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Subject: Morning Clips – Thursday, March 6, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Augusta Chronicle: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley speaks in Aiken about storm cleanup, MOX
<http://m.chronicle.augusta.com/latest-news/2014-03-05/hayley-speaks-aiken>

Meg Mirshak

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley asked that President Obama declare almost half of her state a federal disaster area after last month's ice storm caused tens of millions of dollars in damage. Haley filed a federal disaster declaration on Tuesday, asking that 21 of the state's 46 counties be made eligible for federal disaster assistance.

Note: "The damages across the state were \$54 million from that ice storm," Haley said Wednesday, speaking to the Aiken Republican Club. "We certainly haven't had anything like that in a long, long time."

Note: "I don't think we are looking at a termination of MOX," Haley said after speaking to the club. "I think what you're looking at is the federal government saying this is too expensive for us to continue on; we have to find another plan."

Aiken Standard: Officials react to budget proposal that would freeze MOX

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140306/AIK0101/140309653/1007/AIK0101/officials-react-to-budget-proposal-that-would-freeze-mox>

Derrek Asberry

News that the MOX facility at the Savannah River Site could go into a "cold stand-by" has given MOX naysayers reasons to rejoice and has left MOX advocates with a sour taste in their mouths.

Note: As for the plutonium, Haley said she made it clear to Moniz that she didn't want to see SRS turn into Yucca Mountain. Even though Moniz has said the project is stalled, not stopped, Haley said the conversation should still be about moving the waste out.

Note: "I think this is a conversation that will continue on," Haley said. "It's one that I'll continue to talk to the federal delegation about because they are on the front lines on this, and it's one that we think is very important to the state of South Carolina."

Associated Press: SC State president asks for \$13.6M direct payment

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=veVfG92X

Seanna Adcox

The president of South Carolina State University asked lawmakers Wednesday for \$13.6 million to pay bills that began piling up in October, but it remains unclear whether they'll provide the cash and what happens if they don't.

Note: The five-member Budget and Control Board, chaired by Gov. Nikki Haley, took no action. Its options are limited.

Note: Haley said she's awaiting a report on SC State from the state inspector general, expected in the next few weeks, which she hopes details the history of what went wrong and provides recommendations. "We can't paint over it and say, 'If we get this money, it will fix everything,'" she said. "We've got to make some real reforms in the school. If we do that, I think it will shine."

Times and Democrat: SCSU's stability questioned as Elzey seeks financial bailout from state leaders

http://thetandd.com/news/scsu-s-stability-questioned-as-elzey-seeks-financial-bailout-from/article_b4599122-a4eb-11e3-a2b2-0019bb2963f4.html

Dale Linder-Altman

As South Carolina State University President Thomas Elzey made his pitch for a state bailout Wednesday, he was questioned about whether he has the support needed to correct the institution's financial problems.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley said that poor financial decisions by the university cannot continue. We have to make sure whatever we do, we don't fall into that same trap again," she said. "We can't paint over it and

say, 'Oh, if we get this money it'll fix everything.' I don't think that's the case."

The State: SC State says it needs cash by April to avoid campus disruptions

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/05/3307800/sc-state-says-it-needs-cash-by.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

S.C. State University says it needs money by next month to avoid interruption of some campus services. But how the cash-strapped school will get that help remained unclear Wednesday.

Note: A loan, approved by the budget board, would give the college money more quickly than the state's budget process. But Republican Haley wants to see the results of a state inspector general's report on the school's finances, which is expected in a few weeks.

Note: The state should "not just find a Band-Aid patch, but say what went wrong in the first place, and what do we do to make it a strong university again?" Haley said.

The State: USC gets go ahead to land IBM, Fluor

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/05/3307821/usc-gets-go-ahead-to-land-ibm.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

The S.C. State Budget and Control Board approved contracts Wednesday that could pave the way for IBM and Fluor to open information-technology operations at a new office building coming to the University of South Carolina.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley, state Comptroller General Richard Eckstrom and Senate Finance chairman Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, voted for it.

Note: Haley said she wanted to help USC move quickly to land an economic prospect. "There is no excuse for the time that it takes to procure in this state."

The Item: Haley expected to sign home tax break bill for military

http://www.theitem.com/news/local_news/haley-expected-to-sign-home-tax-break-bill-for-military/article_0b962301-314f-55d7-bbd4-4c65678b2122.html?_dc=491303285351.0231

Braden Bunch

South Carolina's military personnel could soon see a tax break on homes they have not been able to sell after receiving orders stationing them elsewhere. Legislators in Columbia sent their final version of a bill proposed by state Rep. Murrell Smith, R-Sumter, to Gov. Nikki Haley on Wednesday which would allow military homeowners to keep their property in the lower, owner-occupied tax group, even if they are renting out the property.

Aiken Standard: Gov. Haley: After storm, 'Aiken is going to find her way back again'

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140306/AIK0101/140309646/1004/gov-haley-after-storm-aiken-is-going-to-find-her-way-back-again>

Amy Banton

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley was in Aiken on Wednesday to address a local Republican club in downtown Aiken. Haley was the Aiken Republican Club's guest speaker. She covered a wide range of topics during her time at the organization's monthly luncheon at Newberry Hall, including infrastructure, the recent ice storm and the economy.

Associated Press: SC Supreme Court hearing Certificate of Need case

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

Meg Kinnard

South Carolina's highest court is mulling whether the state's health agency can end a program that regulates the building or expansion of medical facilities. The state Supreme Court is scheduled Thursday to hear arguments over the Certificate of Need program.

Note: The program has been on hold since June, when Gov. Nikki Haley vetoed the \$1.7 million needed to run it.

The State: Arguing the pros in Supreme Court over eliminating DHEC's CON program

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/05/3308090/morning-buzz.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

The S.C. Supreme Court will hear arguments today in a lawsuit brought against a state agency for failure to enforce a program that gives hospitals and nursing homes clearance to build or expand. The lawsuit came about after Gov. Nikki Haley vetoed \$1.4 million for the Department of Health and Environmental Control's Certificate of Need program, which requires that healthcare providers get permission -- a certificate of need --

- before building new facilities, expanding or purchasing some equipment.

Index-Journal: Haley: Place DJJ in control

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/News/News/Article/Haley--Place-DJJ-in-control/4/40/24128>

Kate Hruby

Gov. Nikki Haley emphasized the necessity of placing the John de la Howe School under the purview of the Department of Juvenile Justice in a letter to Rep. Kenneth "Kenny" Bingham on Wednesday. In the letter, Haley thanked Bingham, chairman of the state House Public Education and Special Schools subcommittee for years of hard work addressing "the challenges that we have faced at the John de la Howe School."

Note: "This is unacceptable in its own right — certainly at a per-student cost to the taxpayers of \$87,000 per year," Haley said in the letter.

WJBF: McCormick County Certified as a Work Ready Community

<http://www.wjbf.com/story/24896396/mccormick-county-certified-as-a-work-ready-community>

Randy Key

Wednesday, McCormick County earned the Certified Work Ready Community designation through the ACT and South Carolina Work Ready Communities (SCWRC) initiative. McCormick is the second county in South Carolina and the sixth in the United States to become a Certified Work Ready Community.

Note: "There's no doubt that South Carolina has a world-class workforce and it is one of the main reasons we saw record numbers of employment this past year. We couldn't be more excited about McCormick County becoming a Certified Work Ready Community and continuing South Carolina's strong commitment and participation in this nationally recognized initiative to improve economic opportunity," said Governor Nikki Haley.

Anderson Independent: Student leaders call for more higher ed spending

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/mar/05/student-leaders-call-for-more-higher-ed-spending/?partner=RSS>

Michael Eads

University students want Gov. Nikki Haley and the South Carolina legislature to spend more on higher education, money Clemson University President Jim Clements says could be "an investment." Haley and each of the state's legislators received a letter Wednesday from the undergraduate student presidents of Clemson, the College of Charleston and the University of South Carolina imploring state leaders to "reinvest in higher education.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Obama's 'What, Me Worry?' budget

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140306/PC1002/140309634/1021/obamas-what-me-worry-budget>
Editorial

Mad magazine, long a trove of adolescent humor, features a goofy kid named Alfred E. Neuman whose famous saying - "What, Me Worry?" - became the ironic tag-line of the Baby Boom generation. The irony has ripened since the ongoing retirement of the boomers has played a key part in putting the nation on a perilous path toward bankruptcy.

The State: Can Richland election mess get messier? Oh yes

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/05/3307252/scoppe-can-richland-election-mess.html#storylink=cpy>

Cindi Scoppe

Just when you thought the mess that is the Richland County Board of Elections and Voter Registration couldn't get any worse — never a safe assumption when we're dealing with the spawns of the Legislative State — we learn that the temporary stay that had allowed the unconstitutional board to keep operating was lifted. In December. Which means ... well, that's a good question.

Greenville News: State should pass a texting ban

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140306/OPINION01/303060003/Editorial-State-should-pass-texting-ban>

Editorial

It always has been true that South Carolina would be better off with one statewide ban on texting and driving rather than a hodgepodge of local laws that leaves drivers wondering if it is OK to use their mobile phones behind the wheel and what the fine will be if they are caught.

Post and Courier: A quake-up call on the hazards of SRS nuclear waste
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140306/PC1002/140309638/1021/>

Editorial

The Valentine's Day earthquake centered in Aiken County was felt as far away at Atlanta. But apparently it didn't make waves at nearby Savannah River Site. That's good news considering the volume and variety of radioactive material on site - including millions of gallons of high-level liquid waste stored in steel and concrete tanks. The earthquake was described in press reports as "small," measuring 4.1 on the Richter Scale.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Post and Courier: Rep. Sanford to speak about tax incentives for Bass Pro Shops
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140305/PC05/140309648/1010/rep-sanford-to-speak-about-tax-incentives-for-bass-pro-shops>

Abigail Darlington

U.S. Rep Mark Sanford will speak at a Lowcountry Local First event Friday to address concerns about tax incentives for Bass Pro Shops, a national outdoor recreation store on its way to North Charleston. The outdoor retailer plans to build a 130,000- to 150,000-square-foot store in the Ingleside Plantation development between Interstate 26 and Palmetto Commerce Parkway.

Legislative Session News:

Associated Press: Senate takes up bill opposing federal health law
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=hNVw9p0s

Seanna Adcox

Senators took up legislation Wednesday that aims to slow implementation of the federal health care overhaul in South Carolina, but even its Republican backers acknowledge it makes no attempt to nullify the law as many people believe.

Greenville News: Senators argue over S.C.'s participation in health care law
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140306/NEWS03/303060005/Senators-argue-over-S-C-s-participation-health-care-law>

Tim Smith

The author of a Senate proposal that would restrict state participation in the federal health care law known as Obamacare said his amendment offers opponents of the law a chance to do something other than shake their fists. But a Democratic senator said that if passed the proposal would lead lawmakers down a "dangerous road" where legislators pick and choose which federal laws they want to follow.

Note: Plenty of passion and even a controversial tweet from Gov. Nikki Haley. "Fire alarm just went off in the Statehouse," she tweeted. "I wonder if it was a senator who pulled it to avoid debate on Obamacare?"

The State: Mental Health wants \$1 million for more SC school counselors
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/05/3308229/mental-health-wants-1-million.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

Yancy Harling, a mental health counselor in the Richland 2 school district, helped a kindergartener with anger issues go from nearly being "put out of school" to honing her art skills and getting on track to earn a high-school diploma.

Note: While state House budget writers and Gov. Nikki Haley have recommended increases to Mental Health's funding this year, those dollars largely would go toward sustaining existing levels of service, not to expand programs like in-school counseling, the agency's director, John Magill, told a Senate budget panel Wednesday.

Post and Courier: S.C. Legislature allows make-up snow days due to winter storms
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140305/PC1603/140309649/1031/sc-legislature-allows-make-up-snow-days-due-to-winter-storms>

Jeremy Borden

School boards around South Carolina will be able to decide whether to hold make up days for five additional snow days due to this winter's storms that cancelled school across the state. The S.C. House of Representatives passed the measure 98-0 on Wednesday and the state Senate has already passed it.

Schools must be in session on their three planned make-up snow days before adding any additional make-up days.

Post and Courier: Military base protection bill filed in Columbia

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140305/PC1610/140309644/1031/military-base-protection-bill-filed-in-columbia>

Schuyler Kropf

South Carolina may be behind in defending itself against base closure, but a new Statehouse bill is designed to help the state play catch up. An effort filed Wednesday takes what many see as a spread of separate pieces of pro-military legislation and groups them into one package meant to keep the Pentagon happy.

Post and Courier (Blog): Medical marijuana exception for South Carolina?

<http://blog.postandcourier.com/palmetto-politics/2014/03/06/palmetto-sunrise-medical-marijuana-exception-for-south-carolina/>

Jeremy Borden

When S.C. Rep. Jenny Horne, R-Dorchester, heard a story about how a local family moved to Colorado to get access to a form of marijuana that helps alleviate epilepsy, she knew she had to move quickly. Horne's bill, H. 4803, seeks to decriminalize an oil derived from cannabis called Cannabidiol oil, which does not include the chemical THC, associated with the Horne has proposed a similar measure to that of Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort, who has also taken up the issue.

S.C. Politics:

Greenville News: Field of lieutenant governor hopefuls may grow

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140306/NEWS03/303060011/Field-lieutenant-governor-hopefuls-may-grow>

Tim Smith

The lieutenant governor's race could get more crowded later this month. Mike Campbell, who ran for the seat in 2006, told The Greenville News on Wednesday he is "heavily leaning" toward running for the post. Campbell, the son of the late Gov. Carroll Campbell, led the GOP primary field in 2006 but lost to Andre Bauer in a runoff.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Medal of Honor for South Carolina Marine

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140305/PC16/140309632/1006/sc-hero-to-receive-medal-of-honor-marine-took-grenade-blast-to-save-comrade>

Prentiss Findlay

Marine Corps veteran William Kyle Carpenter of Gilbert threw himself onto a grenade in Afghanistan to save the life of a friend. "Over there, each other is all we have," Carpenter told Katie Couric on Jan. 27 in a television interview. For his actions, Carpenter, 24, will receive the Medal of Honor, the Marine Corps Times reported on Wednesday.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: State commerce secretary praises efforts to get Japanese company to invest \$1B in Spartanburg County facility

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140305/ARTICLES/140309858/0/search?p=1&tc=pg>

Trevor Anderson

The state's top business official made a stop in Spartanburg Tuesday and praised local leaders who recently secured one of the largest economic development projects in South Carolina's history. S.C. Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt was the featured guest at an appreciation luncheon at the Piedmont Club in downtown.

The State: Ice storm timber damage ranks second only to Hugo destruction

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/05/3307825/ice-storm-timber-damage-ranks.html#storylink=cpy>

Joey Holleman

The thick ice from last month's winter storm snapped enough trees and limbs to do an estimated \$360 million in immediate timber damage in South Carolina, or the financial equivalent of a full year of timber harvest in the state. State Forester Gene Kodama issued a Forest Disaster Declaration on Wednesday,

saying only Hurricane Hugo in 1989 did more damage to timber in the state.

National News:

New York Times: U.S. Imposes New Sanctions in Response to Ukraine Crisis

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/07/world/europe/ukraine-sanctions.html?_r=0

Michael R. Gordon

The United States State Department imposed a ban Thursday on visas for officials and individuals who have taken steps to undermine the territorial integrity of Ukraine, the Obama administration announced. The measure is particularly significant because the ban will apply to Russian as well as Ukrainian citizens who are “responsible for or complicit in threatening the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.”

New York Times: With Eye on Midterms, Obama Pushes Rise in Minimum Wage

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/06/us/politics/obama-presses-case-for-higher-minimum-wage.html?ref=todayspaper>

Mark Landler

Flanked by four like-minded New England governors, President Obama took his campaign for a higher federal minimum wage to this rough-hewed city on Wednesday, declaring that “nobody who works full time should ever have to raise a family in poverty.” “It’s time to give America a raise,” Mr. Obama said to a rowdy crowd of 3,000 students at Central Connecticut State University. “It’s not bad business to do right by your workers; it’s good business.”

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