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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Friday, April 8, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Breitbart News: Governor Nikki Haley Comes Out Against Gender-Affirmation Law in South Carolina
<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2016/04/07/governor-nikki-haley-opposes-transgender-bathroom-law-south-carolina/>

Warner Todd Huston

Gov. Nikki Haley is criticizing a proposed gender-recognition law in the South Carolina legislature that would affirm and preserve the normal practice of reserving separate bathrooms for men and for women. "I don't believe it's necessary," Haley said Wednesday, amid growing progressive hostility to the gender-affirmation law. Many state legislatures are looking into the issue as progressive groups try to minimize legal recognition of the many average differences between male and female preferences. The progressives are also using social pressure to stigmatize the long-evolved public and scientific recognition that men and women, and girls and boys, on average, prefer to live, work, socialize, and play in different ways.

General Assembly News:

Associated Press: Time running short in effort to keep SC aluminum jobs

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

SC State Wire

Time is running short for state lawmakers to find a way to keep 300 people working at an aluminum plant outside Charleston. And The Post and Courier reports (<http://bit.ly/1SUtYAj>) a disagreement over crafting the legislation could be an obstacle. Legislation was introduced in the Senate Thursday to let Century Aluminum buy all of its electricity on the open market. Co-sponsor Sen. Larry Grooms sees the bill as a long shot and wanted to give the company job-related tax credits. Century president and CEO Mike Bless says the company opposes taxpayer subsidies on principle. The bill has only a few weeks to pass. May 1 is the deadline to get Senate-passed bills to the House. About 300 people now work at the smelter, down from 600 employees a year ago.

Post and Courier: Proposal could lower number of children DSS sends to group homes

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160408/PC1603/160409476>

Cynthia Roldan

South Carolina Department of Social Services officials are hoping a bill making its way through the Senate will help reduce the number of children living in group homes. The bill, which already passed the House, cleared another hurdle Thursday when a panel of senators gave it further approval. It would allow foster families to house a maximum of eight kids, including five foster children. Current law caps the number of total children allowed in a home at five. DSS Spokeswoman Karen Luchka Wingo told the Judiciary Subcommittee the changes would ideally help move children out of group homes and in with caring families. South Carolina is about 1,500 foster homes short of demand, she said. Sens. Thomas McElveen, D-Sumter, and Katrina Shealy, R-Lexington, voiced concern over

foster families who want to take in more children but under ulterior motives, including to benefit from the stipend they receive per child.

Sen. Bright's 'Bathroom Bill':

WACH: Transgender community speaks against SC 'bathroom bill'

<http://wach.com/news/local/transgender-community-speaks-against-sc-bathroom-bill>

Tara Petitt

The controversial 'bathroom bill' has people of the LGBT community speaking out, saying the measure promotes fear and discrimination. The legislation making its way through the South Carolina State House bans transgender people from using the restroom of the gender they identify by. Lawmakers pushing the bill say it's a common sense proposal, but they are facing harsh criticism- especially from the transgender community. "It's...somebody's coming after you," said Dana Smith. "I mean it's specifically to be targeted by a law and knowing that there's no real reason for the law other than just hate and to harass a group of individuals." Smith is transgender. She's presented herself as a woman for more than ten years. "I'm having to all of a sudden have to reverse, by law, ten years of behavior, and that would be very traumatic to me."

SC Political News:

Post and Courier: S.C. GOP chairman to lead the national party? Not now, but maybe later

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160408/PC1603/160409472>

Emma Dumain

Had things worked out differently this year, South Carolina might have had a presidential nominee in U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, and a vice presidential contender in Gov. Nikki Haley. The Palmetto State's next chance to see one of its own in the national spotlight could be Matt Moore. The South Carolina Republican Party chairman is being floated as a possible candidate to run the Republican National Committee in 2017, when current chairman Reince Priebus is expected to step down. Moore's proponents gush over the 33-year-old operative, whose youth and energy could attract a new generation of voters the party desperately needs. "I've seen firsthand his confidence, his professionalism, his eye for detail and his political savvy," said U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford, R-S.C., who while governor gave Moore his first job in state politics.

Associated Press: Trump won SC, but convention delegates eye other candidates

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5tICWcNe

Meg Kinnard

Billionaire businessman Donald Trump handily won all 50 delegates in South Carolina's first-in-the-South Republican primary in January but that doesn't mean he will keep all that support at the party's national convention. Establishment dissatisfaction with Trump and the possibility he won't have the 1,237 delegates needed to secure the nomination on a first vote means the nominee won't be set until after the convention in Cleveland. After the first convention vote delegates are free to support someone else. Intense lobbying to sway delegates to another candidate if Trump doesn't win initially has been taking place in South Carolina which begins selecting national delegates this weekend.

Opinion/Editorial:

Greenville News: Council's actions left public out

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2016/04/08/editorial-councils-actions-left->

[public-out/82715072/](http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2016/04/07/public-out/82715072/)

Editorial

Government bodies serve the people, and residents have the right to know everything their elected and appointed officials are doing on their behalf. The actions of the Simpsonville City Council this past week demonstrate a complete disregard for these principles. The City Council, led by Mayor Janice Curtis, took deliberate steps to shut the public out of a decision to suspend without pay Police Chief Keith Grounsell. It improperly notified residents of a closed meeting, voted to enter that meeting without informing the public what would be discussed, and after the meeting voted on a vague resolution that in effect was a secret decision. We are not questioning the substance of the decision to suspend Grounsell for 30 days. How could we? City Council made certain residents had no facts on which to judge its actions. Without such knowledge, residents cannot hold elected officials – or the appointed police chief – accountable.

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: Michelin mum on Mexico plant report

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2016/04/07/michelin-mum-mexico-plant-report/82751086/>

Rudolph Bell

Michelin isn't commenting on a report that it plans to build a factory in central Mexico or whether the reported plant would displace any of its tire manufacturing in South Carolina. Eric Bruner, a spokesman for Greenville-based Michelin North America, said he had nothing to add to a report by the Reuters news service that Michelin planned to launch production at the plant in Guanajuato in 2017. Reuters said it had gained access to two documents that show the \$510 million plant would employ more than 1,000 people. The plant initially would produce five million passenger and light truck tires a year for sale in North America, Europe and Asia, according to Reuters. The reported plan is reminiscent of one that Michelin North America announced in 2007 and later canceled.

Local News:

WACH: West Columbia working to fix water system issues

<http://wach.com/news/local/west-columbia-working-to-fix-water-system-issues>

Leah Holloway

The West Columbia water system received an unsatisfactory rating from the Department of Health and Environmental Control. Thursday, WACH FOX learned more about what that meant for water customers living in that area. West Columbia is now working to make some repairs on their water system after DHEC gave them that unsatisfactory rating. All this coming after DHEC found several machines in the facility that weren't working. Those machines handle the chemicals used to treat lake water and make it safe for drinking. These machines were used to make bleach that cleaned out the Lexington Lake Murray area's water. Since some of those machines are down workers moved to liquid bleach to clean the water, which is something DHEC did not permit them to do. Despite that, the City of West Columbia and DHEC want people to know that West Columbia's water is safe to drink.

Greenville News: One person airlifted after Ryobi plant explosion

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2016/04/08/one-person-airlifted-after-ryobi-plant-explosion/82797018/>

Anna Lee

One person was airlifted to the hospital after an explosion was reported Friday at the Ryobi plant in Anderson, authorities said. The facility on 1428 Pearman Dairy Road was evacuated after some type of gas generator malfunctioned during a test, according to Anderson County Sheriff's Lt. Sheila Cole. About 600 employees are employed there. There was no other information on the injured person. The Sheriff's Office assisted with the evacuation and traffic, Cole said. She said many of the employees were out at lunch at the time. She said she was leaving the scene but didn't see any visible flames coming out of the plant.

Independent Mail: Explosion at Anderson-area plant injures at least one

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/explosion-at-anderson-area-plant-injures-at-least-one-2ffd735c-4d45-6262-e053-0100007f1b8e-375055341.html>

An explosion at the Techtronic Industries plant on Pearman Dairy Road west of Anderson today has injured at least one person and forced an evacuation of the plant, officials said. At least one employee at the plant was taken by helicopter to Greenville Memorial Hospital for treatment of burns, Anderson County Sheriff Skipper said at the scene. Skipper said the explosion happened while a generator was being tested. The Anderson County Fire Department and other emergency personnel were at the plant.

The Herald: York students, first responders stage 'really scary' DUI crash

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article70579652.html>

Teddy Kulmala

Seeing is believing. That's the idea behind a graphic reenactment of a drunk driving crash staged by several York high schoolers and local emergency responders Thursday. Cooperative Way in York was shut down for several hours to stage the reenactment, which was filmed by broadcast journalism students at York Comprehensive High School and acted out by students in the school's theater program. The students will produce a video. It will be shown to the entire school ahead of prom to encourage smart choices when it comes to avoiding impaired driving. "You can preach all day long to the kids about what you shouldn't do," said Cpl. Pierre King, school resource officer at York Comprehensive. "But when they actually see it live ... this is a big part that sends to the brain, 'Hey, wait a minute. I need to think about my choices before I get into this vehicle.'"

Post and Courier: Charleston's Tent City now uninhabited

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160408/PC16/160409500>

Diane Knich

All residents are now gone from Charleston's homeless encampment known as Tent City. One person will come back today to collect personal items, but all of its former residents have vacated the Department of Transportation property on upper Meeting Street near the Interstate 26 ramp. City staffers are preparing to clean the site. Mayor John Tecklenburg is holding a press conference at 1:30 p.m. to acknowledge all the people who helped clear the site and assist residents with finding new places to live.

Post and Courier: Protesters happy with changes made to MUSC employee grievance policy

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160408/PC16/160409477>

Derrek Asberry

While wearing a "Reinstate Chris Nelson" T-shirt, Pastor Thomas Dixon declared that progress was made Friday after two years of protesting to change employee grievance policies at the Medical University of South Carolina. The MUSC Board of Trustees on Friday approved several changes to the policies, including expanding the employee committee from three to five people. Changes also

include allowing employees to, at their own cost, have legal representation when dealing with grievances, and having an opportunity to appeal to the MUSC president. In addition, employees can nominate themselves or others to be considered as members of the grievance committee. Members of the committee will also have training.

Morning News: Vista Street first of Florence's neighborhood revitalization initiative

http://www.scnw.com/news/article_710aea9c-fda9-11e5-b9eb-c74688631314.html

Joshua Lloyd

The city of Florence is set to move forward with revitalization efforts along Vista Street – the first step in a multi-layered plan to revamp declining urban neighborhoods in Northern Florence. Officials said Friday that street repaving, sidewalk installation and storm water drainage work is set to begin next week with housing development to follow early in the summer. "We all know for decades the neighborhood we're standing in and the communities surrounding have been underserved. Development has left and revitalization hasn't been achieved," said Florence Mayor Stephen J. Wukela "We're determined to change that. This is the end of the beginning of the process to change that." The city has allocated \$6 million of one-cent sales dollars for the projects.

Island Packet: Rum, vodka distillery opening on Hilton Head

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/business/article70490337.html>

Rebecca Lurye

A new distillery that aims to blend traditional Caribbean flavors with American innovation will open on Hilton Head Island this summer. Hilton Head Distillery, under construction next to Island Winery on Cardinal Road, will produce premium rums and vodkas through a collaboration between spirit makers in the Upstate and the Cayman Islands. The new business will take some cues from its sister store, Appalachian-inspired Dark Corner Distillery in Greenville, but will have a decidedly tropical bent. Instead of producing whiskey, bourbon and moonshine, Hilton Head Distillery will distill white, dark and spiced rum and a vodka made from the same sugarcane molasses base, says general manager Jillian Stephens.

National News:

Associated Press: Official: Airman shot his commander at Texas base

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:40687999102b40ce875bfd1cd4d31873>

David Warren

An airman shot his commander in an apparent murder-suicide Friday at a U.S. Air Force base in San Antonio, a senior U.S. official said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to publicly discuss the shooting at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Two handguns were found near the bodies of the men, which were inside a building that's used for classrooms and offices, according to Brig. Gen. Robert LaBrutta, who oversees Joint Base San Antonio. He stressed that the shooting was not an act of terrorism, and declined to identify the two, saying their families must be notified first. The Air Force's Office of Special Investigations is leading the investigation, and the FBI is assisting.

Associated Press: Teen suspect faces murder charge in Austin student's killing

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:05aad36eed3e4bf5a1ee8133140174e7>

Will Weissert

A 17-year-old homeless man has been arrested and will be charged with murder Friday in the killing of a University of Texas dance major whose body was recovered in the heart of the bustling campus

— unnerving one of the country's best-known schools. Investigators said Meechaiel Criner wasn't a university student and wasn't believed to have been in for Austin long. Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo said Criner could face additional charges in the slaying of 18-year-old Oregon-native Haruka Weiser. "We are very certain that the subject we have in custody ... is responsible for the death of this beautiful young woman," Acevedo said at a campus news conference. Weiser — described by a former dance teacher as having a "dancer's soul" — was last seen leaving the campus drama building Sunday night. Her body was found Tuesday in a creek near the alumni center and UT's iconic football stadium, an area bustling with activity day and night.

Associated Press: Rifles on campus: College security forces add firepower

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:c69129d5b15640beebca4ee6c59b66024>

Collin Binkley

Once a rarity on campuses, semi-automatic rifles are becoming a standard part of the arsenal for college security forces — firepower they say could make a difference the next time a gunman goes on a rampage. The weapons are rarely seen in public and often kept stashed in cruisers or department headquarters, and many schools won't talk about them. But federal data and Associated Press interviews and requests for records reveal that over the past decade, at least 100 U.S. college police forces, and probably many more, have introduced rifles or acquired more of them. The arms buildup has raised tensions on campuses, with debates over the need for such weaponry flaring at schools like Boston's Northeastern University, the University of Maryland and Florida State. A similar outcry over police use of military-style gear erupted in 2014 after the violence that broke out in Ferguson, Missouri. Police say rifles offer more firepower, longer range and greater accuracy than handguns.

World News:

Associated Press: Key Paris attacks suspect seized in Belgium, officials say

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:fba96ad675c84d439c31421b066142a6>

Raf Casert and Lori Hinnant

A fugitive suspect in the Nov. 13 Paris attacks was arrested in Belgium on Friday, French police officials said, after a raid Belgian authorities said was linked to the deadly March 22 Brussels bombings. The suspect, Mohamed Abrini, is believed to be the mysterious "man in the hat" who escaped the double bombing at the Zaventem airport, according to one of the French officials. If true, that would mean Abrini had a key role in both attacks carried out by the Islamic State cell that left a total of 162 people dead — 130 in Paris and 32 in Brussels. The two officials spoke on condition of anonymity to offer details about the ongoing Belgian investigation, which has also involved French anti-terror police. Friday's arrest of at least two people came a day after Belgian authorities released photos and video of the airport suspect.

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