

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Friday, January 15, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley unveils state's roughly \$7.5 billion executive budget

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160115/PC1603/160119554>

Cynthia Roldan

Spending more money to address education, roads and criminal domestic violence cases are among Gov. Nikki Haley's top priorities in this year's executive budget. Haley unveiled her spending priorities on the state's roughly \$7.5 billion budget on Friday. The state has \$1.3 billion in unspent funds this year, after benefiting from continued growth in the budget.

Note: "We wanted was to make sure that local governments got what they needed," Haley said. "At the same time, I'm going to continue to push local governments to be transparent in how they're spending their money."

Note: "If you're going to go and ask for a bond, it better be K-12," Haley said. "We are not going to accept a bond bill for higher ed. They can do it, but I will veto it."

Associated Press: Gov. Haley's budget includes \$350M for roadwork

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=bPPW7J8p

Seanna Adcox

Gov. Nikki Haley's budget proposal provides roughly \$350 million for roadwork and \$300 million for education initiatives. Her budget released Friday sends an additional \$113 million to local governments, fully funding the state's obligation for the first time since 2009. The only state employees receiving a raise under Haley's plan are prison officers.

The State: Gov. Haley suggests spending \$345 million for road repairs

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article54870010.html>

Cassie Cope

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley set her priorities for spending \$1 billion in added state tax revenue Friday, emphasizing more money for roads, her education plan and phasing in her income-tax cut proposal. Haley's budget outlines her priorities to S.C. lawmakers, who next month will begin writing the state budget that take effect July 1.

WIS: Gov. Nikki Haley unveils her \$7.43 billion budget

<http://www.wistv.com/story/30975735/gov-nikki-haley-unveils-her-743-billion-budget>

Will Whitson

Gov. Nikki Haley's proposed \$7.43 billion budget will recommend fully funding county and local governments across South Carolina for the first time since 2008, according to a detailed look into her budget proposal. Haley's budget puts an emphasis on five themes: education, public finance, public safety, flood recovery, and economic development.

Note: "We don't owe as much and we have more in savings as we need should something happen," Haley said. "After this past year -- when you think you have to dip into your reserves -- the fact that we didn't dip into our reserves, the fact we were able to pay for the flood tragedy and everything else that we dealt with shows that South Carolina is on good standing."

WIS: Haley: VP job is 'not something I want, I strive for, or I need'

<http://www.wistv.com/story/30978704/haley-vp-job-is-not-something-i-want-i-strive-for-or-i-need>

Jack Kuenzie

Gov. Nikki Haley's response to the president's State of the Union address was still reverberating in GOP circles prior to the debate. And there she was in the North Charleston Coliseum last night when her name came up in a question to the candidates -- specifically to Donald Trump, who Haley alluded to as one of the

angry voices in the party who she suggested needed to tone it down.

Note: "I would have preferred not being part of the debate," Haley said. "I'm not running for president, have no desire to. So I would have preferred that not be part of it. But look if it causes, if my speech causes a conversation about how we treat people in this country and the difference between illegal immigration and legal immigration, that's a healthy conversation to have. So I think it's fine."

S.C. Political News:

USA Today: Lindsey Graham endorses Jeb Bush

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/onpolitics/2016/01/15/jeb-bush-lindsey-graham-endorsement-south-carolina/78838342/>

David Jackson

South Carolina senator and former presidential candidate Lindsey Graham endorsed Jeb Bush for the Republican nomination on Friday, saying the former Florida governor would make the best commander in chief in a time of war against terrorism. "He has the ability to bring the world on board," Graham said at a news conference in North Charleston, S.C.

Note: Today, he said, the dominant figures in South Carolina GOP politics are new leaders like Gov. Nikki Haley, U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, and U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy.

Note: Those three "have risen up from the grass roots and knocked off establishment figures," Haynes said. "While there is some value in this (Graham) endorsement, the endorsements of Haley, Scott and Gowdy are much more valuable in the current climate."

Note: Gowdy is backing Sen. Marco Rubio for the Republican presidential nomination, while Haley and Scott have yet to announce a favorite.

TIME: Lindsey Graham to Endorse Jeb Bush for President

<http://time.com/4182236/lindsey-graham-to-endorse-jeb-bush-for-president/>

Eliana Dockertman

South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham will endorse former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush for president, the Charleston Post and Courier reported on Friday morning. Graham reportedly plans to make the announcement during a press conference in North Charleston, South Carolina on Friday.

Post and Courier: Sen. Lindsey Graham's Jeb Bush endorsement is geared toward attracting veterans

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160115/PC1603/160119579>

Schuyler Kropf

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham's endorsement of Jeb Bush for president is designed to boost the former Florida governor's lagging campaign by targeting veterans and military-attuned voters — key demographics in any South Carolina Republican turnout. But the endorsement may also be the proverbial double-edged sword for Bush, as Graham remains highly popular among his supporters but loudly derided by his political foes.

The State: Sen. Lindsey Graham endorses Jeb Bush for president

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article54851600.html>

Andrew Shain

After Graham dropped out of the race on Dec. 21, their chats continued. Meanwhile, most of Graham's S.C. backers endorsed Bush, the son and brother of two presidents, having worked on George H.W. Bush's and George W. Bush's successful Palmetto State presidential primary wins.

Associated Press: Jeb Bush to win endorsement of South Carolina Sen. Graham

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4h5gWHw1

Julie Pace

Republican president candidate Jeb Bush has scored the endorsement of South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham. A spokesperson for the Bush campaign said Graham will announce his endorsement later Friday.

Sun News: GOP presidential candidates to address weekend Tea Party convention in Myrtle Beach

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/politics-government/article54728125.html#storylink=cpy>

Audrey Hudson

Half of the Republican presidential contenders will be in Myrtle Beach this weekend to address the South Carolina Tea Party Coalition Convention in an attempt to convince voters they are worthy of winning the state's primary election next month. "My instructions are to take off the gloves and tell the whole truth," said founder and event organizer Joe Dugan.

South Carolina News:

The State: Questions raised about screening panel's queries to Supreme Court seat contenders

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article54668090.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope, John Monk

Three judges made the top tier of final candidates for a vacant S.C. Supreme Court seat and will vie for votes next month in the state General Assembly. On the heels of Thursday's announcement by the Judicial Merit Selection Commission, questions arose on the Senate floor about the panel's questioning of high court candidates during recent screening hearings.

Post and Courier: Attorney seeks to block public disclosure of Michael Slager bail supporters

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160115/PC16/160119502>

Andrew Knapp

An attorney for Michael Slager asked a judge Friday to block the public from viewing the names of people who supported the former North Charleston police officer's bid for bail. The motion by lawyer Cameron Blazer seeks to seal the names of the people who wrote character letters about Slager when he first requested bail in September.

Post and Courier: Eric Holder reflects on topical issues before Charleston appearance

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160115/PC16/160119498>

Adam Parker

He might not yet know what exactly he will say in his keynote address at the Martin Luther King Jr. ecumenical service Sunday afternoon, but former Attorney General Eric Holder knows what continues to trouble him. Gun violence, for one. And voting restrictions. And mass incarceration.

Local News:

Sun News: RIDE III panel planning for additional \$30 million for road projects

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article54783030.html>

Audrey Hudson

An additional \$30 million might be available for Horry County road projects in the pending RIDE III proposal – a prospect the special tax commission panel will explore before finalizing the proposed construction list taxpayers will vote on this year.

Post and Courier: Charleston airport continues to post solid revenue, passenger gains

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160115/PC05/160119527>

Warren L. Wise

Revenue is up and expenses are down for the first four months at Charleston International Airport. Because of passenger and airline growth, revenue is 5.1 percent ahead of projections for the July through October period, according to Judi Olmstead, finance director of Charleston County Aviation Authority, which operates the airport.

Brian Symmes

Cell: 803-673-9437

Office: 803-734-0304