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Subject: Morning Clips – Tuesday, February 9, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

New York Times: Half-Built Nuclear Fuel Plant in South Carolina Faces Test on Its Future

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/09/us/politics/half-built-nuclear-fuel-plant-in-south-carolina-faces-test-on-its-future.html?_r=0

James Risen

Time may finally be running out on the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility, a multibillion-dollar, over-budget federal project that has been hard to kill. The Energy Department has already spent about \$4.5 billion on the half-built plant near Aiken, S.C., designed to make commercial reactor fuel out of plutonium from nuclear bombs.

Note: In late January, Gov. Nikki Haley of South Carolina, a Republican, issued a letter formally asking Mr. Wilson's son — Alan Wilson, South Carolina's attorney general — to sue the Energy Department over MOX. The grounds for the lawsuit are expected to be based on the fact that the Energy Department missed a Jan. 1 deadline for the removal of some of the plutonium out of the state, and the suit is expected to claim that the department owes fines to South Carolina.

Augusta Chronicle: Obama's budget could make future of MOX project clearer

<http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/metro/2016-02-08/obamas-budget-could-make-future-mox-project-clearer>

Travis Highfield

Tuesday marks an important day in the quest for continued funding for Savannah River Site's mixed-oxide fuel fabrication facility. President Obama is expected to announce his fiscal 2017 budget requests, and opponents and supporters of the embattled project are expected to again keep a close eye on how the facility fares.

Note: Last month, Gov. Nikki Haley asked South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson to sue the U.S. Department of Energy for failing to meet statutory obligations regarding the MOX plant, but no timetable for action has been announced.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Aiken Standard: S.C. Association of Counties "ineffective," says chairman of S.C. House Ways and Means Committee

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160209/AIK0101/160209474>

Maayan Schechter

The discussion over whether the South Carolina General Assembly will fully fund the local government fund this session came to a head Monday, with one high-ranking state representative telling local government officials the South Carolina Association of Counties is to blame for the lack of movement on the subject.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley's budget proposal, released last month, would give \$113 million to local governments, to be split, in addition to roughly \$300 million for roadwork and \$300 million for education initiatives. Her budget proposal is a recommendation.

WIS: Proposed bill suggests eliminating CWP's

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31172358/proposed-bill-suggests-eliminating-cwps>

Shale Remien

An Upstate lawmaker is proposing a bill that would no longer require gun holders to carry a CWP or have training courses. As of Monday, people who conceal and carry in South Carolina need at least six to eight hours in a training course and have to take a test to receive a CWP.

WIS: State senator pushing bill for statewide affordable housing

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31171885/state-senator-pushing-bill-for-statewide-affordable-housing>

Raphael James

State senator from Charleston Marlon Kimpson is expected to file a bill Tuesday aimed at making housing across the state more affordable. Kimpson says the average price for a house is \$235,000. At the peak of the 2007 housing market, the average cost of a home was closer to \$210,000.

Post and Courier: House ethics panel to discuss former Speaker Bobby Harrell on Tuesday

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160208/PC1603/160209404>

Maya T. Prabhu

Lawmakers on Tuesday will discuss the case of former House Speaker Bobby Harrell, who last year was asked to repay more than \$113,000 in campaign funds the panel ruled were misspent. Harrell said Monday he was not sure if he will attend the meeting and did not want to comment further.

Index-Journal: Bill seeks to increase scope of practice, help rural areas

<http://indexjournal.com/news/Bill-seeks-to-increase-scope-of-practice--help-rural-areas>

Mar Kate McGowan

Parts of Abbeville and Greenwood counties and all of Laurens, McCormick and Saluda counties are classified as medically underserved. Either for a geographic or low-income reason, the counties' populations face an obstacle to medical care.

S.C. Political News:

Greenville News: For GOP field, battle of SC is about to begin

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/02/08/gop-field-battle-sc-begin/80000612/>

Rudolph Bell

The Battle of South Carolina is about to begin. New Hampshire voters decide Tuesday which Republican or Democratic presidential candidates they think are most worthy of the White House. On Wednesday, the Republican candidates who survive New Hampshire deploy to South Carolina, their next battleground, for 11 days of combat before the GOP's first-in-the-South presidential preference primary on Feb. 20.

The State: Being the New Hampshire runner-up could be the prize before GOP race moves to SC

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article59218573.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

What the polls say: Donald Trump holds a 16-percentage-point lead, having led 73 straight New Hampshire polls — almost all by double digits. Bunched up behind the New York billionaire are U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, Ohio Gov. John Kasich, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

WCBD: GOP presidential candidates visiting SC on Wednesday and Thursday

<http://counton2.com/2016/02/09/bush-rubio-to-visit-south-carolina-on-wednesday-and-thursday/>

Republican presidential candidates Marco Rubio and Jeb Bush will visit Murrells Inlet, Florence, and Myrtle Beach Wednesday and Thursday. John Kasich will visit Charleston for a series of events on Wednesday and Pawley's Island for a Town Hall on Thursday.

The State: Roadblock in the Senate isn't the roads bill; it's the Senate rules

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article59134428.html#storylink=cpy>

Cindi Ross Scope
THE GOOD NEWS is that House and Senate committees both approved legislation last week calling for a constitutional referendum to let the governor appoint the director of the state Education Department. The bad news is that while the House will vote on that legislation, perhaps as early as this week, the Senate won't. Ever.

Post and Courier: Keep planning process strong

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160209/PC1002/160209396>

Editorial

Building projects in Charleston go through some rigorous safeguards in order to ensure they are good for the city and the neighborhood. That's as it should be. But at its meeting today, Charleston City Council will vote on whether to dilute that process significantly. That would be a mistake.

South Carolina News:

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Praxair will build air separation plant next to Toray

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160208/articles/160209693>

Trevor Anderson

Construction of Toray's \$1.4 billion carbon fiber plant in Moore has just begun, and the Japanese manufacturer has already attracted more economic development to Spartanburg County. Praxair, an industrial gas supplier based in Danbury, Conn., announced it has signed a long-term contract with Toray to supply the facility with nitrogen that will be used to produce carbon fiber.

Associated Press: Cold blasts to affect the Carolinas during the coming week

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=n7aWTjXw

Cold, windy winter weather is descending on the Carolinas. The National Weather Service is forecasting that cold Canadian air will move into the region Tuesday and Wednesday with freezing temperatures all the way to the South Carolina beaches by Wednesday night.

Associated Press: Widow of Charleston church shooting victim speaking at Duke

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=zPISHhI2

The widow of the Rev. Clementa Pinckney who was shot and killed at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, is speaking at a forum on faith and race at Duke University. Jennifer Pinckney appears Tuesday evening at the university's Page Auditorium in Durham. Her husband was the minister of Emanuel AME where he and eight members were gunned down last June during a Bible study.

Local News:

The State: Hughes buys 16 acres to complete acquisition of former mental health campus in downtown Columbia

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article59179043.html#storylink=cpy>

Clif LeBlanc

The purchase of the Hall Psychiatric Institute and the surrounding land was finalized in December by a judicial order that completes Hughes' acquisition of all 181 acres of the former Bull Street campus, once a self-sustaining mental health community within the heart of Columbia.

Sun News: Horry County Schools' preliminary 2016-17 budget includes teacher raises

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/education/article59231523.html>

Claire Byun

Horry County Schools is planning on a similar budget to this current year, but the total numbers are still uncertain because tax revenues from the state have not been calculated. The Board of Education held its annual budget workshop that provides members with what the district expects to spend on yearly expenses, such as teacher raises, new equipment and additional instructors.

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