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Subject: Morning Clips – Friday, February 26, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Greenville News: Expert: SC auto industry hedged against coming downcycle

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2016/02/25/expert-sc-auto-industry-hedged-against-coming-downturn/80880206/>

Rudolph Bell

South Carolina's auto industry should be in a better position to withstand a coming downcycle in U.S. sales because its biggest player, BMW Manufacturing Co. near Greer, makes vehicles for the luxury market and exports most of them, an industry forecaster said.

Note: The campaign, called South Carolina Future Makers, will include videos of Gov. Nikki Haley talking to young workers about jobs they landed at some of the state's premier companies such as BMW, Bridgestone, Boeing and Red Ventures.

Note: Also speaking at the summit were Jay Rogers, co-founder and chief executive of Local Motors, which makes custom vehicles using new technologies such as 3D printing, and Haley, who told executives that the state government would continue to resist labor unions and "make sure the talent pool is strong."

WYFF: Despite backing Rubio, Gov. Haley will support Trump if he's nominated

<http://www.wyff4.com/news/despite-backing-rubio-govhaley-will-support-trump-if-hes-nominated/38196764>

Corey Davis

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said she'll support the Republican nominee, even if it's Donald Trump. Haley has spoken out against Trump and is still pushing for Sen. Marco Rubio to win the nomination. Haley was in Greenville Thursday for the South Carolina Automotive Summit and stepped aside to talk politics.

Note: "We've said that we would support the nominee if they get the nomination," said Haley.

Note: "If it comes down to Trump, we don't know if he could win a general and that's a big concern," said Haley.

WLOS: Gov. Haley 'Not Interested' in Being V.P.

<http://www.wlos.com/news/features/top-stories/stories/Gov-Haley-39-Not-Interested-39-in-Being-V-P--253853.shtml#.VtBJbPkrLIU>

Darren R. Botelho

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is not interested in being anyone's vice president. Haley was asked repeatedly on Thursday afternoon after her speech at the South Carolina Automotive Summit in Greenville.

Note: "I'm not interested," Haley said. "I have said to all of them [GOP presidential candidates] that my plate is full. That I am perfectly content. My daughter is getting ready to go off to college. I've got things in South Carolina I still want to finish."

Note: "My biggest concern is if it comes down to Trump, we don't know that he can win a general and that's a big concern. You know, if you look at it if it gets down to a field of two or three then we see that Trump doesn't win. His ceiling is at 35 percent. He can't get beyond 35 percent," Haley said.

Associated Press: Mississippi governor: April named Confederate Heritage Month

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

Emily Pettus

Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant is proclaiming April as Confederate Heritage Month, but without mentioning slavery. His proclamation was posted to the Mississippi Sons of Confederate Veterans website (<http://bit.ly/1VHPTv9>) but not to the governor's site.

Note: Confederate symbols have been widely debated since the slayings of nine black worshippers last June at a church in Charleston, South Carolina. A white man charged in the killings had previously posed for photos online, holding a Confederate battle flag. After the shooting, South Carolina lawmakers and Gov. Nikki Haley removed a Confederate battle flag that had flown for years on the Statehouse lawn.

WACH: Dash cam video shows Myers failing several sobriety tests

<http://wach.com/news/local/dash-cam-video-shows-myers-failing-several-sobriety-tests>

Matthew Stevens

The South Carolina Department of Transportation has released the dash cam footage of the DUI arrest of solicitor Donnie Myers. The video shows after the trooper went to the site where Myers car hit a utility pole the night of February 22. He then went to Myers' home. Once at Myers home, the trooper knocked on the door entering from the garage and you can hear Myers inside.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley's Office said Wednesday she can not act until Myers is indicted or found guilty.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Associated Press: Budget proposal includes flood relief for farmers, tax cuts

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=mg7FWAfo

Seanna Adcox

A \$7.5 billion budget proposal sent Thursday to the House floor provides \$40 million to flood-devastated farmers, cuts income taxes by \$130 million and designates \$250 million for road projects. The Ways and Means Committee's spending plan for the fiscal year starting July 1 incorporates more than \$1 billion in additional revenue.

Note: The budget funds a statewide review of school buildings - a precursor to borrowing up to \$200 million annually for K-12 construction. Gov. Nikki Haley advocated that idea last month, saying she can no longer ignore the moldy walls and other unsafe conditions in schools she visits.

The State: Road-repair proposal running out of gas

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article62552802.html>

Cassie Cope

Senators drove away from Columbia on Thursday with their chances crumbling to pass a bill to repair the state's crumbling roads. Republican senators continue to filibuster the road-repair bill. Even if those senators would allow a vote on the bill, the Senate remains divided on whether — or how — to change the structure of the state Transportation Department and another roads agency.

Note: Another sticking point is how much to cut taxes, demanded by Republican Gov. Nikki Haley as part of any road-repair bill that includes a gas-tax increase.

Greenville News: House budget writers OK \$250 million for roads; Senate 'not going anywhere fast'

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/02/25/house-budget-writers-ok-250-million-roads/80919432/>

Tim Smith

The House Ways and Means Committee has approved a budget for the year beginning in July that will spend \$250 million on roads, sending most or all of it to county transportation committees. The action came Thursday as the Senate continued a filibuster for a fifth day on a roads bill, with a senator threatening to continue talking with the help of others until the end of the session in June, if necessary, to prevent a gas tax increase.

S.C. Political News:

Associated Press: Clinton gives blunt talk on race where Obama tread lightly

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=aq0iShrD

Lisa Lerer

Stefanie Brown James, the director of African-American outreach for President Barack Obama's re-election campaign, thought that the changes must have been typos. The statement she'd written for the president honoring Black History Month had been immediately returned with every instance of the word "black" crossed out.

Associated Press: Clinton emphasizing gun laws ahead of South Carolina primary

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=iR7FMyTU

Bill Barrow, Catherine Lucey

Clinton played up her allegiance to President Barack Obama at a rally Thursday and pledged to continue fighting for tougher gun laws - two arguments that resonate with the African-American voters who wield tremendous influence in Saturday's primary.

Sun News: Hillary Clinton draws huge crowd to Myrtle Beach campaign rally
<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article62575822.html>

Audrey Hudson

Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton told a crowd in Myrtle Beach on Thursday that she would reach across the political aisle as president to pass legislation that would strengthen the economy, raise the minimum wage, require equal pay for women and eliminate climate change.

Greenville News: Bill Clinton campaigns in Spartanburg with message of unity
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/02/25/bill-clinton-campaigns-spartanburg-message-unity/80927136/>

Amanda Coyne

President Bill Clinton was hoarse on his third stop of the day in South Carolina. "I have lost my voice in service of my candidate," Clinton said at the University of South Carolina Upstate's Health Education Complex.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Time for the Senate to get out of the ditch and start driving
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160226/PC16/160229569>

Editorial

Sen. Tom Davis has made his point. The Beaufort Republican says his filibuster of the state roads bill — which has been going on since last year — is all about ensuring there is more accountability at the Department of Transportation before spending another dime to fix our decrepit, pothole-plagued roads.

Post and Courier: Nobody's nominated yet
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160226/PC1002/160229558/1022/nobody-x2019-s-nominated-yet>

Editorial

Bernie Sanders has gotten more than 55 percent of the votes cast in the first three contests of the race for the Democratic presidential nomination. But as of Thursday, Hillary Clinton held a 505-71 lead over the Vermont senator in the overall delegate count.

Post and Courier: Flag belongs in Confederate Relic Room
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160226/PC1002/160229559>

Editorial

Charleston still has its credentials as a polite place, so it is with due respect for our legislators who are pushing the idea that we say, "No thank you. We do not want the state's Confederate museum in the Lowcountry." We do appreciate Rep. Chip Limehouse's efforts to save South Carolina taxpayers \$3.6 million.

Washington Post: A starting point on Guantanamo
<http://www.heraldonline.com/opinion/article62586182.html>

Editorial

President Obama vowed as he took office seven years ago to close the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, prison, whose use for the holding of terrorist suspects arrested abroad long ago proved counterproductive. Thanks to congressional opposition, he has not fulfilled the pledge.

South Carolina News:

The State: Revenue department gives Richland County 30 days to make penny tax changes
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article62550477.html#storylink=cpy>

Sarah Ellis

In a letter dated Wednesday and received Thursday by County Council members, state revenue director Rick Reames lays out a list of four demands for action related to his department's ongoing investigation of the county's 3-year-old, \$1.2 billion penny sales tax program:

The State: Lexington farm operation pleading guilty to hiring 300-plus illegal aliens
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article62577342.html>

John Monk, Tim Flach

A major Lexington County farm operation has agreed to plead guilty in federal court to the misdemeanor charge of hiring between 300 and 350 illegal immigrants as workers, according to filings Thursday in U.S. District Court in Columbia. The farm operation, identified in court papers as HW Group, LLC, has also agreed to pay a \$1 million fine, according to legal filings.

Anderson Independent: Michelin to pass on Oconee County industrial park

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/michelin-to-pass-on-oconee-county-industrial-park-2c98fa31-a643-16fe-e053-0100007f9c2d-370180841.html>

Ray Chandler

The prospect of Michelin's multimillion-dollar distribution center coming to Oconee County's Golden Corner Commerce Park has been a crown jewel to the county's economic boosters for over 18 months, but the French company has now informed county officials of other plans.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Berkeley County sheriff's deputy shot, suspect fatally shoots himself

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160226/PC16/160229539>

Dave Munday

A man suspected of shooting a Berkeley County sheriff's deputy early this morning is dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound after a standoff with police, authorities said. A female Berkeley County deputy was shot just after midnight after stepping out of her vehicle for a traffic stop near Assured Storage of Goose Creek off Red Bank Road.

National News:

Associated Press: GOP rivals barrel toward Super Tuesday after wild debate

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=R3ARg5oQ

Nancy Benac, Julie Bykowicz

The GOP presidential candidates barreled into the final stretch to Super Tuesday after a name-calling, insult-trading, finger-pointing final debate in which Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz engaged in a tag-team attack intended to take down front-runner Donald Trump before it's too late. "I've dealt with tougher," Trump sniffed after taking incoming for two-plus hours Thursday night.

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