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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Thursday, March 31, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley:

Greenville News: Upstate couple awarded Order of Palmetto

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/03/31/upstate-sc-couple-awarded-order-palmetto/82467324/>

Angelia Davis

The owners of an Upstate restaurant have received South Carolina's highest honor for civilians. That honor, the S.C. Order of the Palmetto, was recently awarded to Allen and Lee Ann Johnston, Duncan residents and owners of Fuddruckers of Spartanburg. The award was in recognition to the couple's "extraordinary work and dedication to the citizens" of South Carolina, Governor Nikki Haley said in the award letter to the Johnstons. In her letter to the Johnstons, Haley said, "It is obvious you have been incredibly effective leaders to those around you. "Through your extensive involvement in civic affairs, you have demonstrated a remarkable commitment to bettering the lives of the people of the Palmetto State, and your contributions will have a lasting impact for years to come," she said. "In the world of making a positive difference, your passion for service sets a high standard for others, and we are deeply grateful for all you have done."

Gov. Nathan Deal and Gov. Pat McCrory News:

Associated Press: Drug maker reconsidering \$20 million North Carolina factory

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:5412657bcfd0450cbcf1207151de693d>

Emery P. Dalesio

North Carolina's governor met Thursday with gay-rights advocates bearing a letter signed by more than 100 corporate executives urging him to repeal the nation's first state law limiting the bathroom options for transgender people. The law also excludes lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people from anti-discrimination protections, and blocks municipalities from adopting their own anti-discrimination and living wage rules. The governor "appreciated the opportunity to sit down and deal with these complex issues through conversation and dialogue as opposed to political threats and economic retaliation," his spokesman, Josh Ellis, said in a statement. Some companies are already reconsidering doing business in the country's ninth-largest state.

Note: New Jersey-based Braeburn Pharmaceuticals said it is "reevaluating our options based on the recent, unjust legislation" whether to build a \$20 million manufacturing and research facility in Durham County. The 50 new jobs paying an average of nearly \$76,000 a year were announced two weeks ago.

General Assembly News:

Associated Press: Museum chair: Budget likely to delay flag display decision

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=KgM58P6t

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina's budget constraints make it unlikely lawmakers will decide what to do about displaying the Confederate flag that was removed from Statehouse grounds last summer, the chairman of the museum that's storing the flag told his board members Thursday. "There's so much pressure on the budget" to put additional money into roadwork and education, said George Dorn, chairman of the museum's newly appointed governing board. "I just don't think they're going to discuss the plan this year." The Legislature voted last year to remove the rebel flag from the Statehouse's front lawn after nine people attending a Bible study were gunned down at a historic black church in Charleston.

S.C. Political News:

Post and Courier: Donald Trump's South Carolina GOP pledge may come back to cost him

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160331/PC1603/160339861>

Schuyler Kropf

Donald Trump may have grabbed South Carolina's 50 convention delegates by winning the state's Republican primary in February. But he might not get to keep them. The GOP front-runner's admission this week that he may not support the eventual GOP nominee has some thinking he's violated the state party's loyalty pledge. Trump signed that pledge — unique to South Carolina and a just few other states — in September as a requirement to get on the state's presidential primary ballot. The oath says that all candidates affirm "I generally believe in and intend to support the nominees and platform of the Republican Party in the November 8, 2016, general election." At the time Trump inked the document, it was seen as a cooling off of the New York billionaire's first run-in with the Republican National Committee over whether he would be embraced as a legitimate contender for the nomination. But earlier this week, Trump fired another shot when he said he might not honor the pledge and continued to speak out about a possible third-party run. He also has let on that he may withdraw his support from the Republican nominee if forces conspire against him toward a possible contested convention in July in Cleveland.

Opinion/Editorial:

Post and Courier: It's time to fix S.C. roads

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160331/PC1002/160339879>

Editorial: Rep. Joseph Jefferson

The South Carolina Senate had been locked in a nonproductive debate about roads that has been going on for nearly a year. But things have changed rapidly in the last few weeks. They radically changed their expected direction, throwing the roads debate and the budget in turmoil. What happened? It was thought that the Senate would pass the House's plan to use money from a dedicated gas tax increase to fix our crumbling roads (offset by an income tax break). The consensus is that roads should have a dedicated source of funds for their repair. You use the roads, you pay to fix them. Especially having visiting out of state tourists and travelers help pay for them! It makes budgeting sense. It's how adults manage their affairs. The Senate melted down into a tantrum and sent a clear signal they would never pass our plan.

Sun News: Municipal charter review set up in pending legislation

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/opinion/editorials/article69250192.html>

The Editorial Board

During his several years as solicitor for Georgetown and Horry counties, Greg Hembree was drawn in by municipal officials to "help fix my town." Now a state senator, Hembree has proposed legislation

that adds to South Carolina law "Plan B to address struggling municipalities." The Joint Legislative Committee on Municipal Incorporation determines if an area seeking municipal incorporation meets the state's minimum service standards. If governance fails, "What do you do? This statute sets out a Plan B," Hembree says. The state "lets [municipalities] get born, but has no way to mend them up when they're sick or bury them when they're dead." Hembree's bill (S. 163) is pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Sen. Kevin Johnson, a former mayor of Manning, requested that S. 163 be carried over from the Judiciary Committee's meeting March 22. The Senate was on break this past week.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Time running short for growers to get SC help after floods

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

SC State Wire

As state lawmakers consider helping South Carolina farmers after last year's rains and floods time is running short for growers to know if help is coming for spring planting. South Carolina Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers tells The Times and Democrat of Orangeburg (<http://bit.ly/1UuU0gL>) that timing now is critical. With lawmakers on break this week, Weathers says the measure will be considered in the Senate next week and says he will stress to lawmakers how critical the help is. The bill would provide a total of \$40 million for farmers to buy seed and plant this spring. Each grower could apply for grants of up to \$100,000 or equal to 20 percent of their loss. South Carolina's farmers lost \$375 million worth of crops during last fall's historic rains.

WACH: Five sentenced for stealing from IRS said 'belief system' allowed them to

<http://wach.com/news/local/five-sentenced-for-stealing-from-irs-said-belief-system-allowed-them-to>

Matthew Stevens

Five people have been sentenced to prison after they stole about \$2 million from the IRS. Jefford Henry, Jeffrey Henry, Linda Marie Henry, Makeshia Glover and Bobby McGuire received prison terms for conspiracy to commit wire, mail and bank fraud. The prison sentences range from 121 months for Jeffrey Henry to 46 months for Bobby McGuire. Evidence revealed the five were members of a sovereign citizen group known as the Moorish Nation. In addition to stealing \$2 million, the group attempted to steal \$12 million more by filing false tax returns. The group argued their belief system allowed them to steal from the IRS, the jury did not accept that argument.

The State: Five sentenced for stealing from IRS said 'belief system' allowed them to

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article69195177.html>

Five people claiming to be sovereign citizens found guilty of stealing millions from the federal government were sentenced to a collective 37 years in federal court today. Jefford Henry, Jeffrey Henry, Linda Marie Henry, Makeshia Glover and Bobby McGuire were sentenced for conspiracy to commit wire, mail and bank fraud, wire fraud, mail fraud and money laundering, according to a news release from U.S. Attorney Bill Nettles' District of South Carolina office. U.S. District Judge Mary Geiger Lewis sentenced Jefford Henry to 108 months, Jeffrey Henry to 121 months, Linda Marie Henry to 87 months, Glover to 87 months and McGuire to 46 months. During the trial, evidence showed those convicted were members of the sovereign citizens group the Moorish Nation. The five claimed their beliefs allowed them to steal from the IRS, which the jury rejected.

Associated Press: Prosecutor's practices probed in death sentence challenge

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=DqdA0pmf

SC State Wire

An attorney is seeking a new trial for a man on death row, saying the prosecutor in the case eliminated potential jurors from the trial because they, like the defendant, were black. Greenwood lawyer Charles Grose said he will file research Thursday to show that 9th Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson has a history of dismissing black potential jurors, the Post and Courier (<http://bit.ly/1RMRyeN>) reported. "The study shows that there's a very disturbing pattern for this particular prosecutor striking African-American jurors," Grose said. Wilson said Grose's findings are untrue and that judges have ruled in her favor when the issue arose during past trials.

Post and Courier: Researcher claims solicitor is about 7 times more likely to remove black jurors from selection pool

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160331/PC1603/160339872>

Maya T. Prabhu

A social science expert told a South Carolina judge that Charleston's 9th Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson removed potential black jurors from cases at about seven times the rate she struck white jurors. But attorneys will have to wait until May before continuing with the hearing that could lead to a new trial for convicted killer William O. Dickerson Jr., a black man who in 2009 was found guilty of kidnapping, sexual assault and murder and sentenced to death. Michigan State University School of Law professor Barbara O'Brien offered what she called a pattern in Wilson's jury selection process to Circuit Judge G. Thomas Cooper.

Local News:

Associated Press: Medical waste firm locating offices, 25 jobs, in Greenville

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=fdddj1vC

SC State Wire

A company that handles collection of medical waste is locating its corporate headquarters in Greenville and will create 25 new jobs during the next five years. SterAssure Processing announced on Thursday that it is investing \$2.2 million and purchasing an existing building for its offices. The company operates throughout South Carolina and its clients include medical offices, funeral homes and environmental waste companies.

Greenville News: Fitesa Simpsonville set for \$52 million expansion

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/golden-strip/2016/03/31/fitesa-simpsonville-set-52-million-expansion/82465382/>

Scott Keeler

Fitesa, a global designer and manufacturer of non-woven fabrics for hygiene, medical and industrial markets, has announced a \$52 million expansion to its existing operations in Simpsonville. The expansion will increase production capacity and is expected to create 38 new jobs over the next five years.

Note: "It's another great day in South Carolina as we celebrate Fitesa and its decision to expand in Greenville County," Gov. Nikki Haley stated in a press release. "With global headquarters already established in the Upstate, this \$52 million expansion and the 38 new jobs it will create further show Fitesa's fantastic commitment to our state and our people."

Greenville News: Will Greenville assemble a fighter jet?

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2016/03/30/greenville-assemble-fighter-jet/82359620/>

Rudolph Bell

Greenville would become the first location in South Carolina to produce a new military aircraft in its entirety if Lockheed Martin Corp. wins a bid to supply a jet to the U.S. Air Force for the purpose of training fighter pilots. South Carolina is already home to the manufacture of civilian aircraft, the most notable example being The Boeing Co., which makes its 787 Dreamliner passenger jet in North Charleston. But no company now produces an entire military aircraft in South Carolina, according to Deborah Cameron, director of aerospace initiatives for the South Carolina Council on Competitiveness. That would change if the Air Force selects Lockheed Martin to provide a replacement for the aged jet it currently uses to train fighter pilots. That aircraft, the T-38 Talon, has been in service since the late 1950s, and the Air Education and Training Command says it's no longer practical for training pilots in newer, more-advanced aircraft.

Greenville News: Spinx adding high-speed electric vehicle chargers

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/2016/03/30/spinx-adding-high-speed-electric-vehicle-chargers/82375938/>

Amanda Coyne

Spinx locations are the newest places for electric vehicle drivers to quickly charge up. The Greenville-based gas station and convenience store chain will add chargers to seven of its locations, including five in the Upstate. There will be one "Level 3" electric charger at each participating location. Each charger can charge a typical electric vehicle in less than 30 minutes. Charging will cost a flat rate of \$5.95 plus 20 cents per minute – \$11.95 if a charge were to take 30 minutes. The chargers will be installed and ready to use by May 3, when the company will hold a ribbon-cutting celebration at its 901 Marue Dr. location in Greenville.

The State: Columbia to loan \$85,000 to small businesses for flood recovery

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article69243762.html>

Avery G. Wilks

Columbia officials now plan to loan nine small businesses more than \$85,000 to help with recovery from the historic storm last fall. The no-interest loans offered through Columbia's Office of Business Opportunities can be used to pay for lost equipment and inventory, cleanup and repair efforts and more after the historic Oct. 4 rains and flooding. Three small businesses were approved for the maximum \$10,000 loans last week after the city's latest round of applications. Those were OnPoint Media at 1325 Park St., Sweet Temptations Bakery at 2231 Main St. and Operation Veteran Support at 2205 High St. Another business, Demadje Painting & Design at 6911 Olive St., was approved for a \$5,000 loan.

Associated Press: Ad campaign debunks rumors about Myrtle Beach water

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=XgX7W7jA

SC State Wire

Myrtle Beach tourism officials have started an ad campaign to debunk a report started by an Internet blogger that area beaches are closed because of water quality issues. Local media outlets report the ads assuring visitors the beaches are open were distributed Wednesday. Businesses are being asked to post the ads on social media and the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce plans to run them nationally. Following the reports on social media, the state tested water along the beach earlier this month and tests at all 44 locations found the water fine for swimming. Chamber president Brad Dean says Internet rumors travel fast and have hurt tourism and the chamber had to respond.

Post and Courier: Town, Save Shem Creek end lawsuit over office, parking deck plan

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160331/PC16/160339870>

Prentiss Findlay

A lawsuit over an office and parking deck planned near Shem Creek is going away, but the parties still disagree about whether the creek needs saving. Town Council voted unanimously Thursday to settle a lawsuit that the nonprofit Save Shem Creek had brought over town staff's approval of the project at Coleman Boulevard and Mill Street. The decision resolves both the legal challenge filed by Save Shem Creek over a town zoning decision and the town's countersuit against the nonprofit.

Island Packet: Parris Island training officer relieved of command

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/bg-military/article69185197.html>

Wade Livingston

A Parris Island lieutenant colonel who commanded the training battalion in which Marine recruit Raheel Siddiqui died has been relieved of command. Lt. Col. Joshua Kissoon, commanding officer of the Third Recruit Training Battalion, was relieved by Col. Paul D. Cucinotta on Thursday following an investigation by the Inspector General of the Marine Corps. The Marine Corps said the decision to relieve Kissoon was not related to Siddiqui's death, but did say the recruit's demise was a factor that delayed Kissoon leaving the position.

Sun News: 15th Circuit Solicitor's Office recused from trying man charged with <http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article69224777.html>

Claire Byun

The man accused in the death of Angie Pipkin will be tried in a different court. Randy Gale Robinson, 48, of Murrells Inlet, is charged with murder and obstructing justice in the 2014 death of Aynor woman Angie Pipkin. He remains at J. Reuben Detention Center without bond. Administrative Judge Larry Hyman recused the 15th Circuit Solicitor's Office from the case because Chris Helms – an attorney who now works for the Solicitor's Office – used to work for the Public Defender's Office, according to a motion filed March 14. Robinson's defense attorney, Morgan Martin, filed a motion in December after Helms, who was previously a public defender on Robinson's case, was hired to the Solicitor's Office.

The Herald: PETA offers \$5K reward in Rock Hill bait dog case

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/crime/article69046297.html>

Teddy Kulmala

A \$5,000 reward is being offered for information leading to an arrest and conviction in the case of a pit bull found near death in a wooded area of Rock Hill last week. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals announced Wednesday it is offering the reward to help bring Rambo's abusers to justice. Rambo, a pit bull mix, was found last week in a wooded area off Vernsdale Road in Rock Hill. He had gashes and cuts all over his body and had lost circulation in his back legs, officials have said. A realtor who is also part of a local animal rescue organization found Rambo and took him to a veterinary hospital. So far, Rock Hill Police have no leads in the case.

National News:

Associated Press: The Latest: Extradition approved for Paris suspect Abdeslam

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:19882dd8dc92467f99e3c59c437b93f9>

Belgian judicial authorities have approved in principle the extradition of Paris attacks suspect Salah Abdeslam to France. After two court sessions on Thursday, the federal prosecutor's office said "the transfer is allowed," and added that French and Belgian authorities will "jointly discuss and decide on

the further steps of the transfer." The statement said Abdeslam gave the "clear consent" for the transfer. Abdeslam was captured March 18 in a massive police raid in Brussels. The Nov. 13 attacks in Paris left 130 people dead.

Associated Press: Violent times encourage a step to the right in some nations

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:0fab132fe4bd4c13bafc1e071f0ca373>

Raf Casert

The Brussels attacks have given a boost to the far right in Belgium and beyond, and their anti-Islam language is finding a special resonance after another bloodbath by Islamic State extremists. Just as the Paris attacks that killed 130 people in November reinvigorated the right-wing National Front in regional elections, last week's bombings in the Belgian capital have given radical-right leader Filip Dewinter's Flemish Interest party fresh impetus to re-ignite his group's flagging fortunes. Even in the Netherlands, where one arrest was made linked to a possible future attack this week, fire-brand politician Geert Wilders is using the latest bombings to boost his popularity. It's the result of a potent mix of fear, foreign enemy and a failing security system that has been unable to stop one attack after another.

Associated Press: Police: Suspect in bus station shooting dead; 3 others hurt

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:de2839c8b5bc4704976fb3daab6e663d>

Larry O'Dell

A gunman shot a Virginia state trooper Thursday at a busy bus terminal in the capital city of Richmond before he was shot dead by two other troopers, police said. Two civilians were hurt, though it was not clear if they had been shot. The trooper's injuries were life-threatening, said Virginia State Police spokeswoman Corinne Geller. The two civilians were expected to survive. Initially, State Police had said in a news release that two troopers were taken to a hospital, but Geller later told reporters that only one had been hurt. Broadcast images showed numerous police cars and heavily armed officers at the scene.

Associated Press: Obama, Xi vow to narrow differences, work closely on NKorea

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:cedb13cc9e7f4aa1b0136ad4d9227a68>

Matthew Pennington and Josh Lederman

President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged Thursday to cooperate to confront the North Korean nuclear threat while working to narrow persistent differences over cybersecurity, human rights and maritime conflicts. Obama, opening a global nuclear security summit near the White House, also joined leaders of Japan and South Korea in calling for further joint steps to deter North Korea. The display of diplomatic unity came as world leaders sought to ramp up pressure on the insular country's government following worrisome nuclear provocations. "President Xi and I are both committed to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," Obama said as he and Xi sat down for a meeting on the sidelines of the summit. "We're going to discuss how we can discourage actions like nuclear missile tests that escalate tensions and violate international obligations."

Associated Press: Women accuse US soccer federation of wage discrimination

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:892dc9711bb14ac0b7f53cbf2a6687cc>

Anne M. Peterson

Five stars from the World Cup-winning U.S. women's national team have accused the U.S. Soccer Federation of wage discrimination in an action filed with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Alex Morgan, Carli Lloyd, Megan Rapinoe, Becky Sauerbrunn and Hope Solo maintain

in the EEOC filing that they are paid nearly four times less than their male counterparts on the U.S. men's national team, based on U.S. Soccer's 2015 financial report. The filing was announced Thursday in a statement from the law firm representing the players.

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