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Subject: Clips – Sunday, November 22, 2015

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: THE BUZZ: S.C. colleges want most of state's added \$1.2 billion

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article45768875.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

South Carolina's colleges and universities are asking for nearly all of the added \$1.2 billion that lawmakers will have to spend in next year's state budget. The state's 17 research schools, four-year universities and their branch campuses have requested an added \$587.6 million, and the state's 16 technical colleges want \$463.2 million more in state money.

Note: But Gov. Nikki Haley helped kill a \$500 million S.C. House bonding proposal. A similar, but smaller, \$236 million Senate bonding proposal was delayed until lawmakers return in January.

Gov. Haley not interested in RGA chair for now: Republican Gov. Nikki Haley is not interested in a leadership role with the Republican Governors Association until at least 2017, she told reporters at a news conference last week. "It is a group that I dearly love, but I have told them that I will not do anything ... for the next two years," said Haley, who has been on the RGA's executive committee since her first year as governor. "I have too much in South Carolina to do."

Call-in to Gowdy, Mulvaney: U.S. Reps. Trey Gowdy, R-Spartanburg and Mick Mulvaney, R-Indian Land, will appear on The Point radio Tuesday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., taking phone calls from listeners.

Battle of the campaign schools: The S.C. Club for Growth will hold a crash course for candidates on Dec. 5 after the S.C. House GOP Caucus canceled its campaign school planned for that day.

Post and Courier: Why was South Carolina Republicans' campaign school cancelled?

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151121/PC1603/151129896>

The abrupt cancellation of a campaign school for aspiring Republican office-seekers has led to claims of ulterior motives, a possible cover story involving Clemson football and, at last, a tale of bad blood between politicians and a blogger.

Haley avoids the spotlight: At its annual conference in Las Vegas, the Republican Governors Association selected New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker as the new chairman and vice chairman respectively.

Note: "I have too much in South Carolina to do," Haley said. "So I am open to getting into more leadership positions in '17 and '18, but I would not do it now."

Stavrinakis in the House: Leon Stavrinakis said he's going to take some time off to recharge his batteries and get back to family and work after last week's defeat in the Charleston mayor's race to now mayor-elect John Tecklenburg.

Get in line for Thurmond's seat: State Sen. Paul Thurmond's decision to not seek re-election next year has set off a burst of other Republican candidates interested in succeeding him in Columbia. Former Charleston City Councilman Tim Mallard announced his bid earlier this month, and local attorney Sandy Senn confirmed she's in the race, as well.

McClatchy DC: Some worry Guantánamo detainees could come north as Obama's term ends

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/national/article45662613.html#storylink=cpy>

Vera Bergengruen

When Sen. Tim Scott visited the Guantánamo Bay military prison in Cuba last month, he left with one overarching impression: The U.S. has found and created "the only location on Earth" secure enough to hold enemy combatants and suspected terrorists.

Note: "It is a slap in the face to the people of South Carolina who have sacrificed so much for this country to turn around and say you're going to put these terrorists in our backyard," South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said when the Pentagon announced plans to review the naval brig in August.

WJBF: Governor Nikki Haley Visits McCormick

<http://wjbf.com/2015/11/22/governor-nikki-haley-visits-mccormick/>

Brandi Heath

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley will be in McCormick on Monday. Haley will speak at the Women in Business Luncheon at the Savannah Lakes Village Recreation Center. It starts at 11:30 a.m. This group will present a "Woman In Business" Excellence Award.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Rock Hill Herald: 2 York Co. lawmakers leading call for ethics reform say Winthrop should revise nepotism policy

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article45836005.html#storylink=cpy>

Anna Douglas

On the heels of the state Ethics Commission finding Winthrop University's 10th president guilty of nepotism, Rock Hill's state senator – considered by many to be the political authority on ethics reform in South Carolina – says the public college's Board of Trustees should consider some policy and procedure changes.

S.C. Political News:

Associated Press: Carson questions claims of racial bias against police

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Y5obKIGK

Bill Barrow

Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson told a group of African-American civic leaders on Saturday that he is still waiting to see evidence of racial bias by law enforcement agencies in the U.S. The only major White House hopeful who is black, Carson also mused during a criminal justice forum that he never had problems with police as a young black male in Detroit "because I was taught by my mother to be very respectful of authority."

Politico: Clinton moves to end the primary quickly

As her rivals gasp in Iowa, the front-runner is locking down later states.

<http://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/hillary-clinton-south-carolina-216125#ixzz3sEqc4vrU>

Gabriel Debendetti

From increased travel to the states voting in March to a reinvigorated push to reach \$100 million in funds raised by year-end, the front-runner's team is eager to capitalize on her recent climb in the polls to knock Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley out of the race quickly.

Note: She also mirrored an attack line she often uses in Iowa, going after South Carolina's Republican governor Nikki Haley in an attempt to rile up local Democrats, much like she does with Iowa's Terry Branstad.

Post and Courier: From bar stool to presidential bid, Lindsey Graham taps old lessons

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151121/PC16/151129931>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

Given it was a dive, the name still makes him chuckle: the Sanitary Café. Lindsey Graham's parents ran the country bar, one where children's portraits stared back at a row of men on vinyl-covered bar stools swigging Budweiser and Pabst Blue Ribbon. The Sanitary Café sat in Central, a tiny town outside of Clemson. It was a textile mill bar, which is to say the stories came salty and the men salt of the earth.

Associated Press: Carson would support monitoring of 'anti-American' groups

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=GdVQg1yA

Bill Barrow

Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson says he would support government monitoring of any group deemed radical and "anti-American." Carson made his comments Saturday when asked about rival Donald Trump's suggestion that he'd monitor American Muslims as part of the government's counterterrorism effort against Islamic State militants.

Associated Press: Clinton says she would break up "big banks" if needed

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=xhaz2N13

Meg Kinnard, Lisa Lerer

Hillary Rodham Clinton said in South Carolina on Saturday she is willing to split apart big financial institutions should the need arise. The Democratic primary front-runner told Democrats gathered at a rally in North Charleston that she has the "toughest" proposals for dealing with Wall Street. She says would "break up the big banks" if necessary and hold top financial executives accountable.

Associated Press: Sanders allows he'd lose Democratic primary if held today

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

Meg Kinnard

Bernie Sanders acknowledged on Saturday that he'd lose the Democratic primary to Hillary Rodham Clinton if the election were held now. "We started way, way, way down," the Vermont senator told reporters while campaigning in North Charleston, South Carolina. "I think you're going to see us picking up a lot of steam here in South Carolina. ... I will not deny, if the election were held today, we would lose."

The State: Carson, O'Malley and Sanders talk criminal justice reform at Allen University

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article45811875.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

A Republican and two Democratic presidential candidates took part in a criminal justice forum Saturday at a historically black university – offering very different visions on the federal government's role in addressing injustices against African-Americans.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Greenville News: Ethics reform needs to be priority

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2015/11/22/ethics-reform-needs-priority-south-carolina/76052716/>

Editorial

No parents should settle for a D-minus on their child's report card, not if they have hopes of that child succeeding not just in that class but in the world that lies before him or her. Yet South Carolina lawmakers have seemed perfectly content with scores consistently that low – or lower – on the report card for government ethics laws.

Note: Upstate Sen. Larry Martin has been a leader in the push for ethics reform. He and Gov. Nikki Haley and others need to continue to put pressure on our state's elected leaders so meaningful ethics reform is passed early in the upcoming session. As Chaney Adams, a spokeswoman for Gov. Nikki Haley said in a recent Greenville News report, "It's time to finish the job, no more excuses."

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Refugees: Don't leave them to die, don't bring terrorists here

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20151122/OPINION/151129964/1128?Title=Refugees-Don-t-leave-them-to-die-don-t-bring-terrorists-here>

Editorial

The White House insists that the United States will stick with its plan to bring tens of thousands of Syrian refugees here to resettle. At least half of the nation's governors have said their states will not accept the refugees. The nation appears to be split once again. This time the divide is between those who want to help people in undeniably life-threatening trouble and those who want to protect the American people from terrorism.

Post and Courier: Don't trash recycling programs

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151122/PC1002/151129805>

Editorial

Dorchester County joined Charleston and Berkeley this week in the struggle to keep its recycling program afloat. Summerville announced that it would be able to accept only paper and cardboard for curbside pickup. That's a disappointing step backwards for a program that plays a crucial role in keeping waste out of landfills — and the environment.

Greenville News: Domestic violence rips apart families

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/contributors/2015/11/22/domestic-violence-rips-apart-families/76007144/>

Alan Wilson

Each October, the South Carolina Attorney General's Office hosts the annual Silent Witness Ceremony,

which honors the fatal victims of domestic violence. October is National Domestic Violence Awareness month, and serves as a time of pause and reflection, but it's also a time for us to realize the progress we have made.

Note: In June, Gov. Nikki Haley signed into law a comprehensive domestic violence reform bill that includes increased accountability for offenders, establishes community-based domestic violence coordinating councils, and requires prevention education for middle and elementary school students.

The State: Columbia doesn't need a new team in charge of the City Council; it needs an anti-team council
<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article45517752.html#storylink=cpy>
Cindi Ross Scope

AN UNCOMFORTABLE pattern has been developing on the Columbia City Council. Leona Plough and Moe Baddourah, later joined by Cameron Runyan, seem increasingly opposed to whatever Mayor Steve Benjamin wants.

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: South Carolina DSS director adds executive positions

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2015/11/21/south-carolina-dss-director-adds-executive-positions/76037166/>

Tim Smith

The state Department of Social Services, which is under orders from lawmakers to hire more caseworkers to help abused children, also has added several executive positions under the agency's new director and now has 18 employees making \$100,000 or more a year. The agency provided the information to The Greenville News following a state Freedom of Information Act request.

Associated Press: South Carolina awarded federal grant for charter schools

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Q7jf2gkn

South Carolina has won a federal grant to open and expand public charter schools that could total \$30 million over five years. State schools Superintendent Molly Spearman says South Carolina is among just eight states awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Education's charter schools program. Twenty-seven states applied for the money.

Post and Courier: Flexible spending accounts save money now, but reduce Social Security benefits later

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151122/PC05/151129997>

David Slade

This time of year, employees at many companies are deciding whether to fund a flexible spending account for medical or dependent care expenses in 2016. Those accounts can be a real money-saver. But they do come with a little risk, and there's one drawback I'll bet most people are unaware of.

Local News:

The State: The team effort that saved a Columbia dam

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article45819550.html>

Andrew Shain

As rain poured and waters in Beaver Dam Lake rose on Oct. 4, Jim Lehman climbed into his orange kayak to clear pine straw clogging an opening that allows water to escape the dam. Lehman's efforts were futile during a storm that dumped three months of rain on the Columbia area in a single day.

Island Packet: The SC 170 debacle: How the highway widening project got more than a year behind schedule and cost nearly \$1.7 million more than its original price estimate

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article45801755.html#storylink=cpy>

Zach Murdock

In 2012, Beaufort County embarked on a \$15 million, voter-approved project to widen S.C. 170 to four lanes in greater Bluffton. Because S.C. 170 is a state road, improvements needed to meet state standards. Instead, a confused subcontractor working for the project's engineering firm designed the project only to meet county standards.

The State: Bees the next thing buzzing in Midlands backyards

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article45818980.html>

Tim Flach

What's coming next to an in-town neighborhood near you? Beekeeping is beginning to be the new buzz in grow-your-own-food circles in the Columbia area. "Bees are the new chickens," said Jennifer Tsuruda, an apiculture specialist with Clemson University Extension Service.

Post and Courier: Red flags went up for years before Charleston County schools' budget deficit
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151121/PC16/151129877>

Paul Bowers

Year after year, red flags have gone up about financial problems within the Charleston County School District. Audits revealed unauthorized expenditures, expensive accounting errors, botched revenue estimates and violations of the district's own spending policies. Each year, district leaders vowed to make a change when auditors brought these issues to light. But some of the problems never went away.

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