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To:
Date: 1/8/2016 8:15:34 AM
Subject: Morning Clips – Friday, January 8, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: Gov. Nikki Haley says she is setting her own agenda in State of the Union response
<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article53550030.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Gov. Nikki Haley said Thursday she plans to address the challenges in South Carolina and the nation that she thinks are the most important in her Republican response to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address next week.

Note: Haley declined to reveal details of what she plans to say, except to repeat that she is giving an "address" to the nation rather a "response" to Obama.

Note: "I certainly am not one to compete against the president or try to imply that I could be," Haley told reporters. "I just wanted to take this as an opportunity to express the challenges that I think we have seen in our state but also in our country and the solutions ... and the opportunities that can be there.

Note: "This will be very much just an address that allows me to talk to the country in a way that I think talks about things that I believe are important."

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley proposal adds 144 prosecutors statewide to deal with domestic violence cases

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160107/PC1603/160109514>

Maya T. Prabhu

Gov. Nikki Haley wants to spend \$19 million to hire 144 prosecutors so that police officers no longer are the ones prosecuting domestic violence cases in South Carolina. Haley unveiled a number of requests and executive orders in a press conference Thursday aimed at reducing instances of domestic violence in South Carolina, which has been ranked No. 1 in the nation for the rate of women murdered by men.

Note: "I was mortified when I learned that law enforcement (officers) were the ones that were prosecuting these cases," Haley said.

Note: Haley said the state needs to change the culture in the way it handles domestic violence cases. "You have to fix it from the ground up, there has to be a culture change," she said. "If we really are going to have the backs of the people who have to deal with domestic violence then we need to have the culture in the way we communicate it. These people are not victims. They are survivors."

Associated Press: Gov. Haley: Changes being made to fight domestic violence

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

Meg Kinnard

Progress is being made in South Carolina's fight against domestic violence, but more time is needed to study the problem and come up with ways to combat it, Gov. Nikki Haley said Thursday. At a Statehouse news conference, Haley told reporters she has signed three new executive orders pertaining to the issue, which was a major topic during last year's legislative session.

Note: Haley also said that her executive budget for the coming year would allocate funding to help combat the problem, including about \$19 million to fund new prosecutors to handle domestic violence cases, many of which are now prosecuted by law enforcement officers, who are often going up against privately funded attorneys on the defense side.

Note: "I was mortified when I learned that it was law enforcement who were prosecuting these cases," Haley said.

WOLO: Gov. Haley Announces Domestic Task Force Recommendations

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/2016/01/07/gov-haley-announces-domestic-task-force-recommendations/>

Jennifer Ready

The state of South Carolina is taking a stand against domestic violence. On Thursday, Governor Nikki Haley announced the recommendations made by her domestic violence task force. The task force compiled 50 total recommendations, the Governor implemented 10 on Thursday.

Note: "This is going too good to stop and we are not going to stop now," said Governor Nikki Haley.

Note: "First thing in South Carolina, if we really are going to have the backs of the people who have to deal with domestic violence then we need to change the culture in the way we communicate it. These people are not victims, they are survivors," said Governor Haley.

NBC 26: Governor Haley announces measures to decrease domestic violence

<http://nbc26.tv/2016/01/07/governor-haley-announces-measures-to-decrease-domestic-violence/>

Thursday, at a Statehouse press conference Thursday Governor Nikki Haley, along with members of the South Carolina Domestic Violence Task Force and state solicitors, announced the implementation of statewide reforms to address domestic violence.

WLTX: Haley: I Could Not Be More Proud of the Tigers

<http://www.wltx.com/story/sports/ncaa/clemson-tigers/2016/01/07/haley-could-not-more-proud-tigers/78444340/>

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley says she's one happy Clemson grad, as her alma mater gets ready to play for the national championship of college football. "I could not be more proud of Coach Dabo [Swinney] and the Tigers," Haley said when asked Thursday.

Note: Clemson is set to play Alabama in Monday's title game out in Glendale, Arizona. The Tigers are seeking their second national title, which was one back in 1981. "To watch them continue to build their confidence, stay humble, and to handle everything with respect, I can't say enough about how Dabo has handled the situation," she added. "It's a great team, it's a great group of guys."

S.C. General Assembly News:

The State: Senator: Roads plan could pass next month

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article53590670.html>

Cassie Cope, Jamie Self

The S.C. senator who last year blocked a proposal to increase gas taxes to fix the state's crumbling roads said Thursday he expects a road repair plan to pass the Senate by mid-February. A bill to increase the state's gas tax is among the first issues that the state Senate will take up when lawmakers return to Columbia Tuesday.

Note: However, Democrats likely will fight a large income tax cut, which Republican Gov. Nikki Haley has demanded as part of a roads deal.

Post and Courier: Roads debate looks to be more rocky than smooth ahead of legislative session start

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160107/PC1603/160109515>

Gavin Jackson

Despite claims that movement on a roads bill will be quick, there was plenty of division among lawmakers Thursday. State Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort, who filibustered the road funding bill last year, said the Senate could return the bill to the House as early as February if a consensus on reforms, funding and tax relief is reached soon after the legislative session reconvenes Tuesday.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley said she'll sign off on a gas tax increase only if it includes a two percentage point income tax rate reduction. The reduction is not part of any proposal.

Anderson Independent: S.C. lawmakers have \$1.3 billion in extra money for spending priorities

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/sc-lawmakers-have-13-billion-in-extra-money-for-spending-priorities-28b31e19-b755-3f66-e053-0100007f-364568471.html>

Kirk Brown

State lawmakers will have nearly \$1.3 billion in additional money this year that could be spent on education reform, flood relief, road repairs and tax cuts. One factor contributing to the growth in state revenue is "the economy has started to tick up just slightly," said Les Boles, director of budget of development for the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office.

The State: SC House speaker aims for 'substantial progress' on education this year

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article53599700.html>

Jamie Self

S.C. House Speaker Jay Lucas said Thursday that he wants the General Assembly to make “substantial progress” on education issues this year. The Darlington Republican said House members will introduce bills this month that include an education task force’s recommendations to improve K-12 public schools, especially in rural, impoverished communities.

Florence Morning News: State lawmakers say education has systemic problems, not a lack of funding
http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_be331d9c-b5a3-11e5-abb8-6be6ea5633bf.html?_dc=903936669230.4612

Joshua Lloyd

Several state lawmakers say a lack of funding isn't necessarily the biggest problem facing South Carolina's notoriously inadequate primary education system in rural school districts. 23rd in the nation for the amount of money spent per student -- just above average -- while remaining near last in national education competency statistics.

S.C. Political News:

Bloomberg: Seeking SC foothold, Bush wins another Graham backer
<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article53644080.html>

Michael C. Bender

Jeb Bush picked up more support for his presidential campaign in South Carolina on Thursday, signing up more than a dozen military veterans in the state and collecting another member of U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham’s national security coalition.

Associated Press: Rubio campaigns in SC while in the state for economic forum
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=RE8KV9Lp

Republican presidential hopeful Marco Rubio is doing some campaigning this weekend while he's in South Carolina for an economic forum. The Florida senator is participating in a meet and greet on Friday sponsored by South Carolina Citizens for Life. That event is being held at Carolina Haven in Columbia.

Associated Press: Bush returns to South Carolina with Upstate stop
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=vNCK6pFL

Republican presidential hopeful Jeb Bush is spending some more time in South Carolina's Upstate. Bush is speaking at Dyar's Diner in Pendleton on Friday. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and the former Florida governor is set to speak an hour later.

Associated Press: Sen. Graham to discuss failed 2016 bid with reporters
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=xnnQQJFx

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham is meeting with reporters in South Carolina to talk about his failed bid for the presidency and major issues he expects the nation will face this year. Graham's Senate office says the Republican is holding a pen and pad briefing with reporters at his offices in Columbia on Friday. Graham says he'll meet with radio reporters afterward.

Rock Hill Herald: Rock Hill prepares for Donald Trump campaign visit
<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article53598895.html>

Bristow Marchant

Rock Hill will be hosting its 14th presidential candidate of the 2016 campaign season on Friday, and GOP frontrunner Donald Trump may be the biggest draw yet. Extra security will be on hand along with the Secret Service at the Winthrop Coliseum, when the New York real-estate mogul and reality TV star makes his latest stop ahead of the Feb. 20 South Carolina primary.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

The State: Celebrate demise of NCLB, but recommit to accountability
<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/editorials/article53560850.html>

Editorial

SOUTH CAROLINA’S Education Accountability Act was based on the idea that students will learn more if we set high expectations and hold schools and teachers accountable for the results. It required schools to make progress educating not just the middle-class kids who are easy to teach but the disadvantaged ones as well.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: North Charleston officers' support for Michael Slager seen as strain on police, community ties

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160107/PC16/160109530>

Andrew Knapp

Officers' courtroom show of support this week for the North Charleston police officer who killed Walter Scott has stirred tensions among some people who interpreted it as an endorsement of the fatal shooting. At least five members of the city's police force, including two supervisors, stood when former officer Michael Slager's attorney asked supporters to rise during a bail hearing Monday.

Local News:

The State: Councilmen didn't fully report incomes to ethics agency

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article53624315.html>

Sarah Ellis, John Monk

A Richland County councilman and former Columbia City councilman who were charged this week with failing to file state income taxes also have spotty records of reporting their taxpayer-paid incomes to the State Ethics Commission.

Rock Hill Herald: Rock Hill schools leader proposes change in choice programs

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/education/article53632510.html>

Jennifer Becknell

Creating a foreign language immersion academy at Sullivan Middle School or building a new language immersion elementary school are some of the changes Superintendent Kelly Pew is considering for Rock Hill's school choice programs.

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