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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Tuesday, January 2, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Washington Post: Here are the biggest endorsements left in the 2016 campaign

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/02/02/here-are-the-biggest-endorsements-left-in-the-2016-campaign/>

Amber Phillips

Let's get the caveats out of the way: Like money in the bank, endorsements are not the be-all and end-all to campaigns. Yes, they can push a close race over the edge. But for the most part, endorsements are symbolic, momentary inducers of buzz that often don't have a measurable impact on actual votes.

Note: But the most-coveted GOP female endorsement is probably that of South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, a daughter of immigrants with conservative, tea party creds who gave a generally well-received State of the Union response to President Obama in January and is on the list, according to pundits, for vice president this year. It's notable, though, that in 2012, Haley endorsed Mitt Romney, who lost to Newt Gingrich by almost 13 percentage points in the state.

National Journal: Rubio Wins the Tim Scott Primary

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/s/616972/rubio-wins-tim-scott-primary>

Alex Rogers

Marco Rubio's team knows South Carolina inside and out—and now they've caught perhaps the biggest endorsement in the state, from Sen. Tim Scott. News of Scott's endorsement trickled out the same night that Rubio scored a solid third place finish in Iowa, giving him momentum for the coming states. Scott's support was highly coveted among the Republican presidential candidates.

Note: Endorsements by Scott, Graham, Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster—who endorsed Donald Trump last week—and Gov. Nikki Haley, who has not yet endorsed, will matter, argued Katon Dawson, a long-time GOP state strategist who ran former Texas Gov. Rick Perry's operation in the state before he dropped out, even though Trump and Cruz have risen without any support from a senator or governor.

WIS: Jeb Bush: South Carolina is key for the presidential campaign

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31120077/jeb-bush-south-carolina-is-key-for-the-presidential-campaign>

Charles Molineaux

Looking ahead to South Carolina's Feb. 20 Republican Primary, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush called the state a key part of his campaign for the White House. "Every primary I can remember," he recalled, "it really sets the stage for the March race when all the delegates really start pouring into the process. So South Carolina has played a constructive role."

Note: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley received high praise from Bush for her handling of the aftermath of the Charleston church shootings in which Lexington native Dylan Roof has admitted he killed nine black churchgoers in what he described as a bid to start a race war.

CBS: Rubio Gains Momentum, Picks Up SC Senator Endorsement

<http://miami.cbslocal.com/2016/02/02/rubio-picks-up-sc-senator-endorsement/>

Florida Senator Marco Rubio picked up an endorsement from South Carolina Senator Tim Scott hours before his narrow third place finish in the Iowa caucus. Scott called Rubio the "one shot" Republicans have to win the presidency in November.

Note: New Hampshire votes next, followed by South Carolina. The outstanding endorsement prize is South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, who delivered the GOP's national response to President Barack Obama's state of the union address last month. Haley has not indicated when she might publicly take sides.

The State: What Sen. Scott's endorsement of Rubio means in SC

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article57828458.html>

Andrew Shain

U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, who came close to winning second in the Iowa caucus, won a coveted endorsement Tuesday in South Carolina from U.S. Sen. Tim Scott. "Marco Rubio understands, that here in America, it's not about where you start, it's about where you're going," the North Charleston Republican said in a video announcing the endorsement.

Note: Republican Gov. Nikki Haley, who has become S.C. most popular politician after her handling of the Charleston church shooting, might wait until after the New Hampshire primary to back a presidential candidate.

Note: Though as a likely vice presidential choice, she could not endorse a 2016 hopeful at all. Rubio would be Haley's likely pick, especially after she asked people to avoid the angriest voices in her nationally televised State of the Union response last month.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Associated Press: 37 public directors receiving combined raises of \$215K

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=9IH4Aq4

Seanna Adcox

The leaders of 37 public agencies and colleges in South Carolina are getting combined raises of \$215,000. The state's Agency Head Salary Commission voted Tuesday to boost the directors' pay by either 2 percent or 5 percent, depending on whether their evaluations showed they met or exceeded expectations. Amounts ranged from nearly \$1,900 to \$15,000. The raises take effect immediately.

Associated Press: SC House backs picking Lt Gov for ticket after nomination

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=x6wCcaHb

The South Carolina House has passed a bill that would have candidates for governor pick their running mates after they are nominated by their party. The bill given key approval Tuesday is needed after voters passed a constitutional amendment to have governors and lieutenant governors run on the same ticket starting in 2018.

S.C. Political News:

Greenville News: U.S. Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina says Rubio is the GOP's "one shot" to beat Clinton

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/02/01/report-tim-scott-endorse-marco-rubio-president/79673494/>

Amanda Coyne

Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio has received a coveted endorsement from U.S. Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina. The Rubio campaign announced the news this morning, releasing a new ad with Scott praising Rubio, a Florida senator.

WSPA: Ted Cruz endorsed by SC Congressman Jeff Duncan

<http://wspa.com/2016/02/02/presidential-candidate-cruz-endorsed-by-sc-congressman-jeff-duncan/>

South Carolina Congressman Jeff Duncan has endorsed Republican Candidate Ted Cruz for President. Duncan says he is in Washington and will not be at the Cruz event Tuesday night at the TD Convention Center. Cruz's communication director calls the endorsement "a great honor."

Greenville News: Duncan will endorse Cruz, campaign confirms

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/02/01/gop-official-cruz-coming-greenville-not-anderson/79645894/>

Rudolph Bell

Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz campaigns in Greenville today after winning the first-in-the-nation Iowa caucuses last night. In addition, Cruz will be endorsed by U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan, the Laurens Republican who represents South Carolina's 3rd Congressional District, the Cruz campaign confirmed.

Politico: South Carolina Rep. Jeff Duncan endorses Ted Cruz

<http://www.politico.com/story/2016/02/jeff-duncan-ted-cruz-endorsement-218631#ixzz3z3BWBIfa>

Nolan D. McCaskill

South Carolina Rep. Jeff Duncan is backing Ted Cruz for president, calling the Texas senator a candidate who actually stands by his comments instead of spewing empty rhetoric and has a record that sets him apart from the field. "I haven't been in Washington long, but I have learned that it is a place filled with people

who say one thing to get elected and do the opposite once they get there," Duncan said in a statement released by Cruz's campaign.

Associated Press: SC superdelegate sticks with O'Malley, keeping options open

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=xYI381Ep

Meg Kinnard

A prominent South Carolina superdelegate said Tuesday that he may look outside the Democratic party now that his candidate, Martin O'Malley, has dropped out of the presidential race. Boyd Brown told The Associated Press that he can't back Bernie Sanders because of his socialist-leaning views. And he says he can't support Hillary Clinton due to her lack of "core values."

The State: Richland County Rep. Neal endorses Sanders for White House

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article57924548.html>

Tim Flach

Veteran state Rep. Joe Neal, a Lower Richland Democrat, Tuesday endorsed underdog Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders. Neal cited Sanders' willingness to tackle "income inequities that have been devastating the middle class" in backing the U.S. senator from Vermont.

Post and Courier: Hopkins representative endorses Bernie Sanders for president

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160202/PC1603/160209861>

Maya T. Prabhu

A Hopkins lawmaker is the second state representative to formally endorse Sen. Bernie Sanders for president in the last two weeks. Rep. Joe Neal said Tuesday that Sanders' platform of working to help the middle class was the chief reason behind his choice to support the Vermont senator.

Greenville News: Sanders gets third black state representative endorsement in two weeks

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/02/02/sanders-gets-third-black-state-representative-endorsement-two-weeks/79697122/>

Amanda Coyne

Sen. Bernie Sanders received his third endorsement from a black South Carolina legislator in two weeks today. Rep. Joe Neal, a Richland County Democrat, endorsed the presidential candidate in a press conference at the State House. Sanders received the endorsements of Rep. Wendell Gilliard (D-Charleston) and Rep. Justin Bamberg (D-Barnwell) last week.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Greenville News: Chamber can help push DOT reform

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2016/02/02/chamber-can-help-push-dot-reform/79686406/>

Editorial

The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce has traditionally set a legislative agenda that is designed to help this state's business community – and by extension, more South Carolinians — succeed in the coming year. This year the Chamber again presents just such an agenda.

Note: It would be encouraging to hear the Chamber advocate for a tax increase without the corresponding income tax cut that Gov. Nikki Haley has proposed and many legislative Republicans support. Instead, the Chamber says income tax relief is politically vital to passage of a gas tax increase.

South Carolina News:

The State: 'This rose is for faith,' child tells Mother Emanuel survivors and relatives

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article57961638.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

More than 500 people jammed the Benedict College chapel in downtown Columbia on Tuesday to listen to survivors and relatives of those killed in last June's massacre of nine African-Americans at a Charleston church bear witness.

Associated Press: Business official calls for tax reform, fewer regulations

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=rrtjtxo9

The head of the National Association of Manufacturers says American lawmakers should worry more about

reforming the nation's tax code and easing business regulations than about the economy in other nations. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports (<http://bit.ly/1Pd1Rsg>) that Jay Timmons told a forum in North Charleston on Monday that the nation's tax code penalizes small businesses.

Local News:

Greenville News: More jobs than people in mid-level skills careers in state, Tri-County Tech says
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2016/02/02/more-jobs-than-people-mid-level-skills-careers-state-tri-county-tech-says/79692164/>

Ron Barnett

The highway construction industry needs an additional 10,000 people to fill jobs in South Carolina – and that's not counting any increase in state funding for roads that may be forthcoming from the Legislature this year, according to a Tri-County Technical College official.

Island Packet: Superintendent asks school board to consider 10-year, 1 percent sales tax
<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article57825103.html#storylink=cpy>

Rebecca Lurye

To ease wary residents into an educational sales tax, Beaufort County Superintendent Jeff Moss says he now recommends a 10-year plan that would meet the district's needs over that period of time and little else. In November, Moss had asked the board's finance committee to consider approving a 15-year, 1 percent sales tax referendum that would generate about \$483 million for capital projects, property tax reduction and support for local institutes of higher education.

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