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Subject: Morning Clips – Thursday, January 21, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: SC Gov. Haley holds up survivors of tragedies as role models

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

Seanna Adcox

Gov. Nikki Haley asked legislators Wednesday to follow the inspirational example of the victims and survivors of last year's tragedies to make South Carolina stronger. In her State of the State address, Haley continued the theme of her State of the Union response last week in referencing the June shooting deaths of nine parishioners at a historic black church in Charleston.

Note: "There is greatness in South Carolina, a greatness embodied by our people, a greatness unequaled in our country," the nation's youngest governor said on her 44th birthday. "It is my fervent wish that, in this year, we, as the representatives of those people, act in a manner that is worthy of that greatness. For if we do, there is no limit to where we can take our state."

Note: "I knew him to be a man who never seemed to speak against anyone or anything," said Haley, South Carolina's first female and first minority governor. "Disagreement does not have to mean division. Honest policy differences do not need to morph into personal dislike, distrust and disillusion."

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley: 'We are a different South Carolina than we were one year ago'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160120/PC1603/160129911>

Gavin Jackson

Gov. Nikki Haley called on the state for the type of unity witnessed after the Emanuel AME Church shooting to move her legislative priorities forward as several members of victims' families were present Wednesday for her State of the State address.

Note: "We are a different South Carolina than we were one year ago," Haley said. "A place, a people, cannot go through what we have gone through and not come out changed on the other side."

Note: "Disagreement does not have to mean division," Haley said. "We are more than just members of warring political tribes, but brothers and sisters and fellow South Carolinians."

Note: As Haley called for unity, she held firm to the roads funding proposal she gave legislators in her speech last year.

Note: "Pass legislation that cuts our taxes, reforms our flawed transportation system and invests in our roads, and I will sign it," Haley said. "Pass legislation that does not do all three of those things and I will veto it."

Associated Press: Haley gives education plans in emotional State of State

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=a3U24O2t

Jeffrey Collins

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley outlined her plans to improve education and fight domestic violence at her State of the State address Wednesday. But there was plenty of emotion in her speech, too, as she recalled a series of tragedies and crises her state faced in 2015, from the police shooting of an unarmed black man to the killing of nine black churchgoers during Bible study to October's historic floods.

Note: The state of our state is bent but not broken," Haley said. There was one big surprise. Haley left her prepared remarks to call out senators who have not passed her ethics reform proposals. She asked senators who support her call for more disclosure on who pays lawmakers and independent investigations of legislators accused of ethics violations to stand.

Note: "We are a different South Carolina than we were one year ago. Of that there can be no doubt. A place, a people, cannot go through what we have gone through and not come out changed on the other side. The questions we in this room must ask ourselves are: What does that mean? What do we do with it?"

Greenville News: Haley calls for action on roads, schools, domestic violence

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/01/20/haley-calls-action-roads-schools-domestic-violence/79050724/>

Tim Smith

Gov. Nikki Haley broke down in tears recalling the shooting of nine people at a Charleston church last year as she challenged a joint assembly of legislators Wednesday evening to act worthy of the greatness she said South Carolinians showed in 2015.

Note: "We are a different South Carolina than we were one year ago," she said. "Of that there can be no doubt. A place, a people, cannot go through what we have gone through and not come out changed on the other side. The questions we in this room must ask ourselves are: What does that mean? What do we do with it? My hope is that we follow the example set by those around us."

Note: "Just as the nine we lost inform my belief that angels must exist in heaven, these two women, and the precious little one who was with them that night, are proof that we have angels living here on Earth," she said after pausing through tears.

CNN: Haley focuses on healing, Walter Scott in State of the State address

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/01/20/politics/nikki-haley-walter-scott-south-carolina/>

Elizabeth Landers

In the wake of a high-profile rebuke to GOP front-runner Donald Trump, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley continued to forge her own path within the Republican Party on Wednesday night during her State of the State address. Haley tapped into Palmetto State emotions by remembering the victims of the Mother Emanuel church shooting in Charleston, acknowledging that the family of slain state Sen. Clementa Pickney was attending the address in the South Carolina statehouse.

Note: "He should be sitting with us tonight. Sadly, he is not. This is an infinitely dimmer room because of it," she said. Haley segued into the death of Walter Scott in North Charleston in April, which she described as "a tragedy."

Post and Courier: During call for unity, Gov. Nikki Haley singles out legislators for ethics reform

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160120/PC1603/160129908>

Cynthia Roldan

Gov. Nikki Haley broke from her script and made an impromptu call for senators who support ethics reform to stand up during the middle of her State of the State address on Wednesday. At least 10 senators responded to the request, standing before the cameras of her live address. The move was immediately met with opposition by senators who support reform but felt that singling them out, during a speech that called for Statehouse unity, was a bad call.

The State: Haley asks lawmakers to focus on K-12, not colleges

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article55725165.html>

Andrew Shain

Gov. Nikki Haley asked S.C. lawmakers to put more attention on fixing K-12 schools, rather than spending more money on the state's colleges, during her State of the State address Wednesday. Haley advocated borrowing \$200 million to repair K-12 schools, a year after opposing borrowing for a number of other projects, including, she said, "hundreds of millions of dollars to fill a wish list for our already bloated higher education system."

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Note: "No one can look at the tuition hikes parents and students have seen over the last decade and tell me that higher education doesn't have enough money," the Republican governor told the GOP-controlled Legislature.

WIS: Gov. Nikki Haley gives the State of the State Address

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31018280/gov-nikki-haley-gives-the-state-of-the-state-address>

Chad Mills

"The state of our state is bent but not broken," Governor Nikki Haley began her State of the State address. Some described it as a different kind of speech after a 2015 marked by three distinct tragedies. However, the governor did touch on some policy too. It was a speech praised by both Republicans and Democrats.

Note: With the late Senator Clementa Pinckney's family in the gallery, Haley remembered the tragic summer Charleston church shooting that took his life.

Note: She recognized the survivors too. "These two women and the precious little one who was with them

that night are proof that we have angels living on Earth," Governor Haley said as she fought back tears.

WCBD: Tough Year Brings Tears in Governor's State of the State Address

<http://counton2.com/2016/01/20/gov-haley-gives-5th-state-of-state-amid-national-scrutiny/>

Robert Kittle

Gov. Nikki Haley's State of the State address Wednesday night included two things veteran lawmakers say they've never seen before: a governor calling out lawmakers who don't support ethics reform by having those who do support it stand up; and becoming so overcome by emotion when talking about the Charleston shooting victims and survivors that she had to stop speaking for several seconds, and then being choked up as she continued.

Note: "In the face of overwhelming video evidence that something had gone terribly wrong, South Carolina did not erupt in riots or violence," she said. "Instead, we focused on justice and progress. Justice for Walter Scott and his family. Progress for our state. "

Note: The big surprise was when she went off script while talking about the legislature's failure to pass ethics reform again last year, when she's asked for it every year. "I'm going to ask for every senator that's for income disclosure to please stand," she said, as some lawmakers could be heard saying, "Whoa!" Income disclosure is one of the things she thinks is necessary in ethics reform.

WLTX: Haley Calls for Less Divisiveness to Fix State's Woes

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/politics/2016/01/20/haley-calls-less-divisiveness-fix-states-woes-address/79088156/>

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley called for less divisiveness from lawmakers as the state works to reduce domestic violence, improve education, and pass ethics reform. Haley spoke for nearly 45 minutes Wednesday night to a joint session of the General Assembly during her 2016 State of the State Address.

Note: Saying the state was "bent but not broken," Haley reminded lawmakers how much the state had endured over the last year, including the massacre at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, the killing of Walter Scott by a former police officer, and the historic flooding in October.

WLTX: Sen. Pinckney Honored in State of the State Address

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/local/2016/01/20/sen-pinckney-honored-state-state-address/79098960/>

Loren Thomas

During Wednesday night's State of the State address Governor Nikki Haley paid special tribute to the late Senator Clementa Pinckney. "Senator Clementa Pinckney served the people of South Carolina in this very building for 18 years," says Governor Haley. "He should be sitting here tonight. Sadly he is not."

WJBF: Haley Talks Education, Domestic Violence and Recovery In State of the State Address

<http://wjbf.com/2016/01/20/haley-talks-education-domestic-violence-and-recovery-in-state-of-the-state-address/>

John Hart

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley's State of the State address Wednesday night included two things veteran lawmakers say they've never seen before: a governor calling out lawmakers who don't support ethics reform by having those who do support it stand up; and becoming so overcome by emotion when talking about the Charleston shooting victims and survivors that she had to stop speaking for several seconds, and then being choked up as she continued.

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WLTX: Lawmakers React to Gov. Haley's State of State Speech

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/2016/01/20/lawmakers-react-gov-haleys-state-state-speech/79099250/>

Joyce Koh

Although Gov. Nikki Haley book ended her speech around unifying moments following the Charleston Massacre, some lawmakers say her words on the state's big issues in between was divisive. In one of the most surprising moments of the night for lawmakers on both sides, Haley went off script, asking Senators to stand if they are for income disclosure and independent investigations in the house ethics bills.

The State: Democrats blame GOP for poor roads, schools

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article55762130.html>

Jamie Self

The Republican Party's control of S.C. government and the GOP's infighting are to blame for the state's struggling schools and crumbling roads, an S.C. Democrat said Wednesday in response to GOP Gov. Nikki Haley's State of the State address. State Rep. Mandy Powers Norrell was the first female lawmaker to give the Democratic response to Haley, who gave her sixth annual address.

Rock Hill Herald: Lancaster's Norrell on Haley's State of the State: 'We've been duped'

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article55751985.html#storylink=cpy>

Bristow Marchant

A week after South Carolina's governor delivered the official GOP response to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address, it was the Lancaster County representative's turn Wednesday to step into the spotlight for the official Democratic response to Haley's State of the State.

Florence Morning News: Pee Dee legislators critique Haley's State of the State

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_1001f0ce-bfe7-11e5-86f6-87c621fd3dd5.html

Joshua Lloyd

Some state legislators from the Pee Dee praised the tone of Gov. Nikki Haley's State of the State address, but others said her speech lacked substance. Haley spoke at length about tragedies that marred South Carolina in 2015, and made proposals to the General Assembly on key issues expected to create contentious debate this year.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: State senator says 'powers that be' won't let S.C. ethics bill move forward

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160121/PC1603/160129897>

Maya T. Prabhu

After Gov. Nikki Haley's off-script call on South Carolina senators to stand during her State of the State speech Wednesday if they supported comprehensive ethics reform, a Pickens Republican senator said he doesn't understand why passing a bill is so difficult. Sen. Larry Martin said she thought Haley used the moment appropriately to give South Carolinians see where their senators stand on the issue.

The State: Courson criticizes offshore drilling plan

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article55745545.html>

Sammy Fretwell

State Sen. John Courson is criticizing federal plans to allow offshore oil and gas drilling in South Carolina, saying the practice is incompatible with the state's economy and its environment. "Many of us who are elected officials who do not represent coastal areas are also opposed to offshore drilling in South Carolina," Courson, R-Richland, said during a conservation briefing Wednesday.

Note: While Gov. Nikki Haley and some congressional leaders favor drilling, every city council from Hilton Head Island to Myrtle Beach has come out against allowing offshore drilling.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Boiling Springs lawmaker fined for missing filing deadline

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160120/ARTICLES/160129954/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Boiling-Springs-lawmaker-fined-for-missing-filing-deadline>

Chris Lavender

A Boiling Springs lawmaker was fined this week by the State Ethics Commission for failing to meet a quarterly campaign disclosure deadline. Rep. Donna Hicks said she relied on the political consulting firm First Tuesday Strategies to file her campaign disclosure form by Jan. 10. However, her disclosure form wasn't filed until Tuesday. Hicks said she was fined \$100 and paid the fine.

Anderson Independent: Rep. Gambrell to run for vacant S.C. Senate seat

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/rep-gambrell-to-run-for-vacant-sc-senate-seat-29c6cb5a-ba3d-068c-e053-0100007f4e6b-365984641.html>

South Carolina State Rep. Mike Gambrell is running for the vacant state Senate District 4 seat. "After much prayer and discussion with my family, friends and constituents, I am announcing my candidacy for the S.C. Senate District 4 vacancy left by the death of Senator (Billy) O'Dell," Gambrell said in a statement emailed Wednesday to the Independent Mail.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Make 2016 legislative session one to remember

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160121/PC1002/160129898>

Editorial

The state of a state — the condition of a political jurisdiction — isn't simply about public policy or infrastructure needs or new jobs, as the tragic events of 2015 so clearly revealed to South Carolinians. In her Wednesday night speech to the General Assembly, Gov. Nikki Haley described "the great challenges that were thrust upon South Carolina in 2015" and how the state rose to meet them.

Note: The governor demonstrated a strength of character last year as she took the lead in the removal of the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds.

The Oklahoman: Haley's comments track with Reagan's

<http://www.clarionledger.com/story/opinion/editorials/2016/01/20/editorial-haleys-comments-track-reagans/79069188/>

Editorial

It's been argued that many current GOP activists would declare Ronald Reagan a "Republican in name only." Although often dismissed, that allegation is given credibility by the reaction to South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley's recent comments on immigration.

Index-Journal: While we're on the subject, let's register lawmakers

<http://indexjournal.com/opinion/editorial/While-we-re-on-the-subject--let-s-register-lawmakers>

Editorial

Bless him. That's about as nice as we can be in reacting to state Rep. Mike Pitts' recent legislation calling for the registration of journalists. Pitts has taken a page from his counterpart, state Rep. Mia McLeod, in filing ridiculous legislation at the start of this year's legislative session.

Post and Courier: Hey, Rep. Pitts: Register rejection

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160121/PC16/160129931>

Frank Wooten

Register journalists, not guns. No, that doesn't sing with quite the nostalgic zing of "Get the U.S. out of the U.N., get the U.N. out of the U.S." That John Birch Society appeal was emblazoned on a sign at the westbound entrance to the old Ashley River bridge long ago.

Post and Courier: Transportation, education vital to S.C. prosperity

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160121/PC1002/160129917>

Glenn McConnell

South Carolina's economy stands at a crossroads today. One path leads to prosperity; the other, stagnation. If that sounds like an alarmist's exaggeration, I assure you that it is not. Our collective future is dependent on the choices we make now regarding the lives and careers of South Carolinians. In terms of our state's economic development, the idea is pretty simple.

The State: What Brian Newman tells us about needed ethics reforms

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scopepe/article55649135.html>

Cindi Ross Scopepe

MEET BRIAN DeQuincey Newman. He's a former Columbia City Council member and current (suspended) lawyer who just pleaded guilty to not filing state income tax returns for 2012 and 2013. He's also my new poster child for requiring public officials to tell us more about their income.

The State: Corps of Engineers should release study of dam faults

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/editorials/article55469700.html>

Editorial

THE UNITED STATES Army Corps of Engineers needs to stop hiding behind national security and provide Richland County residents details about Fort Jackson's Semmes Lake dam, which broke during the October floods. While terrorism is a concern for everyone, caution is not warranted in this case.

Post and Courier: Putting customers on hold at IRS

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160120/PC1002/160129899>

Editorial

Internal Revenue Service Commissioner John Koskinen has run seriously afoul of Congress, to the extent

that there is a move by some federal lawmakers to impeach him for an alleged failure to communicate truthfully with the legislative branch. And now if Mr. Koskinen has his way, the IRS' relationship with taxpayers could be come even more strained, too.

South Carolina News:

The State: Graham seeks release of dam inspection records at fort

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article55747540.html>

Sammy Fretwell

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham called Wednesday for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to release records of a 75-year-old dam that blew out last fall on Fort Jackson as a major storm socked the Columbia area. The Corps has refused to release the records, arguing that terrorists or criminals could use the information against the public.

Local News:

Aiken Standard: Barnwell County hospital closes after \$2.5M loss

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160120/AIK0101/160129946>

Maayan Schechter

Southern Palmetto Hospital, formerly the Barnwell County Hospital, will close its doors at noon today after a decline in hospital patient volumes over the years, according to hospital officials. The hospital will end patient services and temporarily cease hospital operations, according to officials, shutting the doors on a more than 60-year-old operation.

Times and Democrat: SCSU rushes to finish budget request

http://thetandd.com/news/scsu-rushes-to-finish-budget-request/article_8dc1e2ae-9f07-5553-b656-f69f64d051a2.html

Dale Linder-Altman

South Carolina State University officials worked against the clock Wednesday to complete and turn in the 2016-17 budget request to lawmakers by a 4:30 p.m. deadline. President Dr. W. Franklin Evans told trustees at a special called meeting on Wednesday that the administration was re-doing its budget plan because the original one followed the wrong format.

National News:

USA Today: Attorney General Lynch defends Obama's gun policies

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2016/01/20/attorney-general-lynch-defends-obamas-gun-policies-hill/79018424/>

Mary Troyan

Attorney General Loretta Lynch Wednesday defended President Obama's executive actions on firearms before Republican lawmakers who challenged them as an unconstitutional power grab that will do little to curb gun violence. "I have complete confidence that the common-sense steps announced by the president are lawful," Lynch said.

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