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To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, March 5, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Haley seeks storm disaster declaration for SC

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1q6EAYcm

Bruce Smith

Gov. Nikki Haley has asked President Barack Obama to declare almost half of South Carolina a federal disaster after last month's winter storm that caused at least \$430 million in damage and left hundreds of thousands in the dark.

Note: "Insurance coverage for the damages to electrical infrastructure is insignificant in relation to the extraordinary losses sustained by municipal utilities and electrical cooperatives," the governor wrote.

The State: SC State, \$13.6 million behind on bills, needs cash infusion by April

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/05/3306381/politics-sc-state.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

S.C. State University, suffering a \$13.6 million cash shortfall, has unpaid bills dating back to October and has been put on notice by vendors who provide food to students, washing machine maintenance in dorms and the school bookstore, college president Thomas Elzey said Wednesday.

Note: The board, led by Gov. Nikki Haley, did not offer a loan and suggested Elzey try to get the money from state lawmakers.

Times and Democrat: Gov. asks if SCSU trustees have Elzey's back

http://thetandd.com/news/updated-gov-asks-if-scsu-trustees-have-elzey-s-back/article_8c5acd92-a47f-11e3-9907-0019bb2963f4.html

Members of the South Carolina Budget and Control Board on Wednesday questioned S.C. State University President Thomas Elzey about his request for \$13 million to help the university make it through the year. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, for instance, wanted to know how the university could repay the money if it was provided in the form of a loan.

The State: Bill to forgive snow days heading to Haley's desk

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/05/3307004/state-house-bill-to-forgive-snow.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

A bill that would allow public school districts to forgive up to five days missed to winter weather will soon hit Gov. Nikki Haley's desk. The House Wednesday agreed with changes the Senate made. After the bill is ratified, it will require Haley's signature to become law.

The State: Fire alarm leads to State House evacuation

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/05/3306915/buzz-fire-alarm-leads-to-state.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

The State House was evacuated for about 15 minutes Wednesday after a fire alarm sounded. Initial reports was that something wrong with an air handler led to the alarm but did not cause any other problems, authorities said.

Note: @nikkihaley: Fire alarm just went off in the Statehouse. I wonder if it was a Senator who pulled it to avoid debate on Obamacare?

S.C. Political News:

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Rep. Mike Anthony ending campaign for SC superintendent of education

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140305/ARTICLES/140309861>

Felicia Kitzmiller

State Rep. Mike Anthony, D-Union, announced Wednesday he is dropping out of the race for S.C. superintendent of education. Anthony announced his bid to become the next education chief in August at Union County Stadium, where he spent a great deal of time during his 30 years as an educator and coach in the public school system.

The State: State Rep. Mike Anthony drops out of race for state schools chief
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/05/3307045/election-2014.html#storylink=cpy>
Jamie Self

State Rep. Mike Anthony, D-Union, is dropping out of the race for state schools chief, his campaign confirmed Wednesday. Anthony felt that the campaign was taking too much time away from his family and his hometown, said Tyler Jones, his campaign manager. The retired football coach and public-school educator also felt that he could devote more attention to education issues in the House, Jones said.

Associated Press: Anthony dropping out of SC superintendent's race
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=3OuAPfCo
State Rep. Mike Anthony is dropping out of the race to be South Carolina's next superintendent and will instead seek a seventh House term. Anthony announced Wednesday the end of his campaign as schools chief. The Union Democrat says he's decided he can be more effective at improving South Carolina's schools by remaining in the House.

Legislative Session News:

The State: State budget board approves contracts that could lure major companies to USC
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/05/3306382/politics-state-budget-board.html#storylink=cpy>
Andrew Shain
The State Budget and Control Board approved contracts Wednesday that could pave the way for IBM and Fluor to open information technology operations at a new office building coming to the University of South Carolina. The board approved a lease between the school and Atlanta-based Holder Properties, which will construct the office building and apartments on campus in a private-public partnership.

Associated Press: SC State president asks for \$13.6M direct payment
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=veVfG92X
Seanna Adcox
The president of South Carolina State University is asking state lawmakers for about \$14 million to pay its bills through June. President Thomas Elzey told the Budget and Control Board on Wednesday that if lawmakers are unwilling to give the money directly, an alternative solution would be a loan. Elzey says the state's only public historically black university will have a balanced budget next school year.

The State: Another measure on SC elections offices advances
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/05/3306790/another-measure-on-sc-elections.html#storylink=cpy>
Dawn Hinshaw
Another measure requiring the merger of election and voter registration offices in all 46 S.C. counties advanced Wednesday. Marci Andino, director of the S.C. Election Commission, said reconciling various election bills is critical to making sure June primaries proceed without fear of court challenges, like the one now entangling Richland County.

Island Packet: Legislation introduced to force sale of Port of Port Royal
<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/03/05/2983596/legislation-introduced-to-force.html#storylink=cpy>
Erin Moody

Legislation has been introduced by state Rep. Shannon Erickson, R-Beaufort, that would instruct the S.C. State Ports Authority to sell the Port of Port Royal by June 30, 2015, or see it sold at auction. If a sale is pending on the 317-acre property — 52 acres of which are buildable — the Ports Authority would have an additional 90 days to finalize it, according to the legislation, which was introduced Tuesday.

Post and Courier: SC House committee formed to study MUSC-C of C merger
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140305/PC1610/140309650/1031/sc-house-committee-formed-to-study-musc-c-of-c-merger>

A six-member committee will consider the future of a potential merger between the College of Charleston and the Medical University of South Carolina, House members confirmed Wednesday. Reps. Jim Merrill,

Leon Stavrinakis, Kenny Bingham, Gilda Cobb-Hunter, Mike Anthony and Chip Limehouse were appointed Wednesday to serve on an "ad-hoc" committee that will consider the merger of the two schools at the direction of Rep. Brian White, who chairs the House Ways and Means Committee.

The State: House panel passes bill to lift booze sales ban on Election Day

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/05/3307003/state-house-house-panel-passes.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

A House panel approved a bill that would lift the ban on liquor sales on Election Day and end the governor's ability to close stores on holidays. South Carolina is the last state in the country that bans liquor sales on Election Day. The Election Day ban costs S.C. merchants an estimated \$1.1 million in sales and the state about \$105,000 in taxes.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley has not issued an executive order to close liquor stores since starting her term in 2011.

Post and Courier: Alligator farm bill moves forward in S.C. Senate

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140305/PC1603/140309671/1031/alligator-farm-bill-moves-forward-in-sc-senate>

Jeremy Borden

Picking up those South Carolina-sourced alligator shoes and meat got one step closer to reality on Wednesday. The Senate's Fish, Game and Forestry Committee unanimously moved along a bill, S.714, for consideration by the full Senate that would allow for the industry and set up rules and regulations to govern it.

South Carolina News:

The State: Report: Marine to become 1st South Carolinian to receive Medal of Honor since Vietnam War

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/05/3306817/report-marine-to-become-1st-south.html#storylink=cpy>

Jeff Wilkinson

William Kyle Carpenter, a Marine Corps veteran from Gilbert who was severely wounded in 2010 while fighting in Afghanistan, will receive the Medal of Honor, the nation's top award for valor, according to a report in Marine Corps Times. He would be the third Marine to receive the Medal of Honor from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the first South Carolinian to receive the decoration since the Vietnam War.

Military Times: Sources: SC's Kyle Carpenter Will Receive Medal Of Honor

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/2014/03/05/south-carolina-marine-kyle-carpenter-to-receive-medal-of-honor/6084089/>

Hope Hodge Seck

Gilbert, South Carolina native William Kyle Carpenter, a Marine Corps veteran severely wounded during a November 2010 grenade attack in Afghanistan, will receive the nation's highest combat valor award later this year, Marine Corps Times has learned.

Post and Courier: Charleston port deepening project would get \$695,000 under Obama's 2015 budget

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140305/PC05/140309682/1177/charleston-port-deepening-project-would-get-695000-under-obamas-2015-budget>

Tyrone Richardson

President Barack Obama's proposed budget for 2015 includes funding for federal studies related to the proposed deepening of Charleston Harbor for larger ships, officials said. South Carolina officials want to deepen the state's main shipping channel to at least 50 feet from 45 by the end of the decade. A feasibility study is currently underway by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and expected to be finished by fall 2015.

Post and Courier: Sources: Encarnation wasn't among a College of Charleston search committee's top five recommended candidates for president

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140305/PC16/140309661/1006/>

Diane Knich

Of the three remaining finalists for the job of president at the College of Charleston, only University of West Florida provost Martha Saunders was among the five candidates recommended by a 15-member search committee, say sources with close ties to the search. Dennis "Jody" Encarnation and Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell also are finalists.

Local News:

The State: SLED Report: Interim Columbia police chief didn't tell investigators everything
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/05/3306965/columbia-interim-police-chief.html#storylink=cpy>

Noelle Phillips

Interim Columbia Police Chief Ruben Santiago failed to tell state and federal investigators that he knew two versions existed of a secretly recorded phone conversation between him and another officer even though that recording was of interest to agents looking into allegations of corruption against the interim chief. Santiago also changed his story during interviews with the FBI and State Law Enforcement Division about when he received a copy of that secretly recorded conversation.

National News:

Time: Obama: Senate Defeat Of DOJ Nominee A 'Travesty'
<http://swampland.time.com/2014/03/05/senate-obama-nominee-debo-adegbile-travesty/#ixzz2v8CRq6ZI>

Maya Rhodan

President Barack Obama called the Senate's failure to confirm Debo Adebile as the head of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights division a "travesty" on Wednesday. With a final tally 47-52, the Senate successfully blocked a vote on the confirmation of the former NAACP attorney in a procedural vote.

Associated Press: GOP pans Obama's \$3.9T budget as campaign warm-up
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_OBAMA_BUDGET?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-03-05-16-31-15

Alan Fram

Republicans are dismissing President Barack Obama's new \$3.9 trillion budget as nothing more than a Democratic manifesto for this fall's congressional campaigns, but the fiscal plan is taking hits from another quarter too - anti-deficit groups. Obama on Tuesday sent lawmakers a 2015 budget top-heavy with provisions that have little chance of becoming law.

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