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To:
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Subject: Morning Clips – Tuesday, January 5, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Aiken Standard: S.C. education lawsuit discussion continues without agreement

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160105/AIK0101/160109813/sc-education-lawsuit-discussion-continues-without-agreement>

Christina Cleveland, Derrek Asberry

South Carolina lawmakers are still trying to find a way to execute the state Supreme Court's decision more than one year after the high court ruled students in mostly high minority, impoverished rural school districts had not been receiving a "minimally adequate education" – the constitutional standard the court set in 1999.

Note: The 22-year-old Abbeville lawsuit ruling initially pinned Senate and House members, even Gov. Nikki Haley, against the high court, challenging whether Justices could order lawmakers to take action, and take action in a specific timeframe.

WBTW: Florence County flood victims use last day to apply for assistance

<http://wbtw.com/2016/01/04/florence-county-flood-victims-use-last-day-to-apply-for-assistance/>

Nick Sturdivant

Monday is the deadline for October flood victims to apply for help with FEMA or complete a U.S. Small Business Administration loan application. The original deadline was last month, but Governor Nikki Haley requested an extension. As of Sunday, FEMA had received \$99,614 registrations statewide. So far, grants to individual households total more than \$79.1 million.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Greenville News: SC House Speaker sees trouble ahead if Senate doesn't act on road funding

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2016/01/04/lucas-greenville/78267378/>

Rudolph Bell

The speaker of the South Carolina House warned in Greenville on Monday that the state will eventually have to stop making capital improvements to many of its roads if the Senate fails to join the House in coming up with a road-funding plan. Speaker Jay Lucas, a Hartsville Republican, briefed local Republicans at the Poinsett Club eight days before lawmakers are set to reconvene Jan. 12 in Columbia.

Post and Courier: South Carolina law enforcement, lawmakers split on Obama's expected gun crackdown

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160104/PC16/160109711>

Schuyler Kropf

President Barack Obama's package of sweeping gun reforms will be announced Tuesday and among its targets is the unregulated transfer of weapons through gun swaps, trade shows and Internet sales. In Charleston — home to one of the most disturbing gun massacres in the nation last year — the differing opinions behind the gun debate illustrates how deeply rooted that fight will be.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Upstate lawmakers skeptical of Obama's executive orders on gun control

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160104/ARTICLES/160109904/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Upstate-lawmakers-skeptical-of-Obama-s-executive-orders-on-gun-control>

Zach Fox

As the calendar turned to 2016, the Obama administration was expected to announce several executive orders designed to expand background checks on gun sales by forcing sellers to register as federally licensed gun dealers, according to The Associated Press. The changes would be targeted at unregistered sellers at gun shows, online or in other informal settings.

S.C. Political News:

The State: Midlands residents rip, praise Obama's gun rules

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article53013085.html>

Jamie Self, Cassie Cope

President Barack Obama's much-anticipated new gun-control rules drew ire and praise from Midlands residents Monday. "He wants to take my guns," said Kim Nettles, a 66-year-old West Columbia resident who said Obama's plan — to issue executive orders Tuesday enacting new gun rules — is "illegal."

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: GOP forum will focus on issues, not 'drama'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160105/PC1002/160109705>

John Hart

So many of the stories about the upcoming presidential election are about conflict and drama. Who made an ill-advised comment? Which campaigns are feuding? Who's up and who's down in national horse race polls that are largely irrelevant. Here's a radical idea: The 2016 election should be about solutions, not drama. Americans want results.

Note: These two legislators are examples of forward thinkers — the kind of leaders who are not afraid to look outside the box for solutions because they know people matter more than politics. They'll also be joined by Gov. Nikki Haley, a governor who has worked to bring jobs and reform education for South Carolinians.

The State: Attorney general's opinion points to more repairs needed to tattered ethics law

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article52944405.html#storylink=cpy>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

IT IS EASY, in a state increased in wisdom by Bobby Harrell's practice of pocketing donations from special interests by billing his campaign for vacation travel and even flights he never took, to imagine this scenario:

Index-Journal: Legislation deals with wrong ED

<http://indexjournal.com/opinion/editorial/Legislation-deals-with-wrong-ED>

Editorial

We agree, ED should be of paramount concern in South Carolina. Only we don't agree the acronym state Rep. Mia McLeod, D-Richland, has in mind should be a top priority going into this year's legislative session. McLeod is going after erectile dysfunction, not economic development, according to a story published by The State newspaper Jan. 1.

Post and Courier: ACA is a costly failure in S.C.

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160105/PC1002/160109708>

Stephen T. Parente

Friday marked the third anniversary of the Affordable Care Act's implementation in South Carolina. So it makes sense for South Carolinians to ask: How is the law playing out in your state? Not well. Roughly 210,000 people purchased health insurance last year on the state's Affordable Care Act online exchange, and those who purchased plans for 2016 likely found an unpleasant surprise.

Greenville News: Graham made right call to withdraw

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2016/01/03/graham-made-right-call-withdraw/77878268/>

Editorial

From the beginning of his campaign it was clear Sen. Lindsey Graham would have a difficult time asserting himself as a leader in the Republican presidential race. About two weeks ago, the Seneca Republican and South Carolina's senior senator made the difficult, but correct choice to withdraw.

Aiken Standard: Hoverboards get off on the wrong foot

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160103/AIK0201/160109847/1018/AIK02>

Editorial

By all reports, one of the most popular Christmas gifts of 2015 was the hoverboard. It also appears, by far, the most dangerous. A week before Christmas morning, when the bulk of new hoverboards remained safely — we assume — wrapped and under highly flammable trees around the nation, questions had already been raised.

Post and Courier: S.C. in store for more comic relief from 'The Donald'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160105/PC16/160109721>

Frank Wooten

Don't fall for so-called expert predictions of what will happen in what's left of this new year. After all, a year ago few folks forecast that Donald Trump would be leading the 2016 race for the Republican presidential nomination. And nobody warned that Trump would use a crude Yiddish term to poke fun at Hillary Clinton's loss in the 2008 race for the Democratic nomination.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Aiken Standard: Joe Wilson decries Obama's call for tougher gun laws

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160105/AIK0101/160109815/joe-wilson-decries-obama-x2019-s-call-for-tougher-gun-laws>

Derrek Asberry

President Barack Obama's upcoming attempt to bypass Congress and pass laws advocating for tougher gun restrictions is "sad," said U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C. Wilson advocated for Second Amendment rights Monday during a stop in Aiken where he rolled out his 2016 agenda at the Aiken County Government Center.

S.C. Agency News:

Post and Courier: Additional \$129 million needed for Medicaid to hold off cuts in services, reimbursements

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160104/PC16/160109723>

Lauren Sausser

Gov. Nikki Haley isn't expected to release her proposed executive budget until mid-January, but the South Carolina Medicaid director already said his agency needs millions more from the General Assembly next year.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Family not happy officer out on bond in motorist's death

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

Bruce Smith

A former South Carolina policeman charged with murder in the shooting death of an unarmed black motorist will remain under house arrest until his trial begins in the fall. The release of Michael Slager on bond Monday was a disappointment to the family of the victim, Walter Scott, said Justin Bamberg, the attorney for the family.

Associated Press: Former officer charged in shooting death released on bail

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=2KpW3ux1

Bruce Smith

A former South Carolina police officer charged with murder in the shooting death of an unarmed black motorist was released from jail Monday evening and will remain under house arrest until his trial is set to begin next Halloween. Circuit Judge Clifton Newman agreed with a defense request earlier Monday that Michael Slager be released on a \$500,000 surety bond.

Post and Courier: Michael Slager, officer charged in Walter Scott shooting, released on \$500K bail

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160104/PC16/160109767>

Andrew Knapp

The former North Charleston officer who fatally shot Walter Scott was released from jail Monday night after a judge said he was troubled by a delay in the trial and granted bail. The decision was met with gasps from Scott's family and with tears from Michael Slager's wife and parents, who appeared together for the first time in the downtown Charleston courtroom.

Rock Hill Herald: 2015 economic numbers less, but regional growth trend continues

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/business/biz-columns-blogs/don-worthington/article52843870.html>

Don Worthington

By numbers alone, 2015 was a less-than-average year for economic development regionally. The efforts of Chester, Lancaster and York counties yielded a combined investment of about \$3.8 million and the promise

of 3,600 new jobs. Impressive numbers? Yes, but not when compared to 2014 when three projects alone represented an \$800 million investment and the promise of 7,100 jobs.

Post and Courier: State pension fund shifts \$840 million into stocks
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160104/PC1603/160109709>

Gavin Jackson

The state agency responsible for managing billions of dollars for state and public employee pensions continues its move toward shoring up investment returns amid heavy market volatility. The \$840 million shift from cash into U.S. and international stocks is part of a broad strategy by the Retirement System Investment Commission to improve returns on its \$28.4 billion fund.

Island Packet: Beaufort County gun retailers experience high sales in anticipation of executive order
<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/business/article53011495.html#storylink=cpy>

Ashley Fahey

Anticipated executive orders for tighter firearms restrictions have prompted strong opposition from Republican lawmakers, and a surge in gun sales and production. President Barack Obama is expected to announce executive action Tuesday aimed at curbing gun violence on the heels of a year that saw a significant number of mass shootings.

Associated Press: Public meetings ahead on wind energy development off SC
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=IBvNWD1n

The federal government is holding public meetings this week to determine industry interest in putting up wind turbines off the South Carolina coast. The first meeting is Tuesday in Charleston. They will also gather comment on issues that should be studied in environmental studies of offshore wind.

Local News:

Sun News: Some Horry County roads closed due to flooding; Georgetown county officials monitoring floods
<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article52991535.html#storylink=cpy>

Claire Byun

Georgetown County officials are monitoring flooding on the Santee River, though no evacuations have been ordered as of Monday afternoon. Horry County officials are also keeping an eye on the rising Waccamaw and Little Pee Dee rivers.

Sun News: Myrtle Beach ministries do what they can to feed, shelter the homeless despite obstacles
<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article53038225.html#storylink=cpy>

Emily Weaver

Volunteers with Citizens Concerned for the Homeless of Myrtle Beach were doing as they were asked Monday night, encouraging displaced residents to seek shelter ahead of what appeared to be a long, frigid night. Bill Davis offered rides to the shelters, telling the few who stopped to talk that he heard the places were nice and that a warm meal would be served there.

Associated Press: Summey begins new term as mayor of SC's 3rd-largest city
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=DWqN9zLP

North Charleston Mayor Keith Summey is beginning a sixth full term as mayor of South Carolina's third-largest city. Summey easily won re-election in November winning more than 60 percent of the vote. He's being sworn in Tuesday evening to begin his new term. The ten members of city council are also being sworn in.

Aiken Standard: North Augusta administrator looks forward to growth in city
<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160105/AIK0101/160109814/north-augusta-administrator-looks-forward-to-growth-in-city>

Scott Rodgers

North Augusta City Administrator Todd Glover said 2015 was a great year for the city of North Augusta. It was a time of expansion, with Medac moving into the downtown area and Aiken County's first parking deck also opening up. Scuttle's Island water park was announced, as was the AmbioPharm expansion.

The State: Forest Acres police start move back into renovated station
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article52966685.html>

Avery G. Wilks

For the first time since historic flooding in October, Forest Acres Police Chief Gene Sealy unlocked the front door of his police station Monday and placed a welcome mat by it. "I've been waiting to do that," Sealy said, standing on the station's newly renovated first floor, complete with new carpets and tile and freshly painted walls.

National News:

Associated Press: Obama thrusts gun control debate into forefront of 2016 race

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=29KftuJR

Julie Pace

President Barack Obama is making good on his pledge to politicize gun violence. The package of gun-control executive actions Obama will formally announce Tuesday has pushed the contentious issue to the forefront of the 2016 presidential campaign, just weeks from the Feb. 1 Iowa caucuses.

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