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Subject: Morning Clips – Friday, February 19, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

USA Today: Rubio, joined by Haley, makes case he's candidate of the future

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/onpolitics/2016/02/18/marco-rubio-south-carolina-primary-haley/80561806/>

Shane McKeon

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio cast himself as a candidate of the future at a town hall here Thursday, basking in the glow of two of the state's top Republican officials. Nikki Haley, the state's 44-year-old governor, joined 50-year-old Sen. Tim Scott in introducing the 44-year-old Rubio. Rubio said he's a "conservative that can win" because he can build a diverse, younger coalition of voters.

Note: Shortly after Haley endorsed Rubio on Wednesday, his campaign released an ad titled "Future" that featured the South Carolina governor. In the ad, Haley said she's backing Rubio because "this election is about the future and the future is now."

Post and Courier: Nikki Haley and Marco Rubio: The GOP's future?

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160218/PC1603/160219363>

Cynthia Roldan

Gov. Nikki Haley's endorsement of presidential hopeful Marco Rubio has breathed new life into the GOP wing hoping to attract new, young and minority voters, and has some wondering about their possible future together. Both Rubio and Haley have long been viewed as rising stars in the Republican Party, and Haley has been mentioned as a possible vice presidential pick for the party's ultimate nominee.

Note: "I hope we're the new face of the conservative movement that's going to be key to say 'OK, enough is enough,'" Haley said. "We deserve better. We can do better."

TIME: Rubio Endorsement Rally Shows a More Diverse Vision for GOP

<http://time.com/4230230/marco-rubio-nikki-haley-tim-scott-endorsement-diversity/>

Zeke Miller

The two frontrunners for the Republican nomination have run campaigns focused on looking past the nation's changing demographics. Real estate mogul Donald Trump delights in speaking crudely about Mexico sending rapists and Muslims jihadists trying to infiltrate the country.

Note: "Take a picture of this, because the new group of conservatives that's taking over America looks like a Benetton commercial," said Nikki Haley, the state's Indian-American governor, as she stood next to Tim Scott, a black U.S. Senator from the Palmetto State, and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, a Cuban-American with a shot at winning the Republican nomination.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Rubio joined by Haley, Scott on campaign swing through Spartanburg

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160218/ARTICLES/160219574?tc=ar>

Allison Roberts

Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio brought along some prominent South Carolina supporters as he campaigned in the Upstate Thursday. Gov. Nikki Haley, who endorsed the Florida senator Wednesday, and U.S. Sen. Tim Scott accompanied Rubio to a meet-and-greet at The Beacon Drive-In in Spartanburg in advance of Saturday's state Republican primary.

WYFF: Gov. Haley talks exclusively about her Rubio endorsement

<http://www.wyff4.com/news/gov-haley-talks-exclusively-about-her-rubio-endorsement/38066050>

Nigel Robertson

On the Rubio for President bus, Gov. Nikki Haley said her endorsement of the senator did not come easy. "You know, it was hard because we've got great people running for president," said Haley. Less than 24 hours after endorsing Sen. Marco Rubio for president, the South Carolina governor joined him on stops in

Greenville and Anderson. WYFF News 4 talked to the senator between the two stops.

Note: After publicly saying Donald Trump was not going to get it, five of the six candidates were hoping for Haley's support, including Jeb Bush, whose family has been working very closely with the governor for years.

Note: Haley said, "Let me tell you that Gov. Bush is a friend, a very dear friend and someone who has been a mentor and someone who has done great things to help me on every step of the way. But when you have to find someone who is going to be president, you have to think bigger than who your friend is."

Note: Haley said, "Nigel, you know my passion - you know my passion for where I want this country to go; you know my passion for bringing jobs that were made in-America. I don't want made in America jobs just in South Carolina, I want them all over the country. But I want a fighter."

WSPA (Video): Marco Rubio and Gov. Nikki Haley sit down with Amy Wood

<http://wspa.com/2016/02/18/marco-rubio-and-gov-nikki-haley-sit-down-with-amy-wood/>

Amy Wood

After Senator Marco Rubio got South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley's coveted endorsement – he and the Governor gave one of their only joint interviews, to 7News and Amy Wood. Amy asked Haley why she didn't endorse Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush – and what Rubio will do about social security.

Anderson Independent: Rubio brings S.C. heavyweights to campaign stop in Anderson

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/rubio-in-anderson-image-on-cruz-sponsored-website-a-fake-2bfe5dca-77b1-7b64-e053-0100007f6280-369326481.html>

Nikie Mayo

Fighting for what polls say will be a second-place finish in the South Carolina primary, GOP presidential candidate Marco Rubio brought some of the state's political heavyweights with him Thursday for a campaign stop in Anderson. Leading the charge among his supporters was Gov. Nikki Haley, who announced her endorsement of Rubio on Wednesday.

Note: "First and foremost, I'm a mom," Haley said in Anderson on Thursday. "I wanted a president that was going to keep our country safe." The governor, whose husband Michael Haley is a member of the South Carolina National Guard, also spoke about wanting a president who understands the vital role of the military. She also said Rubio will "bring back the conscience of the Republican Party."

Wall Street Journal: South Carolina GOP Stalwarts Fear Primary Will Only Underscore Party Rifts

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/south-carolina-gop-stalwarts-fear-primary-will-only-underscore-party-rifts-1455839137>

Josh Dawsey, Felicia Schwartz, Valerie Bauerlein

Walking into a Donald Trump rally here Tuesday night, state Republican Rep. Tommy Stringer looked for friends, fellow legislators or associates from political circles. He ended up sitting alone, in a crowd of thousands, as he checked out the scene.

Note: Republican Gov. Nikki Haley endorsed Florida Sen. Marco Rubio on Wednesday, while the state's two U.S. senators split between Mr. Rubio, who has the backing of Sen. Tim Scott, and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who has Sen. Lindsey Graham's support.

Note: Ms. Haley, the state's first Indian American governor, and Mr. Scott, the state's first black senator, appeared with Mr. Rubio at a gym in Greenville Thursday, saying they wanted to expand the party's base.

Associated Press: Analysis: Pope shines spotlight on GOP minority challenges:

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=metckh1A

Steve Peoples

The Republican Party's tug-of-war over its relationship with black and Hispanic voters was under way long before Pope Francis decided to answer a question about Donald Trump. On one side, Marco Rubio and others insist the GOP must attract more minorities to win the presidency.

Note: Haley highlighted the diversity on stage with Rubio, the son of Cuban immigrants, during an earlier rally in West Columbia: "A new group of conservatives that's taking over America looks like a Benetton commercial," she said. She added, "I hope we're the new faces of the conservative movement."

Washington Post: As Republicans salivate over a possible Rubio-Haley ticket, a word of caution

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/02/18/as-republicans-salivate-over-a-possible-rubio-haley-ticket-a-word-of-caution/>

Janell Ross

On Wednesday, consultants paid to offer research, insight and illogically optimistic assessments of the

Republican Party's electoral prospects were abuzz. Something big happened. That something, of course, was that South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley (R) endorsed Sen. Marco Rubio ahead of Saturday's primary in Haley's home state.

Note: Haley joins Sen. Tim Scott (R-S.C.) in backing Rubio's bid to become the Republican nominee. But because Haley's national profile, governing experience and status as an almost irrefutable rising star in the Republican Party eclipses that of Scott, this is the endorsement that more than a few people regard as a very, very big deal.

Greenville News: Rubio makes an intimate stop at Beacon Drive-In

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2016/02/18/rubio-makes-intimate-stop-beacon-drive-/80568304/>

Emily Patrick

Senators Marco Rubio and Tim Scott and Gov. Nikki Haley didn't have the demeanor of politicians as they stepped off Rubio's tour bus at the Beacon Drive-In in Spartanburg. They seemed more like casual travelers. Security was minimal. The crowd was small, and children swarmed them.

Note: Staff looked on as Rubio and Haley talked with Fox News anchor Megyn Kelly via satellite. The interview, apparently, was the main reason for Rubio's stop at Beacon.

Business Standard: Nikki Haley's endorsement boosts Rubio

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/nikki-haley-s-endorsement-boosts-rubio-116021800255_1.html

South Carolina's Republican Indian-American Governor Nikki Haley endorsed Marco Rubio for president, giving the son of Cuban immigrants a huge boost just days before the state's crucial primary on Saturday.

Note: "I want a president who understands they have to go back to Washington DC and bring a conscience back to our Republicans," Haley said.

Note: Haley, the state's most popular Republican politician in polls and a rising national party star often mentioned as a likely vice presidential pick, was South Carolina's most coveted Republican endorsement in the 2016 presidential race.

Post and Courier: Barbara Bush could have been Jeb Bush's 'most powerful weapon'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160218/PC1603/160219334>

Maya T. Prabhu

Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush may have waited too long to call on his family's support. His brother, the former President George W. Bush, came in to South Carolina five days before the vote. Mom Barbara Bush will join her son on the trail Friday, but just a day before the polls open.

Note: Stewart said those chances were hurt when Gov. Nikki Haley endorsed Florida Sen. Marco Rubio. "I think the Bush family worked hard to get Haley's endorsement, and a lot of people know that so that's slightly damaging," Stewart said.

Note: Haley said she made her choice based on who she thought was best suited to change the country. "Jeb is a dear friend," she said. "And he has been a great mentor that has helped me along the way. This is not about picking friends. It's about picking who you think can be the best president."

Buzzfeed News: Jeb Bush: "I'm Sure It Will Help" Rubio To Have Nikki Haley Endorsement

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/christophermassie/jeb-bush-im-sure-it-will-help-rubio-to-have-nikki-haley-endo#.hceZMVLq5>

Christopher Massie

Jeb Bush said on Thursday that he was surprised and disappointed that South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley endorsed Marco Rubio, adding that he thought Haley's support would give Rubio a boost in the coming days. "She's a great person and so I'm sure it will help Marco to have a popular governor campaigning with him over these last few days," Bush said.

S.C. Presidential Primary News:

Washington Post: In S.C., the GOP contest looks more and more like a three-man race

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/in-sc-the-gop-contest-looks-more-and-more-like-a-three-man-race/2016/02/18/8ae338ae-d660-11e5-9823-02b905009f99_story.html

Sean Sullivan, Katie Zezima

After more than a week of fevered campaigning, Republicans in South Carolina are on the verge of answering two of the main questions hovering over the GOP presidential race: Will Donald Trump cement

his place as the party's undisputed front-runner, and will two Cuban American freshman senators emerge as his chief challengers?

Note: He landed the endorsement of South Carolina's popular governor, Nikki Haley, on Wednesday and released a TV ad starring her on Thursday.

Greenville News: 2nd place in SC GOP primary could have most impact

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/02/18/2nd-place-sc-gop-primary-could-have-most-impact/80574138/>

Rudolph Bell

As the South Carolina Republican Party likes to point out, the winner of the state's first-in-the-South presidential primary has gone on to secure the GOP nomination in every case except one since the primary began in 1980. This year, however, the primary's significance could lie more in who comes in second than in who takes first.

Note: Rubio won the endorsement game, picking up what are three of most-important endorsements South Carolina has to offer a GOP presidential candidate — Gov. Nikki Haley, Sen. Tim Scott and Rep. Trey Gowdy.

New York Times: Last Chance for Final Arguments in South Carolina and Nevada

<http://www.nytimes.com/politics/first-draft/2016/02/19/last-chance-for-final-arguments-in-south-carolina-and-nevada/>

Maggie Haberman

For the third time in three weeks, voters will head to polls and caucus sites on Saturday to choose a winner among Republicans in South Carolina and among Democrats in Nevada. The parallel races are both marks of the utterly fluid, outsider-driven nature of the two contests at this point.

Post and Courier: Saturday's S.C. forecast: A record GOP turnout

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160218/PC1603/160219338>

Robert Behre

Six candidates still in the race. Mixed results from the nation's first caucus and primary. A ton of money spent. All the ingredients are in the pot for a record turnout in South Carolina's GOP presidential primary. "That is a defining story of this election cycle," said state Republican Party Chairman Matt Moore. "The interest and engagement in this election are through the roof."

Anderson Independent: Sizable turnout expected for Saturday's GOP presidential primary

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/sizable-turnout-expected-for-saturdays-gop-presidential-primary-2c0de0f9-12ad-774b-e053-0100007fd978-369370001.html>

Kirk Brown

Around 60,000 voters in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties are expected to cast ballots Saturday in South Carolina's "First in the South" presidential primary. Anderson County Republican Party Chairman Dan Harvell said he is hoping about 25 percent of the county's registered voters will take part in the primary. That turnout would be on par with the 2012 GOP presidential primary.

Associated Press: Cruz looks to replicate Iowa ground game in South Carolina

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=bGr0EQ4L

Julie Pace

For months, Ted Cruz's campaign has touted an expensive and sophisticated get-out-the-vote operation as its antidote to Donald Trump's broad populist appeal. It worked for Cruz in Iowa. But Saturday's South Carolina primary will be a tougher test for the Texas senator, one that could shape the race between the anti-establishment rivals as the GOP contest heads toward delegate-rich March voting states.

The State: Record turnout expected in Saturday's GOP primary

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article61193752.html>

Tim Flach

A combative contest among six challengers is expected to produce a record voter turnout in Saturday's GOP presidential primary. As of midday Thursday, about 38,000 absentee ballots had been cast in the GOP contest. That exceeds the 35,595 absentee ballots cast in 2008 — a record total that included both the Democratic and Republican presidential primaries.

Politico: South Carolina Republican chairman rips 'anti-Muslim rhetoric'

<http://www.politico.com/blogs/south-carolina-primary-2016-live-updates-and-results/2016/02/matt-moore-criticize-anti-muslim-rhetoric-219440>

Kyle Cheney

South Carolina GOP chairman Matt Moore had a message for Muslim students here, at historically black South Carolina State University: You are Americans. Seated alongside Ben Carson and pro-football tight end Ben Watson, Moore emphasized that the Republican Party is not anti-Muslim.

The State: Polls: Trump, Clinton still leading in SC primaries

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article61079972.html>

Jamie Self

Five new polls out Thursday show New York billionaire Donald Trump holding his lead in Saturday's S.C. Republican presidential primary. Trump averaged 32 percent support from likely voters in the GOP primary, according to the five polls. Trump's support ranged from a low of 29 percent to a high of 34 percent, according to the polls.

Greenville News: Cruz continues wooing of Upstate voters

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/elections/2016/02/18/cruz-continues-wooing-upstate-voters/80583894/>

Rudolph Bell

Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz continued to court voters in the Greenville area Thursday two days before South Carolina's GOP presidential primary. The Texas senator campaigned at the exclusive Poinsett Club in Greenville before heading to a less-fancy location, Mutt's BBQ in Easley. His host at the Poinsett Club was the Greenville County Republican Women's Club.

Greenville News: Cruz talks court, Carson criticizes Obama at conservative event

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/elections/2016/02/18/cruz-talks-court-carson-criticizes-obama-conservative-event/80568394/>

Emily Patrick

Discussions of the future of the U.S. Supreme Court dominated a gathering of conservative leaders, including Sen. Ted Cruz and Ben Carson, Thursday evening. Sen. Marco Rubio was scheduled to attend the event but did not appear. About 5,000 people attended the rally hosted by the Conservative Review at Bon Secours Wellness Arena.

Post and Courier: Trump talks Boeing, China and unions on South Carolina campaign trail

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160218/PC05/160219318>

Allison Prang, John McDermott

Boeing Co. and labor unions are a couple of hot business topics in South Carolina. Presidential hopeful Donald Trump has broached both while campaigning in the Palmetto State this week, while also throwing China into the mix.

Washington Post: Will feud with Pope Francis hurt Trump? Not likely

<http://www.thestate.com/news/nation-world/national/article61079852.html>

Philip Bump

On the lengthy checklist Donald Trump carries in his pocket titled, "FEUDS TO GET INTO," he's finally gotten the chance to cross off one of the big ones. Donald Trump is now in a war of words with Pope Francis, the leader of the Catholic Church and a man considered by millions to be the conduit for the word of God on Earth.

Florence Morning News: Jeb Bush makes stop at Pee Dee State Farmers Market

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_798f1d98-d66a-11e5-ad48-c3ebf727d82a.html?_dc=31904690898.95487

Shamira McCray

Following a town hall meeting Thursday morning at the Pee Dee State Farmers Market, presidential candidate Jeb Bush told the Morning News that he feels good about his campaign moving up in recent polls. "I've seen polling that's done, tracking polls, that show that we're close to second place (in South Carolina)," Bush said.

Rock Hill Herald: Bush stops in Rock Hill, seeks a breakthrough in Saturday's GOP primary

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article61207507.html#storylink=cpy>

Bristow Marchant

Donald Trump's name didn't come up much at Thursday's town hall with Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush, but the former Florida governor tried hard to draw a contrast with the GOP frontrunner nonetheless.

Rock Hill Herald: Kasich talks jobs, taxes during whirlwind stop in Indian Land

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article61207817.html>

Jennifer Becknell

The Ohio governor, who has been polling in the middle of the GOP pack in recent surveys, spoke to about 200 people and answered questions in an hourlong town hall-style stop at the Sun City Carolina Lakes retirement community.

The State: U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn to endorse Hillary Clinton for president

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article61174112.html>

Jamie Self

U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn will endorse Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton in the state's presidential primary, a Clinton campaign aide told The State Thursday night. The endorsement will come at 11 a.m. Friday at Columbia's Allen University, a source close to Clyburn also confirmed.

Post and Courier: James Clyburn to endorse Hillary Clinton in Columbia on Friday

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160218/PC1603/160219319>

Emma Dumain

U.S. Rep. James Clyburn, the third-ranking House Democrat and perhaps the most influential black lawmaker in South Carolina, will endorse Hillary Clinton for president at an event Friday, a Clinton campaign aide confirmed.

The State: South Carolina sees itself as testing ground for national campaigns

<http://www.thestate.com/news/nation-world/national/article60914802.html>

Jamie Self

In South Carolina, conservative evangelical Republicans dominate the manufacturing-rich Upstate region, as the state's fast-growing northwest is called. The tourism hot spots along the coast are magnets for affluent new residents, some libertarian-leaning.

The State: National media setting up camp around SC for presidential primaries

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article61093502.html>

Janet Jones Kendall

TV anchor Craig Melvin has traveled the world, but this week and next he's back in familiar territory. "I've spent many a Friday and Saturday night here," Melvin said earlier this week while sitting in Liberty Tap Room. "(Attorney General) Alan Wilson and I have been friends for a long time – we came here the night of his wedding. There are a lot of memories."

S.C. General Assembly News:

Augusta Chronicle: SC looks to keep injection drug suppliers secret

<http://m.chronicle.augusta.com/news/2016-02-18/sc-looks-keep-injection-drug-suppliers-secret#gsc.tab=0>

Sarita Chourey

South Carolina lawmakers are looking for a compromise in a bill that would render information about lethal injection drugs a secret, a change that may enable the state to resume executions. The state uses a three drug protocol: pentobarbital, pancuronium bromide, and potassium chloride. The corrections agency does not have the first two drugs and has not been able to acquire them.

Note: After S.C. Department of Corrections Director Bryan Stirling became the agency director in the fall of 2013, he was told the execution drugs had recently expired and that no companies would sell them to the agency. The department is required to carry out the sentence of the court and has no position on the death penalty.

Note: Stirling said opponents have been "very successful" at obtaining information through open records laws and other legal means about the companies that supply the drugs.

Post and Courier: S.C. roads debate heads to week six

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160218/PC1603/160219341>

Gavin Jackson

The South Carolina Senate ended its fifth week of session without a vote on a roads funding bill, but there's apparent momentum to continue the debate next week. Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, announced that the Senate Finance and Judiciary committees canceled their meetings Tuesday to clear way for the debate.

The State: Senate plans to buckle down on roads bill Tuesday

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article61196887.html>

Cassie Cope

State Senate leaders canceled two committee meetings planned for Tuesday so senators can debate a plan to repair the state's crumbling roads. "We need to get to the bill and start taking votes," said Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Wall Street Journal: Nikki Haley's Role in Marco Rubio's Momentum

<http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2016/02/18/nikki-haleys-role-in-marco-rubios-momentum/>

Doug Heye

Endorsements don't mean that support is automatically transferred from one person to another. Gov. Nikki Haley's endorsement doesn't appear likely to push Sen. Marco Rubio into first place in South Carolina's Republican primary on Saturday.

Note: Mrs. Haley's political profile was raised by her actions and political courage in the wake of the church shootings in Charleston last summer.

Post and Courier: Obama should use visit to step up pressure on Cuba

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160219/PC1002/160219331>

Editorial

President Barack Obama declared an end to a roughly 50-year embargo and the restoration of relations between the U.S. and Cuba at the end of 2014, but progress in reforming the oppressive Castro government has so far been disappointing at best.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Review: SC Medicaid agency exposed data to cybertheft risk

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=dBd5c70j

Seanna Adcox

The findings by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General include that the Medicaid agency did not - at the time of its evaluation in 2013 - have a security plan for its computer system, had no encryption for laptops and had not properly trained employees. The report purposefully did not give specifics.

Post and Courier: Decision nears on oil and natural gas drilling offshore

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160218/PC16/160219337>

Bo Petersen

Federal regulators are expected to announce in March whether they will propose leasing more offshore oil and natural gas exploration and drilling in the Atlantic, including off South Carolina, say environmental attorneys who are monitoring the decision.

Note: A coalition of governors, including Gov. Nikki Haley, worked largely behind the scenes with industry lobbyists to urge federal officials in the Obama administration to open the Southeast coast to oil and natural gas testing and drilling.

The State: 20 South Carolinians tested for Zika virus

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article61185767.html>

Jeff Wilkinson

Twenty people in South Carolina have been tested for the Zika virus, with 11 cases coming back negative and nine still pending, according to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. All of the people tested have traveled to countries with active transmission, and they live in various regions of the state, a DHEC spokesman said Thursday.

Local News:

Post and Courier: As finances erode, Century Aluminum sets tight time frame for Mount Holly smelter

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160218/PC05/160219335>

David Wren

Century Aluminum still hopes state lawmakers will find a way to cut electricity costs at its Mount Holly smelter, but a shutdown by the end of May is looming. "We are working intently to produce a power-supply arrangement that makes this world-class plant competitive for the long term," Mike Bless, the company's president and CEO, said Thursday after Century announced its quarterly and annual earnings.

National News:

New York Times: Conservative Planning for Supreme Court Vacancy Predates Antonin Scalia's Death

<http://www.nytimes.com/politics/first-draft/2016/02/19/conservative-planning-for-supreme-court-vacancy-predates-antonin-scalias-death/?smprod=nytcare-iphone&smid=nytcare-iphone-share>

Maggie Haberman

The state's attorney general, Alan Wilson, had been working with the Conservative Leadership Project, a political group, to focus attention on the fact that four sitting justices were born in the 1930s, and to call attention to the potential for the next president to fill at least one vacancy. Mr. Wilson and the group held a series of forums with different candidates.

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