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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The Herald Journal: Duke Endowment president receives Order of the Palmetto

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160311/ARTICLES/160319913/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Duke-Endowment-president-receives-Order-of-the-Palmetto>

Alyssa Mulliger

Eugene “Gene” Cochrane Jr., president of the Duke Endowment, was honored with the Order of the Palmetto Friday morning. Cochrane was presented with the state's highest civilian honor in front of hundreds of nonprofit leaders attending the annual South Carolina Association of Nonprofit Organizations (SCANPO) summit in Spartanburg. The award recognizes individuals for extraordinary lifetime service and achievements of national and statewide significance. State Rep. Rita Allison, R-Lyman, and Ted Hendry, chairman of the SCANPO board of directors, presented the award to Cochrane on behalf of Gov. Nikki Haley.

Note: “This award has been bestowed upon you for your exceptional dedicated service to the Palmetto State,” said Haley’s letter, which Allison read. “South Carolina is blessed to benefit from your tremendous work and your service.”

Movement Mortgage Blog: Movement, S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley Debut National Sales Support Center
<https://movement.com/blog/2016/03/11/movement-s-c-gov-nikki-haley-debut-national-sales-support-center/>

Jonathan McFadden

Channeling the same patriotic fervor you might find at a presidential rally (or baseball game), Movement Mortgage on Friday celebrated the debut of its new \$22 million headquarters in Fort Mill with speeches, shouts and a whole lot of red and white. Her rising profile in the Republican Party led to her delivering the GOP response after President Barack Obama's State of the Union address in January. She also earned accolades after spearheading the removal of the Confederate flag from the statehouse following the killings of nine people in a Charleston church last summer. Against the backdrop of a contentious presidential race, Crawford praised Movement’s partnership with the governor as a show of “what it could look like when we think not what’s best for us but what’s best for all.”

Note: As they took questions from reporters, Crawford and Haley referred to themselves as partners in boosting South Carolina’s economy. “When we’re recruiting companies, it’s about a partnership,” Haley said. “It’s all about our brand in South Carolina, and Movement Mortgage is a special part of that.”

Post and Courier: Auto briefs

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160312/PC2107/160319820>

South Carolina placed 18th highest in the yearly survey, with an average \$1,353 a year for car insurance. The state placed just behind Connecticut and ahead of Arkansas. The national average stands at \$1,325 a year. The S.C. Automotive Council trade group came away from the 5th annual S. C. Automotive Summit in Greenville with a horn-tooting response to the state’s car industry, which includes plants in the Charleston area. One highlight involved about 40 “industry professionals” who took a preview tour of the Mercedes-Benz Vans plant expansion underway in Ladson. “The company is turning the plant into a turn-key production facility that will distribute Mercedes-Benz vans to

growing markets,” the council said.

Note: At the summit on Feb. 25, S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley spoke to “a packed house” on how government and business can work together to create a dynamic automotive environment, the council pointed out. “What we see is more and more companies want to produce ‘Made in America’ ... Look at the spike in sales for Volvo cars just when they announced they were going to produce here,” Haley remarked, according to the council.

S.C. General Assembly News:

The State: Group sends SC House members \$2 each, asking for their vote

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article65501837.html>

Jamie Self

The S.C. Podiatric Medical Association sent \$2 in a letter to each S.C. House member, asking for their support on a bill that the group favors. The proposal would allow podiatrists to work on ankles, which they now are barred from doing. The letter went out to all 124 House members, including House Ethics Committee chairman Kenny Bingham, R-Lexington, who said he was surprised to find the \$2 in a letter asking his support for a bill. Bingham responded by sending a letter to all House members instructing them to return the \$2 to the Ethics Committee. If House members keep the money, they could be in trouble, Bingham added.

S.C. Agency News:

The State: DHEC board drops pollution fine in Trenholm Plaza renovation dispute

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article65351857.html>

Sammy Fretwell

The state’s environmental protection board overturned a \$10,000 fine Thursday against a company accused of digging up asbestos-laden material and depositing the substance in a dumpster at the bustling Trenholm Plaza shopping center in Forest Acres. A Department of Health and Environmental Control lawyer questioned whether the asbestos-tinged flooring had exposed shoppers in 2014, but DHEC has been unable to confirm that — and agency board members said during an enforcement hearing that the fine isn’t warranted.

S.C. Political News:

Aiken Standard: Joe Wilson, other congressmen seeking continued support for MOX facility

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160311/AIK0101/160319890>

Christina Cleveland

U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., has led a bipartisan letter sent to the Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development this week, requesting the committee support continued construction of the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility at the Savannah River Site. The letter dated March 11 requests funding at the “House passed fiscal year 2016 level” of \$345 million. “The MOX facility is nearly 70 percent complete, according to the U.S. government-certified earned value management system process,” the letter reads. “The project is essential to the United States nuclear nonproliferation goals and to uphold the Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement in 2000 with the Russian Federation.” Wilson, whose district includes Aiken County, signed the letter along with U.S. Reps. Jeff Duncan, Trey Gowdy and Tom Rice – all South Carolina Republicans. U. S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., also signed the letter, along with Republican Georgia congressmen Reps. Jody Hice, Barry Loudermilk, Rob Woodall and Rick Allen.

Aiken Standard: Savannah River Site receives Switzerland nuclear waste

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160311/AIK0101/160319869>

Christina Cleveland

The Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration, also known as NNSA, working in collaboration with the government of Switzerland, announced this month that approximately 20 kilograms of separated plutonium have been transported from Switzerland to the U.S. The Savannah River Site will be the storage site for that material, said Jim Giusti, Department of Energy spokesman for SRS. "These efforts are an example of the important non-proliferation mission of NNSA and an accomplishment for risk reduction that will be highlighted at the upcoming Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, D.C., later this month."

Post and Courier: Making the case for Trump great again

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160312/PC16/160319854>

Frank Wooten

Nikki Haley has called Donald Trump "everything a governor doesn't want in a president." Lindsey Graham has called him a "jackass." Tim Scott has warned, "If Donald Trump can't take a stand against the KKK, we cannot trust him to stand up for America against Putin, Iran or ISIS." McMaster told me Thursday that Trump's "different, and it's going to take a different type of Republican to win this election." He said that when Trump "decided to run, I thought that was highly unusual and didn't know what to expect." Now he knows: "He's surprised everybody, including me, with his tremendous popularity with Republican voters."

Post and Courier: The last three years: Sanford's time in Congress, the second time around

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160312/PC1603/160319859>

Emma Dumain

U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford still sleeps on his Capitol Hill office couch when Congress is in session. The South Carolina Republican is still on a mission to cut government spending, and he still votes for or against bills according to their price tags. Nearly 15 years after he left Washington in pursuit of the governor's mansion in Columbia — and almost seven years since revelations of an extramarital affair that unraveled his personal and professional life — Sanford is serving his second stint as a rank-and-file member of Congress. In many ways, Sanford is very much the man he's always been. "He has always been about ideas and policies," said S.C. GOP Chairman Matt Moore, who got his start in state politics working for Sanford in the governor's office. In just as many ways, however, Sanford is undeniably changed. "I think Mark looks at his second entry to politics as a bit of redemption," said U. S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. "I see a Mark Sanford who is more self-aware." Graham added "the personal problems Mark was going through, he has learned from them. He's trying to be a stronger person."

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Raise the gas tax

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160312/PC1002/160319797>

Letter

Sen. Larry Grooms and even Gov. Nikki Haley are considering \$400 million to get the ball rolling to repair and maintain the state's roads and bridges without a raise in the gasoline tax. This is a pure expense with revenue coming from the income taxes of all citizens. To me that's as amateurish as it can get. It encourages even more Georgians and North Carolinians to drive over the border to buy our gas on the cheap. Even if you don't own a car, you pay the gas tax. It's enough to get our neighboring states and tourists laughing and scratching their heads in amazement and gratitude.

Post and Courier: Support the PTSD bill

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160311/PC1002/160319801>

Letter

South Carolina is a state that does not provide workers compensation to first responders who suffer from job-related Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. With the support and encouragement of a local deputy, Sen. Paul Thurmond introduced Senate bill S-429 to provide treatment for first responders

who are medically diagnosed with job-related PTSD. PTSD is recognized as a mental health condition triggered by a terrifying event; it responds to and improves with treatment. First responders are reluctant to discuss the job-related heavy toll taken on their well being. Ask yourself how many bodies, how many abused children, how many burn victims, how many failed CPR attempts and how many devastated families does it take to affect you? The caring and brave responders are always there for us, and it's time we showed that we are there for them.

Post and Courier: New reason to keep Gitmo

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160312/PC1002/160319803>

Editorial

Fresh evidence confirms an increase in the number of former Guantanamo inmates who have rejoined their jihadist brethren, further strengthening the already strong case against closing the prison. It also bolsters the case against bringing the terrorist detainees housed there to the United States. Fourteen senators, including South Carolina's Tim Scott, stressed that point Thursday in support of their co-sponsored resolution to keep Gitmo open and to keep those prisoners where they belong. Still, President Barack Obama persists in pushing for the closure of that facility at the U.S. Naval base in Cuba to keep a campaign pledge he made in 2008 and, again, in 2012. Moving terror detainees to a remote federal prison in the U.S. is a bad idea.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: FEMA friend, foe for people seeking flood relief

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160312/PC16/160319832>

Bo Peterson and Brenda Rindge

So far, FEMA has disbursed nearly \$14 million in grants in Dorchester, Berkeley and Charleston counties to help people recover from damage in the historic October flooding. More than \$150 million in loans has been disbursed statewide. Nearly 25,000 applicants have been approved for help, according to FEMA. The flood insurance program has paid more than \$128 million in claims to 3,760 applicants statewide during the time span of the flood. But FEMA declined to say how many claims were disapproved or still are pending approval. A lot of the frustration with FEMA appears to be with its bureaucratic rigidity in handling claims.

Post and Courier: 'Chopping' down feral hogs in Cape Romain refuge

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160311/PC16/160319874>

Bo Peterson

The first year helicopters were used in the state, more than 300 of the hogs were killed. "It helped our guys in those (state land) management situations." In South Carolina, hogs are now found in all 46 counties of the state, mostly along river basins. The swampy Santee and Cooper river basins are full of them. At high water times, they come out into subdivisions near wetlands, destroying lawns and landscape. South Carolina law has lifted most restraints on shooting or trapping the animals statewide. But the pigs are so prolific that no one really expects that alone to stop the population from growing, much less reduce its numbers. About 30,000 hogs have been taken annually by licensed deer hunters in recent years, according to DNR. But a single female can produce as many as 30 piglets per year.

Post and Courier: For U.S. car buyers, all is forgiven as Volvo's Berkeley County plant gets under way

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160311/PC05/160319821>

David Wren

You might think of Volvo's manufacturing plant under construction in Berkeley County as a \$500 million apology to the U.S. car buyer. Once Volvo's largest market, America was nearly abandoned by the Swedish automaker in the midst of the Great Recession, when sales plunged by more than 60 percent. Work at the Volvo plant near Ridgeville is picking up and, for U.S. buyers, it's apology

accepted. The October floods put South Carolina and Berkeley County officials behind schedule as they worked to clear rain-soaked land at the 2,880-acre Camp Hall Commerce Park, just weeks after Volvo's groundbreaking. "We were faced with a huge challenge ... at the start of our production here," Fjording said. Things are back on track now, with pilings in place for Volvo's body shop and paint shop. The company soon will start driving pilings for its assembly building. Foundations will follow and vertical construction could begin as soon as May.

Local News:

Aiken Standard: Homeland Security to perform training exercises in Aiken County

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160311/AIK0101/160319891>

A Homeland Security training exercise will be taking place on the southwest side of the Savannah River Site from Sunday through Friday. The exercises are expected to take place between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Sounds of explosives could possibly be heard during the exercises in certain areas of the site. Residents in Barnwell and Allendale counties could also possibly hear some noise from the training activities.

The State: Lexington County Coroner fires employee after DUI

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article65473337.html>

Matt Walsh

Lexington County Coroner Margaret Fisher fired a part-time administrative employee who was charged with driving under the influence Friday. Amanda Corley, 29, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence on March 11, 2016 according to the coroner's office. She was driving her personal vehicle and was not on duty at the time of the incident, Fisher said. Corley had been with the office since January 4, 2016. She was terminated immediately after the arrest. "Our office deals with the affects of driving under the influence every day. I will not tolerate any of my employees engaging in this dangerous and potentially deadly behavior," Fisher said.

The State: Forest Acres seeking federal aid to move flood-damaged police station

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article65572612.html>

Avery G. Wilks

Forest Acres is hoping to build a new police station with a slice of the \$36 million pie available to South Carolina communities in a new round of flood recovery aid. The city wants to use money available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to open a new station on higher ground after the current one was heavily damaged by flooding from record rain in October.

Sun News: Priorities set, public to weigh in on RIDE III road projects

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article65547847.html>

Audrey Hudson

Horry County residents will get their first chance next week to weigh in on road projects chosen for the RIDE III proposal that would generate a construction boom across Horry County beginning with the widening of U.S. 501. The RIDE III Sales Tax Commission tasked with compiling the projects voted unanimously to prioritize 20 projects, which will be constructed as the funding from a one cent sales rolls into county coffers, provided that tax is approved by voters in the fall. The tax is expected to raise nearly \$592 million over eight years, and officials estimate it would cover the cost of all proposed projects.

WIS: Lexington County officials seek more ways to fund road projects

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31449761/lexington-county-officials-seek-more-ways-to-fund-road-projects>

Mike DeSumma

Leaders of counties across South Carolina are hoping more state action can be taken to address aging roads off the major highways. Lexington County officials are among the many looking for ways

to fund their county road projects. Public works staff say each year they only get about \$3 million to work with from the state's gas tax fund. Part of that then has to go for road maintenance and repairs, leaving only about \$2 million left to pave new roads.

Greenville News: Greenville won't recycle glass as it rolls out new trash collection system

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/03/11/greenville-wont-recycle-glass-rolls-out-new-trash-collection-system/81651636/>

Eric Connor

Beginning in May, the city will significantly transform how residents recycle. And another change — the elimination of glass collection — will start sooner. The city joins a host of other Upstate providers who are asking customers not to include glass in their curbside recycling bins or at collection centers — though the city hopes its move to a new collection system for both recycling and garbage pickup will make up some of the difference

Morning News: Hartsville Police Department treats Thornwell Students to a day at the movies

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_db64c7b2-e7d0-11e5-b0da-8fa5abae1e6d.html

Nearly 400 students from Thornwell School for the Arts marched down Carolina Avenue on Wednesday morning, headed for the Carmike Cinema Twin movie theater and accompanied by the Hartsville Police Department. The department's community outreach division, known as Hartsville Safe Communities, treated the students to a showing of "Zootopia," a new animated movie from Disney, along with popcorn and drinks. The exciting event marked one of the first relationship-building activities for Hartsville Police Officer Jaye Gullett, the city's new community liaison officer.

The State: EXCLUSIVE: Multi-screen movie theater part of plans for Bull Street redevelopment project

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article65510727.html>

Avery G. Wilks

Downtown Columbia residents could soon have a much shorter drive – or walk – to the movies. A 10-screen movie theater is mentioned in a traffic impact analysis for the 181-acre Bull Street redevelopment project. And a site plan for part of the development shows a 49,000-square-foot theater and four-level parking garage along Colonial Drive, the site's northern boundary. It would be downtown Columbia's first large multiplex theater, opening decades after most of downtown's one- and two-screen movie houses shut their doors.

Times and Democrat: Grand opening of city gym draws crowd

http://thetandd.com/news/article_4a52cdd4-57a7-563e-a3e8-d0a5245ca7fa.html

Princess B. Williams

Hundreds of residents who gathered for the grand opening of the new Orangeburg Community Center Gymnasium on Friday were greeted by a huge banner above the welcome desk that read: "It starts in Parks! Welcome! Thanks for your support!" The 28,000-square-foot facility features two regulation high school basketball courts that can be transformed into four youth basketball or volleyball courts. Additionally, the building has two multipurpose rooms that can be used for small exercise classes, meetings and senior groups. The facility also contains a concession stand with vending machines, a lobby and seating areas.

Independent Mail: Oconee County courting foreign investment

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/oconee-county-courting-foreign-investment-2db310aa-c6de-50db-e053-0100007f31ad-371839811.html>

Ray Chandler

With a \$250 million Michelin investment off the table for the immediate future, more potential foreign investment is looking at Oconee County. Richard Blackwell, county economic development director, said Friday that a German automotive supplier has selected Oconee County as a finalist as a possible site. Another German firm providing thermoforming (a means of processing plastic) for

automotive manufacturing "has placed the county on its shortlist," he said. The two are among 18 prospects that Blackwell described as "warm" or "hot," most representing talks between Blackwell and his staff and the companies for months or more than a year.

The State: Fireflies' first season will be broadcast on WGCV

<http://www.thestate.com/sports/mlb/article65624747.html>

The Columbia Fireflies full 140-game schedule will be broadcast on the radio through Glory Communications for the 2016 season. The Fireflies home and away games will be simulcast on WGCV 620 AM and 105.1 FM. "Our broadcast partnership with Glory Communications is a perfect match," Fireflies team president, John Katz said. "Their station format is very family-oriented, which aligns particularly well with what the team will be doing at the ballpark and around the Midlands."

Post and Courier: Stephen Colbert reunites with former Stiles Point Elementary fourth-grade teacher

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160311/PC16/160319857>

Deanna Pan

Everyone has a favorite teacher. For Charleston native Stephen Colbert, that teacher is Ms. Katsos, who taught his fourth-grade class at Stiles Point Elementary. Colbert reunited with Angela Katsos Kiehling for the first time in 40 years for a segment on "The Late Show" Thursday night promoting DonorsChoose.org, a crowdfunding website that connects donors with teachers in needy classrooms all over the country.

The Herald: Clinton College celebrates 122nd Founders Day

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article65499502.html>

Tracy Kimall

The Clinton College ensemble led the congregation of students, faculty and community members in the singing of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" Friday at the college's 122nd Founder's Day Celebration at the Kenneth Monroe Transformation Center on Saluda Street. The event's keynote speaker, Bishop Mildred "Bonnie" Hines of the Southwestern Delta Episcopal District, encouraged Clinton instructors to unlock the potential of all students.

National News:

Associated Press: Political world closely watching Trump's Saturday events

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:6e62fbd2d1f2495fb7d3d5abcde1bc93>

Jill Colvin and Michael Tarm

The political world is closely watching the latest Donald Trump campaign events after the Republican presidential candidate canceled a Chicago rally over fears of violence. The GOP front-runner is scheduled to campaign Saturday in Ohio — Dayton and Cleveland — before an evening event in Kansas City, Missouri. It was a raucous scene Friday night in Chicago when Trump called off the rally due to safety concerns after protesters packed the arena where he was to speak.

Associated Press: Analysis: Chicago chaos tests Trump promises of unity

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:de885ac14bfe488d88425504f6d32da2>

Steve Peoples and Julie Pace

Donald Trump says he can unify the country. Now, he gets a chance to prove it. The Republican presidential front-runner canceled a Friday night rally in Chicago rather than enter a tense cauldron of animosity between his supporters and protesters — some of whom then proceeded to face off in several violent altercations as the political gathering veered dangerously close to a riot. It was an ugly incident unlike anything seen in presidential politics in decades, adding a dark chapter to the already unconventional 2016 White House campaign. And it comes as Trump makes calls for unity a central part of his closing argument ahead of Tuesday's slate of primary elections in five delegate-rich states.

Associated Press: Donald Trump calls off rally due to security concerns

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:45afeaa07b454f46992bf089da37de4a>

Jill Colvin and Michael Tarm

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump canceled one of his signature rallies on Friday, calling off the event due to safety concerns after protesters packed the arena where he was scheduled to speak. The announcement the billionaire businessman would postpone the rally led a large portion of the crowd inside the University of Illinois at Chicago Pavilion to break out into raucous cheers. Many rushed onto the floor, jumping up and down with their arms up in the air. "Trump represents everything America is not and everything Chicago is not," said Kamran Siddiqui, 20, a student at the school. "We came in here and we wanted to shut this down. Because this is a great city and we don't want to let that person in here."

Associated Press: The Latest: Judge to rule on request to quit Trump U lawsuit

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:4ab76d3f8c814bfa929584b811a40d62>

Tarla Makaeff has fought Donald Trump in court for six years. Now, as the Republican presidential front-runner and his lawyers try to portray the Southern California yoga instructor as the face of a federal class-action lawsuit against Trump University, she wants out. On Friday, a judge will consider Makaeff's request to withdraw from a lawsuit that claims Trump University fleeced students with unfilled promises to teach the secrets of real estate success. Her attorneys say Trump and his lawyers have put her "through the wringer."

News and Observer: With no ID, Sen. Richard Burr casts provisional ballot

<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/under-the-dome/article65555907.html>

Lynn Bonner

U.S. Sen. Richard Burr cast a ballot during the the early voting period for the North Carolina primary after going to a polling place without an acceptable form of identification. Burr, a Republican from Winston-Salem running for re-election, cast a provisional ballot and filled out a "reasonable impediment" form, state elections records show. The state's voter ID law became effective this year. Under a law passed last year, voters can attest to a "reasonable impediment," which includes having an ID lost or stolen.

Associated Press: Louisiana, Mississippi residents watch rising waters

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:d792123582384411b5d687f751bd7b4c>

Kevin McGill and Nassim Benchaabane

Residents in Louisiana and Mississippi are taking stock of damage Saturday after a massive deluge of rain submerged roads and cars, washed out bridges and forced residents to flee homes. The rain and flooding is part of a weather system that has affected Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee and Alabama. At least three people have died in Louisiana alone. In Mississippi, officials said as many as 1,000 residents could see their homes flooded by the rising Leaf River in Hattiesburg, Petal and surrounding areas.

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