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Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, February 24, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

WLTX: Haley Vows to Fight Gitmo Detainees Coming to SC

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/local/2016/02/23/haley-vows-fight-gitmo-detainees-coming-sc/80826680/>

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley says she'll fight any proposal that would send detainees from Guantanamo Bay to South Carolina. Tuesday, President Obama announced his proposal to fulfill a campaign promise and close the detention facility in Cuba for good.

Note: Haley, though, said he disagrees. "This is not the time to unsettle the people of this country or South Carolina by saying, 'We're going to send you a few more. It'll be fine,'" Haley said. "No it's not going to be fine. We've said that. They have been fine in Guantanamo Bay for a long time. I'm not the only governor that thinks that. We don't want them. We're going to fight it."

WCIV: Lowcountry residents concerned about Obama's Guantanamo Bay closure plan

<http://abcnews4.com/news/local/lowcountry-residents-concerned-about-obamas-guantanamo-bay-closure-plan>

Lara Rolo

Reaction to President Barack Obama's proposal to close Guantanamo Bay received mixed reviews here in the Lowcountry. While the plan doesn't specify where in the U.S. detainees would go, the Naval Brig in Hanahan is still on a list of 13 possibilities. The White House said the government between \$65 million and \$85 million per year compared to housing detainees at Guantanamo.

Note: South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley spoke against the plan. "We don't want it in South Carolina," she said. "We don't want it in Kansas. We don't want it anywhere in the country."

Note: Haley vowed to fight the President, who says the base is used by terrorists as a recruiting tool. "We're getting more terror threats than we've ever seen," Haley said. "This is not the time to upset the people of this country or South Carolina by saying we're going to send you a few more."

Note: Jackson said he agrees with Governor Haley. He believes moving these detainees into the brig could make Charleston an undesirable area and the focus of even more terrorist threats.

McClatchy DC: SC lawmakers tell Obama to keep Guantánamo detainees out

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/politics-government/article62018457.html>

Vera Bergengruen

President Barack Obama's proposal for shuttering the U.S. military prison for alleged terrorists at Guantánamo Bay in Cuba, which he sent to Congress on Tuesday, met with harsh criticism from South Carolina lawmakers worried about the possibility of detainees being transferred to their state.

Note: South Carolina Republican Gov. Nikki Haley said in a Facebook post that she would "fight any attempts to bring terrorists into our states."

Post and Courier: South Carolina Medicaid seeks to curb prescription drug abuse

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160223/PC16/160229725>

Lauren Sausser

Starting April 1, doctors in South Carolina will be required to consult a statewide database before prescribing Medicaid patients any controlled substances, including opioids for pain relief. The database, called the South Carolina Reporting and Identification Prescription Tracking System, includes information about a patient's prescription drug history.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley's Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Council recommended mandatory participation in a report last year.

WLTX: Report: Myers Had Trouble Saying ABCs Twice During Arrest

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/2016/02/23/donnie-myers-duc-incident-report/80824146/>

Colby Gallagher

The South Carolina Department of Public Safety has released the accident and incident reports regarding the arrest of longtime 11th Circuit Solicitor Donnie Myers. The document shed light on what caused troopers to charge Myers with DUI. According to the report, Myers crashed his car at 8 p.m. Monday evening.

Note: If formally indicted by a grand jury, Myers could be suspended from office by Governor Nikki Haley.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Greenville News: Day 3 of Senate roads filibuster lasts about 7 hours

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/02/23/day-3-senate-roads-filibuster-goes-into-night/80794898/>

Tim Smith

Sen. Tom Davis, a Beaufort Republican who wants the Senate to give the governor direct control of the state's highway commission and to use existing money to fund transportation needs, spent Tuesday in the well of the Senate for a third day railing against the "legislative state," parochialism by highway commissioners and the impact of raising the gas tax on South Carolina's poor.

Associated Press: Pressure builds on South Carolina Senate to pass roads bill

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=oe3ZWAIZ

South Carolina Sen. Tom Davis' filibuster of the state's roads bill will continue for another day. Davis spent nearly seven hours on the Senate floor Tuesday on his third full day of blocking the bill. The Beaufort Republican wants senators to change how the board that governs the Department of Transportation is appointed before giving the agency more money.

Post and Courier: Frustrations grow over roads filibuster

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160223/PC1603/160229710>

Gavin Jackson

Beaufort Republican Sen. Tom Davis wants his three-day filibuster to fuel public outcry for reform of the state Department of Transportation. Instead it is generating political baggage inside and outside of the Statehouse. Davis spoke for nearly seven hours in the Senate on Tuesday about the need to change the DOT Commission instead of just sending it more money.

Associated Press: Removed Confederate flag may be displayed in Charleston

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

Seanna Adcox

The Confederate flag removed from Statehouse grounds last summer may be displayed somewhere in Charleston, and the 120-year-old museum in Columbia where legislators sent it may no longer exist. The House Ways and Means Committee unanimously advanced Tuesday a proposal requiring an analysis of available museum space in Charleston and, if sufficient space exists, a cost estimate for moving the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum's collections there.

Post and Courier: Lawmaker continues efforts to bring the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum to the Lowcountry

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160223/PC1603/160229716>

Cynthia Roldan

Reps. Brian White, R-Anderson, and Chip Limehouse, R-Charleston, offered wording in the state budget Tuesday instructing the Department of Administration to explore sites in the Charleston area for the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum.

Greenville News: Senate gives final OK to coal ash bill

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2016/02/23/senate-gives-final-ok-coal-ash-bill/80812262/>

Ron Barnett

The state Senate gave final approval Tuesday to a bill that would require that coal ash from electrical utilities be disposed of only in a commercial Class 3 landfill, according to Sen. Larry Martin of Pickens. The measure would prevent MRR Pickens, LLC from proceeding with its plans to build a coal ash landfill near Liberty under its Class 2 landfill permit issued by the state Department of Health and Environmental Control, Martin said.

The State: Lawmakers hesitant to crack down on dam owners after flood

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article62130732.html>

Sammy Fretwell

Four months after a massive flood exposed flaws in South Carolina's dam safety program, support for strengthening the law is eroding as legislators grow increasingly nervous about backlash from dam owners.

Associated Press: Legislators advance bill intended to reduce tax refund fraud

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

The House has approved legislation intended to help South Carolina's tax collection agency reduce income tax fraud. The House voted 112-0 Tuesday to set a Jan. 31 deadline for businesses to send employees' wage documents to the Revenue Department. Businesses already must send workers their W-2 statements by then.

The State: Nearly 36 miles of Richland roads set to be repaved

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article62092977.html>

Cassie Cope

Portions of 43 roads across Richland County are set to be repaved after the County Transportation Committee approved Tuesday spending \$7.5 million to resurface nearly 36 miles of roadways. The money will come from Richland County's \$10.4 million share of \$216 million in surplus money that S.C. lawmakers last year divided among the state's 46 counties.

The State: \$1,000 reward proposed for killing coyotes

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article62066732.html>

Cassie Cope

Think of it as Powerball goes hunting. Or the revenge of the Roadrunner. S.C. hunters would be eligible for at least a \$1,000-reward if they killed a tagged coyote if a S.C. budget proposal becomes law. The proposal, approved Tuesday by the S.C. House's budget-writing panel, directs the S.C. Department of Natural Resources to tag and release at least 12 coyotes across the state.

S.C. Political News:

The State: Sanders campaign bracing for SC loss

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article62088627.html>

Jamie Self, Andrew Shain

Bernie Sanders' campaign is bracing for a loss in South Carolina's Democratic presidential primary Saturday. "I wouldn't focus on the margin because it's not going to be that close," Ben Tulchin, Sanders' pollster, said Tuesday of Saturday's primary. "But we're going to make it as close as we can. ... If we had three more months, we could close the gap more."

McClatchy DC: Clinton, Sanders call out legacy of racism during Democrats' town hall

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article62121967.html>

Lesley Clark, Anita Kumar

Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders pledged Tuesday to tackle long-standing racial divisions in the United States during their final joint event before Saturday's Democratic primary in South Carolina, where 60 percent of likely voters are African Americans.

Greenville News: Clyburn says he didn't break promise endorsing Clinton

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/elections/2016/02/23/clyburn-says-he-didnt-break-promise-endorsing-clinton/80808784/>

Rudolph Bell

U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn of South Carolina said Tuesday that he did not break a nine-year-old promise by endorsing former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for president over her rival for the Democratic nomination, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

Post and Courier: South Carolina's black vote leaning Hillary Clinton versus the novelty of Bernie Sanders

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160223/PC1603/160229714>

Schuyler Kropf

Some of the sages who cut hair in Charleston's black community hear a lot of chatter about the upcoming Democratic primary. Most of it runs in favor of Hillary Clinton. "I think she's taking the same path that

(President Barack) Obama is taking,” said Gerald Rivers Jr., who cuts hair at The Lab barbershop on Spring Street.

The State: Mothers of victims of gun, police violence campaign with Hillary Clinton

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article62097432.html>

Jamie Self

Five mothers whose children died at the hands of gun or police violence told their stories Tuesday at a campaign event with Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton. "Where no other candidate would listen to us, Ms. Clinton did," said Sybrina Fulton, the mother of Trayvon Martin, a Florida teenager who was shot and killed while walking through his father's apartment complex.

Post and Courier: Hillary Clinton pushes for independent investigations in police-involved deaths during forum in Columbia

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160223/PC1603/160229690>

Maya T. Prabhu

Hillary Clinton said police-involved deaths in the United States need to be independently investigated and announced a plan to provide federal resources to support state and local efforts to do so. The comments from the presidential hopeful came during a forum to address gun violence and police-involved deaths.

Rock Hill Herald: Bill Clinton headed to Rock Hill on Thursday

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/politics-government/national-politics/article62017947.html>

Bristow Marchant

Several prospective future presidents have passed through Rock Hill in recent weeks. Now the city will be visited by a former commander-in-chief as well. Bill Clinton will make an appearance in Rock Hill on Thursday as part of a get-out-the-vote effort on behalf of his wife's presidential campaign.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Washington Post: Palmetto State political spectacle draws foreign dignitaries

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160224/PC1002/160229702>

Kathleen Parker

Americans aren't the only people who are fascinated by South Carolina politics and the presidential primary process. During the past several days, including Saturday's Republican primary and Tuesday night's Democratic town hall, a variety of foreign dignitaries have visited the state to catch the spectacle. Ahem, I mean to observe the political process.

Post and Courier: Raising the alarm over rising seas

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160224/PC1002/160229704>

Editorial

Sea level rise is happening. It's happening faster than it has in centuries. And humans are probably mostly to blame. Those are the takeaway points from a study released Monday showing that the oceans are rising and warning that humans had better start preparing for the impact of that trend.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Washington Post: Republicans vow no hearings and no votes for Obama's Supreme Court pick

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/wp/2016/02/23/key-senate-republicans-say-no-hearings-for-supreme-court-nominee/>

Mike Debonis, Paul Kane

Senate Republicans on Tuesday united behind an official position on how to deal with President Obama's expected nominee to replace the late Supreme Court justice Antonin Scalia: no hearings, no votes and no new justice until Obama is out of office.

Note: "We like Joe Biden on this," Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.), a committee member, said after emerging from the meeting. "He was right."

Post and Courier: S.C. senators look elsewhere after state's GOP primary

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160223/PC1603/160229721>

Emma Dumain

U.S. Sens. Tim Scott and Lindsey Graham are back on Capitol Hill, looking ahead to what comes next in the

2016 election cycle and what role they might play. Scott plans to continue campaigning with Marco Rubio, whom Scott endorsed and who came in second behind Donald Trump in last week's South Carolina GOP presidential primary.

Index-Journal: Duncan files resolution authorizing Gitmo lawsuit

<http://www.indexjournal.com/news/Duncan-files-resolution-authorizing-Gitmo-lawsuit>

U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan, who represents South Carolina's 3rd Congressional District, introduced legislation Tuesday giving the U.S. House the authority to file a lawsuit against President Barack Obama's administration should it violate or attempt to violate the law regarding the transfer of detainees from the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, according to a release from Duncan's office.

Sun News: Rep. Rice: Funding for I-73 can't be rerouted to upstate roads

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article62048872.html#storylink=cpy>

Audrey Hudson

State Sen. Tom Davis, a Beaufort Republican, is filibustering a road funding bill in the state legislature and said last week that millions set aside to construct the interstate to connect with Myrtle Beach could be rerouted because it had not been used.

South Carolina News:

WLTX: SC Child Support System Faces More Fines

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/2016/02/23/sc-child-support-system-faces-more-fines/80820782/>

Mary Sturgill

South Carolina has paid millions of dollars to the federal government in the last 18 years because of our antiquated child support payment system. The Family Support Act of 1988 required all states to develop and implement a statewide, automated child support enforcement system.

Local News:

The State: Myers says he was run off the road; anti-DUI advocates want him to quit or get help

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article61997492.html#storylink=cpy>

Tim Flach, Noah Feit

Donnie Myers told troopers investigating his car wreck that he had only one drink and that another car ran him off the road. The 11th circuit solicitor also left a gun in his wrecked and abandoned car, on the driver's side floorboard, according to a Highway Patrol report on the accident that was released Tuesday evening.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley's office noted she can suspend local officials only if they are indicted by a grand jury for a crime involving moral turpitude or have waived such indictment.

National News:

New York Times: Donald Trump Wins Nevada Caucuses, Collecting Third Straight Victory

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/24/us/politics/nevada-caucus-gop.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share&_r=0

Alexander Burns

Donald J. Trump was declared the winner of the Nevada caucuses on Tuesday night, according to The Associated Press, gaining a third consecutive victory in an early-voting state and strengthening his position in the Republican presidential race before the wave of Super Tuesday elections on March 1.

Associated Press: Powerful storms roll across South, causing death and damage

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=NOeMctt8

Kevin McGill, Chevel Johnson

A deadly storm system that spawned tornadoes in Gulf Coast states Tuesday night was expected to bring severe weather to the Carolinas by Wednesday afternoon. The Tuesday storms mangled trailers at an RV park, ripped roofs from buildings and killed at least three people in Louisiana and Mississippi, authorities said.

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