pat McKinney, chairman of the SPA.

Post and Courier: Michael Moore, descendant of Robert Smalls, hired as president of International African American Museum

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160304/PC16/160309728>

Diane Knich

The new president of the International African American Museum has deep roots in Charleston. The museum's board and former mayor Joe Riley announced Friday that Michael Boulware Moore has been hired as the first president and chief executive officer. The museum is planned for a site on the former Gadsden's Wharf on the Cooper River, where more than 100,000 slaves were brought into the country. Moore is a great-great-grandson of Robert Smalls. Smalls was an enslaved African who in 1862 took command of a Confederate ship in the Charleston Harbor, sailed it past five Confederate forts in the Atlantic Ocean, and then turned it over to Union forces. He then became a captain in the Union Army.

The Associated Press: About 60K adults must meet work requirements for food aid

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

About 60,000 poor South Carolinians could lose their government food assistance this summer if they don't meet work requirements. The state Department of Social Services says South Carolina's exemption from work-for-food requirements ends April 1. DSS estimates the rule affects 60,000 of the nearly 780,000 adults receiving the aid better known as food stamps.

Associated Press: No charges for officer in fatal S. Carolina college shooting

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=as3HHVGy

State police have cleared a campus police officer who shot and killed a man at a small South Carolina college last year. The State Law Enforcement Division told local media outlets Thursday that Spartanburg Methodist College Officer Andrew Tomlinson would not be charged in the Nov. 9 shooting death of 20-year-old Delvin Tyrell Simmons.

WSPA: Student who sent nude pics of Fmr. Union teacher arrested say police

<http://wspa.com/2016/03/04/student-that-sent-nude-pics-of-fmr-union-teacher-arrested-say-police/>

The 16-year-old student who allegedly distributed nude pictures of former Union teacher Leigh Anne

Arthur has been charged with Computer Crimes Act and Aggravated Voyeurism, according to Union Police Chief Sam White. They say the charge of Computer Crimes is a result of the juvenile accessing the personal information of the cell phone without authorization.

Associated Press: SC school nixes slavery journal assignment as insensitive

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=IAMB0dZl

A South Carolina school district has scrapped an assignment asking third-grade students to pretend to be slaves. Local media outlets report officials pulled the five-page handout entitled "My Life as a Slave" after a parent complained it wasn't appropriate for 8-year-old students at Killian Elementary in Columbia.

WCSC: Boeing tests self-cleaning plane bathrooms

<http://www.live5news.com/story/31384943/boeing-tests-self-cleaning-plane-bathrooms>

It may sound just too good to be true, but Boeing said it's developing self-cleaning lavatories for its passenger jets. The company says its technology would use UV light, which kills more than 99 percent of germs. The entire lavatory would be illuminated for three seconds after being used, and toilet seats would raise automatically to make sure the entire surface is exposed to UV light.

The State: Aziz Ansari Goes to India

<http://www.thestate.com/living/article64019472.html>

Aziz Ansari

When I arrived this past December at the hectic airport in Trivandrum, a state capital in the south of India, the first thing I noticed was that everyone — the weary travelers, the surly customs officers, even the chipper billboard models — looked like me. As an American "minority," it felt strange to suddenly be a part of the majority. But, as I stood at the luggage carousel, admiring an array of enviable mustaches, I noticed something stranger: white people. They seemed a little lost, probably like my family must have looked to all the white people in Bennettsville, S.C., the small town where I was raised and where the Indian community consisted of one family — mine.

The State: S.C. ranks in top 20 of states with the most toothless seniors

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article64020862.html>

Sabrina Perry

Using data from the Centers for Disease Control, HealthGrove found the states with the most toothless seniors. Though they may have dentures or implants, they have no natural teeth remaining. For the 25 states with the most toothless seniors, we include the number of dentists per 100,000 people and the state poverty rate for context. The data indicate a moderate correlation between poverty and percentage toothless and a stronger inverse correlation between dentist density and percentage toothless — the more dentists in a community, the fewer toothless people.

Local News:

The State: Allen University track coach facing five years in prison for tax fraud

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article63996707.html>

Harrison Cahill

Allen University's head track and field coach was found guilty of preparing fraudulent tax returns and faces up to five years in prison for committing the crime, according to U.S. District attorneys. U.S. Attorney Bill Nettles said 31-year-old Brandon Jamar Samuels, of Columbia, was found guilty after a jury trial of conspiracy to defraud the U.S. by filing fraudulent tax returns. Samuels has not yet been sentenced, but Nettles said he faces a maximum sentence of up to five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

The State: Woman faces up to five years in prison for filing false tax returns for Richland County deputies

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article63998827.html>

Harrison Cahill

A former Richland County Sheriff's Department employee is facing up to five years in prison after she pleaded guilty to preparing fraudulent tax returns for fellow deputies, according to U.S. Attorney's Office in Columbia. U.S. Attorney Bill Nettles said 40-year-old Maribel Crespo, of Columbia, entered a guilty plea to presenting false claims to the United States after she filed false tax returns for her former colleagues at the Richland County Sheriff's Department Sentencing in the case has not yet been schedule, but Nettles said Crespo faces up to five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

Post and Courier: Video, reports paint vivid picture of Joyce Curnell languishing, dying behind bars
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160304/PC16/160309727>

Andrew Knapp

Between the moment when Joyce Curnell first set foot in the Charleston County jail and the last time she stirred in bed, many people who saw the 50-year-old could tell she was sick. But the ones in the best position to help her — the jail's nurses and some of its officials — never did what her family said were simple things that could have spared her life. Hours of vomiting drained her body's water supply to fatal levels, and Curnell died July 22 of a stomach illness. Underlying conditions, such as sickle cell disease and alcoholism, may have hastened her death.

Florence Morning News: Demolition begins to make way for new judicial center in Florence
http://www.snow.com/news/local/article_83f40cea-e19a-11e5-9fa1-733f36a1c9d2.html

Joshua Lloyd

Demolition is expected to be completed this month, and preparations for construction of the approximately \$32 million project will be underway shortly after that. The 120,500-square-foot building will sit across North Irby Street from the 43-year-old Florence City-County Complex. The building and 200 parking spaces will be built on the site, which the county has spent about \$3 million acquiring over the years.

Beaufort Gazette: School district fills innovation director post vacated by Darlene Moss
<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article64026982.html>

Erin Heffernan

The Beaufort County School District announced the hire of a new director of innovation Friday, after months of conflict surrounding the position vacated in September by Darlene Moss, the wife of superintendent Jeff Moss. Bonnie Almond, the district's current director of secondary education, will become the first director of innovation with responsibility for evaluating academic programs and leading initiatives to improve student achievement. Darlene Moss was the first candidate hired for the job with a \$90,000 salary this summer after her husband changed the school district's nepotism rule. Following public outcry, she resigned. The post had been vacant since September.

Post and Courier: City Council to consider amending "gathering place" zoning ordinance
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160304/PC16/160309689>

Diane Knich

Charleston City Council Tuesday will hear a presentation, and then vote to amend the "gathering place" zoning ordinance or extend a moratorium on that type of zoning beyond March 11. The controversial zoning came under fire largely from residents of James Island, who thought a gathering place that ultimately will include more than 600 rental units on Maybank Highway would strain existing roads and infrastructure. Areas with gathering place zoning are meant to be walkable neighborhoods that include a mix of residential and commercial space, but the Maybank Highway gathering place will consist largely of rental housing.

Post and Courier: Charleston \$1 million lottery winner to bless his church
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160304/PC16/160309699>

Dave Munday

A Charleston man who claimed a \$1 million lottery ticket this week says he will use a chunk of the money to help his church that was damaged by flooding, according to an announcement from the South Carolina

Education Lottery. The winner, who chose not to be identified, said he had been praying for some money to help his church, according to lottery spokeswoman Holli Armstrong.

Island Packet: Beaufort County named among best places to get mortgage in SC
<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/business/real-estate-news/article64003452.html>

Liz Farrell

SmartAsset, a New York financial technology company, recently released its second annual study on the "Best Places to Get a Mortgage." According to a release, the study determines the top markets by comparing the likelihood of mortgage approval by county, in addition to mortgage rates, average five-year borrowing costs, and property taxes. Beaufort County cracked the list at number 4 in South Carolina, up from its rank of 17 in 2015.

National News:

Associated Press: US trade gap widens to \$45.7 billion in January
<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:9cf773e629114a49b7b0f181684886ce>

Paul Wiseman

The U.S. trade deficit rose in January as American exports fell for a fourth straight month, the Commerce Department said Friday. The gap between exports and imports climbed to \$45.7 billion in January from a revised \$44.7 billion in December. Exports of goods and services fell 2.1 percent in January to \$176.5 billion, lowest since June 2011. Exports of industrial equipment and supplies were down. American exporters have been hurt by weakness around the world and by a strong dollar that makes U.S. products more expensive overseas.

Associated Press: US investigates 420,000 Ford F-150s for brake failure
<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:28a89cb091fb4daea20a109b0375298e>

Tom Krisher

The U.S. government is investigating complaints that the brakes can fail on Ford's F-150 pickup truck, one of the most popular vehicles in the nation. The probe covers about 420,000 pickups with 3.5-Liter, six-cylinder engines from the 2013 and 2014 model years, according to documents posted Friday on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's website. The agency says it has 33 complaints about the problem, including some drivers reporting that the pedals can suddenly go to the floor with a complete loss of braking. Four drivers reported that the problem caused crashes, although there were no injuries. The agency reported that 31 of the complaints from F-150 drivers came in the past year, with 20 in the past seven months.

Associated Press: Strong US job growth in Feb. helps dispel recession fears
<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:a24e76e717a84c82bb1054485ed36e45>

Josh Boak

A robust February jobs report showcased a resilient U.S. economy just as fears of a new recession had begun to surface. Economic reports in recent weeks had fueled anxieties about a looming downturn: Manufacturers were slumping. Stocks had plummeted. China was slowing sharply along with other emerging markets. The rising dollar had crushed exports. But last month, U.S. employers sent a clear message of confidence. They added a healthy 242,000 jobs, while the unemployment rate held at a low 4.9 percent, the government said Friday. The gains showed that the economy is surmounting its challenges without suffering much damage.

The Associated Press: N. Korea, on defensive after sanctions, makes nuclear threat
<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:e34cabd4af2d4d10b9d86d0dd3752739>

Hyung-Jin Kim

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ordered his military to be ready to launch nuclear strikes at any time, state media reported Friday, an escalation in rhetoric targeting Seoul and Washington that may not reflect the country's actual nuclear capacity. The threats are part of the authoritarian government's

ramped-up propaganda push to signal strength at home and abroad in the face of what it portrays as an effort by South Korea and the United States to overthrow its leadership. In North Korea's first official response to the U.N.'s recent adoption of harsh sanctions over its recent nuclear test and long-range rocket launch, the North also warned Friday it will bolster its nuclear arsenal and make unspecified "strong and merciless physical" measures. A government statement called the U.N. sanctions the "most heinous international criminal act" aimed at isolating and stifling the country.

Associated Press: LAPD investigates knife purportedly found at OJ Simpson home

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:4a5f1d699f7e474d8bdc0698f9a31836>

Christopher Weber

Detectives are investigating a knife purportedly found some time ago at the former home of O.J. Simpson, who was acquitted of murder charges in the 1994 stabbings of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ron Goldman, a police spokesman said Friday. A citizen supposedly found the knife, possibly during demolition of Simpson's former home years ago, and turned it over to a now-retired police motorcycle officer who was working as a security guard at a filming location, police Capt. Andy Neiman said. The knife was being analyzed by an LAPD crime lab for DNA or other material.

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