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Subject: Morning Clips – Friday, February 12, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: House moves forward legislation enhancing fatal domestic violence data collection
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160211/PC1603/160219849/house-moves-forward-legislation-enhancing-fatal-domestic-violence-data-collection>

Maya T. Prabhu

Panels of experts soon could be created across South Carolina to help track and analyze fatal domestic violence cases. A bill calling for establishing “domestic violence review committees” in 16 solicitor circuits received second reading in the House on Thursday. It passed 86-7.

Note: The bill was proposed at the recommendation of a state Domestic Violence Task Force created by Gov. Nikki Haley. The Legislature took up the issue after The Post and Courier published a series called “Till Death Do Us Part.”

Associated Press: Kasich works to assure South Carolina of conservative record

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=rZsXKI5Q

Kathleen Ronayne, Bill Barrow

An energized John Kasich heads into South Carolina's Republican presidential primary hoping to build on a strong showing in New Hampshire, but he's refusing to tailor or shift his message to fit the state's more conservative electorate.

Note: Still, that may be tough to sell in South Carolina and beyond. The governor here, Nikki Haley, won easy re-election in 2014 on her staunch rejection of Medicaid expansion and refusal to run a state-based exchange to sell private insurance policies, the other pillar of Obama's health care law.

Note: There's also the matter of the "Obamacare" law's namesake. Haley, who often called the law "wrongheaded" and "unconstitutional," mentioned the president often in her blistering critiques.

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley appoints Dorchester County coroner following Nisbet's resignation

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160211/PC16/160219842>

Christina Elmore

Gov. Nikki Haley on Thursday selected Alice Durr to oversee the Dorchester County Coroner's Office until November's general election. The selection of Durr, the county's chief deputy coroner, was made two days after suspended Coroner Chris Nisbet resigned from office.

WCIV: Haley names Durr new coroner in Dorchester County

<http://abcnews4.com/news/local/haley-names-durr-new-coroner-in-dorchester-county>

Sam Tyson

Gov. Nikki Haley named Alice Durr the new coroner in Dorchester County, five months after suspending Chris Nisbet from his duties. Nisbet said he would fight the suspension, but last week tendered his resignation to the governor. A few days later, Durr was named as the replacement.

WCBD: Governor appoints new coroner for Dorchester County

<http://counton2.com/2016/02/11/governor-appoints-new-coroner-for-dorchester-county/>

Shawn Cabbagestalk

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley has appointed a new coroner for Dorchester County.

Alice R. Durr, of St. George, will assume the position effective immediately until the next general election. Suspended coroner Chris Nesbit resigned on Wednesday, February 3. In a letter to Governor Haley, he resigned from his post “effective immediately.”

S.C. General Assembly News:

The State: Splits surface as state Senate starts weighing road-repair proposal

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article59876171.html>

Tim Flach

Deep political divisions surfaced quickly Thursday as the state Senate started consideration of a new road-repair plan. No decisions were made. But battle lines emerged over the proposal, a package combining a gas-tax increase and other fee hikes for road improvements, changes in the state agencies that oversee those projects, and cuts in income and property taxes for individuals and businesses.

Note: The plan mixes proposals advocated by Republicans, Democrats and GOP Gov. Nikki Haley.

Note: For example, Lourie said he has “a lot of heartburn” over the proposal’s tax cuts at the same time that schools and other services need more state money. But the cuts are necessary for any road-repair plan that includes higher gas taxes to win acceptance from the GOP-controlled General Assembly and Haley, the Democrat said.

Greenville News: Legislators: Coal ash landfill company would drop plans if Pickens County buys site

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2016/02/11/legislators-coal-ash-landfill-company-would-drop-plans-if-pickens-county-buys-site/80225602/>

Ron Barnett

The company that wants to build a coal ash landfill in Pickens County has told the county’s legislative delegation it is willing to forego the project if the county will buy the property, state Rep. Davey Hiott told The Greenville News.

Index-Journal: Lawmakers look to split with old alimony laws

<http://indexjournal.com/news/Lawmakers-look-to-split-with-old-alimony-laws>

Damian Dominguez

Two pending bills in the House of Representatives would change the way alimony payments work, while one act that passed in May 2015 created the Alimony Reform Study Committee to study laws and make a report with recommendations of how to possibly change how alimony works.

S.C. Presidential Primary News:

NBC News: Can South Carolina Stop the Surges of the Sanders and Trump?

<http://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2016-election/can-south-carolina-stop-surges-sanders-trump-n515351>

Perry Bacon Jr.

At first glance, South Carolina looks like the place where the more traditional candidates should win and recover from the victories of Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump in New Hampshire. George W. Bush (2000) and John McCain (2008) essentially sealed their GOP nominations by defeating insurgent candidates in South Carolina.

Note: In 2010, Nikki Haley won an insurgent campaign to become South Carolina's governor, as did Tim Scott to become one of the state's U.S. House members and then a senator. Haley, as governor, backed Romney in 2012, only to watch him be defeated in the state by Gingrich.

Politico: S.C. Dem chair: Sanders 'has to make it real'

<http://www.politico.com/story/2016/02/bernie-sanders-south-carolina-jaime-harrison-219165#ixzz3zxRENtdJ>

Nick Gass

For all his success in communicating his message about income inequality, Bernie Sanders may face a challenge in bringing in voters in South Carolina, the state's Democratic Party chairman said Thursday.

Note: Moore pointed to the disparities between rural and suburban areas in the state, praising Republican Gov. Nikki Haley for raising it as an issue.

The State: How GOP candidates are trying to win SC

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article59919716.html>

Andrew Shain

Jeb Bush is hoping his family’s history in South Carolina, which helped elect his father and brother to the White House, will translate into a top-tier finish in the S.C. Republican primary. That strategy got a boost Thursday with the announcement that former President George W. Bush will make his 2016 presidential campaign debut Monday for brother Jeb at the North Charleston Coliseum.

Associated Press: Punch, counterpunch: GOP hopefuls bare knuckles in Carolina

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

Bill Barrow

Jeb Bush says he was better at real estate than Donald Trump, and the former Florida governor is even embracing the "establishment" label. Marco Rubio is unloading on nearly all of his presidential rivals, Trump and Bush included, declaring them unprepared for the national security responsibilities of the job. Ted Cruz says Trump isn't conservative enough for South Carolina.

Politico: Trump's South Carolina ground game looks weaker than rivals'

<http://www.politico.com/story/2016/02/donald-trump-south-carolina-ground-game-219156#ixzz3zxN1WJOZ>

Rachael Bade

Marco Rubio has South Carolina GOP superstars Trey Gowdy and Tim Scott in his corner. Ted Cruz is boasting a roster of 10,000 Palmetto state volunteers knocking on doors and phoning up neighbors. And Donald Trump? Well, he's got a couple of campers with his face painted on them and a group of Georgians and North Carolinians coming to boost his get-out-the-vote efforts.

Associated Press: Bush campaigning in Anderson, talking faith in Greenville

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=C19Ba2fl

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush is making a few more campaign stops in South Carolina before this weekend's Republican presidential debate. Bush kicks things off on Friday with a meet-and-greet at Mama Penn's Restaurant in Anderson.

Greenville News: Rubio makes his pitch in the Eastside suburbs

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/02/11/rubio-makes-his-pitch-eastside-suburbs/80240614/>

Rudolph Bell

Presidential hopeful Marco Rubio made his pitch in the heart of Greenville's Republican country Thursday –the Eastside suburbs that have traditionally delivered big numbers for the GOP. During a stump speech at Southside Christian School on Woodruff Road, the Florida senator promised to defend the Constitution, protect the military's budget and "never divide (Americans) against each other to win an election."

Greenville News: Rubio in Spartanburg: SC's primary is 'conservative'

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/02/10/rubio-spartanburg-scs-primary-conservative/80178942/>

Rudolph Bell

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio brought his presidential campaign to Spartanburg Wednesday and said South Carolina's more-conservative Republican primary electorate gives him a chance to bounce back from a disappointing, fifth-place finish in the New Hampshire primary Tuesday night.

Rock Hill Herald: Cruz, Carson reach S.C. Christian voters at Winthrop values summit

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article59928086.html>

Bristow Marchant

With little more than a week left until South Carolina Republicans make their choice in the party's presidential primary, multiple campaigns made their pitch to a meeting of Christian conservatives at Winthrop University.

Rock Hill Herald: Sen. Ted Cruz rallies 2,000-plus conservatives, evangelicals in Fort Mill

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/politics-government/article59939701.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Dys

With just a week left to persuade evangelical South Carolina voters that he is the only Republican alternative to Donald Trump, Ted Cruz and conservative pundit Glenn Beck thrilled more than 2,000 of the faithful late Thursday at MorningStar Fellowship, a Fort Mill megachurch.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Carson talks tough on ISIS during Gaffney campaign stop

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160211/articles/160219885>

Allison M. Roberts

GOP presidential candidate Dr. Ben Carson made a campaign stop in Gaffney Thursday to discuss national security and foreign policy. The event, hosted by the South Carolina chapter of Americans for Peace, Prosperity and Security, drew a packed crowd in the back room of the Gaffney Visitors Center and Art Gallery.

Greenville News: Kasich to campaign in the Upstate after all

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/02/11/kasich-campaign-upstate-after-all/80256704/>
Rudolph Bell

Republican presidential candidate John Kasich will greet voters in the Upstate after all. The Ohio governor's campaign said he would appear at Mutt's BBQ, 214 East Butler Road, in Mauldin beginning at noon on Saturday before joining other GOP presidential candidates at Greenville's Peace Center Saturday night for a nationally televised debate.

Sun News: Rubio, Kasich draw hundreds of Grand Strand voters ahead of primary

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/politics-government/article59774011.html>

Audrey Hudson

Republican presidential contender Marco Rubio energized a crowd of nearly 800 voters in Myrtle Beach Thursday, driving home hot-button issues that had conservatives on their feet and cheering throughout the Florida senator's speech.

Charlotte Observer: GOP candidates Carson, Cruz woo evangelicals in Rock Hill

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article59950676.html>

Tim Funk

With the national political spotlight shifting to the Bible Belt, Republican presidential candidates camped out in South Carolina have begun stepping up their campaigns to win over evangelicals — a group that's expected to make up nearly 60 percent of the vote in the state's GOP primary on Feb. 20.

Post and Courier: Hillary Clinton returns to S.C. on Friday as the Democratic duel resumes

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160211/PC1603/160219828>

Schuyler Kropf

The Democratic feud in South Carolina resumes Friday when Hillary Clinton returns to highlight the nation's racial inadequacies as part of a visit to one of the state's poorest areas. Rival Bernie Sanders, meanwhile, has yet to announce any appearances in the Palmetto State following his commanding win in the New Hampshire primary Tuesday.

Post and Courier: Clinton's South Carolina ground game strengthened by Congressional Black Caucus PAC endorsement

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160211/PC1603/160219826>

Emma Dumain

Hillary Clinton is still waiting to see if South Carolina's leading African-American lawmaker, U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, offers his coveted endorsement. But her camp will still get a major boost in the Palmetto State over the weekend and into next week, thanks to the Congressional Black Caucus.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Listen, learn and decide

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160212/PC1002/160219809>

Editorial

This isn't the first presidential-election year in which many Americans have perceived an alarming lack of high-quality White House candidates. But this is the last month in which South Carolinians can have a direct — and potentially crucial — impact on who wins the two major parties' 2016 presidential nominations.

Post and Courier: Surprise progress in Syria

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160212/PC1002/160219811>

Editorial

"Meeting jaw to jaw is always better than war," Winston Churchill once declared. It is an appealing principle that President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry have followed as the Syrian civil war has continued to drag on with no apparent end in sight.

Washington Post: Make the top three in S.C. or bottom out?

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160212/PC1002/160219820>

Jennifer Rubin

In South Carolina's Republican primary, a lot rides on second and third place, as it did in New Hampshire. Put differently, the fourth- and fifth-place winners may not be able to hang on much longer. South

Carolina is a more populous state than Iowa or New Hampshire.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Index-Journal: Duncan opposes aborting fetuses exposed to Zika

<http://www.indexjournal.com/news/Duncan-opposes-aborting-fetuses-exposed-to-Zika>

Colin Riddle

U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan joined a Republican colleague Wednesday in airing concerns about aborting fetuses exposed to the Zika virus in the womb. The discussion came during a meeting of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere about a budget request from President Barack Obama for \$1.8 billion in emergency funds to fight the virus, according to reports.

South Carolina News:

WLTX: DSS Making Changes to Foster Care and Domestic Violence Division

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/local/2016/02/11/dss-making-changes-foster-care-and-domestic-violence-division/80259668/>

Joyce Koh

In their final meeting with the Department of Social Services Thursday, lawmakers overseeing the agency focused on how DSS handles cases in criminal domestic violence situations and what they're doing to fix the foster care system.

Post and Courier: Boeing shares slide on reports of probe into Dreamliner accounting

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160211/PC05/160219861>

David Wren

Reports that Boeing Co.'s Dreamliner program is the focus of a federal Securities and Exchange Commission investigation sparked a sell-off of the stock on Thursday, but some analysts say the concerns are overblown and shares rebounded slightly by the end of the day.

Aiken Standard: Budget proposal seeks more money for Savannah River Site liquid waste work

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160211/AIK0101/160219878/budget-proposal-seeks-more-money-for-savannah-river-site-liquid-waste-work>

Derrek Asberry

The Savannah River Site is in line to receive \$90 million more than current funding levels to continue treating high level radioactive liquid waste stored in more than 40 tanks on site. President Barack Obama's budget proposal for the Department of Energy calls for \$645.3 million for the tank waste removal and grouting – an increase from the \$554.8 million currently allotted for the project.

Local News:

The State: Richland County defends 2 penny tax uses questioned by state investigation

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article59855486.html>

Sarah Ellis

A small, local business recruitment program and two public relations firms are justified recipients of Richland County's transportation penny tax funds, the county has asserted to a state agency investigating potential misuse of the controversial sales tax.

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