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Subject: Morning Clips – Friday, February 5, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Senate majority leader says he's lost patience on roads bill

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

Seanna Adcox

A month into the legislative session, state senators are no closer to finding a way to fix South Carolina's crumbling roads, but they spent hours Thursday arguing over their inability to officially debate the issue. Senate Majority Leader Harvey Peeler criticized his colleagues for "dilly-dallying" on the public's top priority.

Note: That's because Gov. Nikki Haley has pledged to veto any legislation that increases gas taxes unless it also drastically cuts income taxes and restructures the Department of Transportation.

The State: Senators point fingers over failure to debate roads fix

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article58491978.html>

Cassie Cope

S.C. senators Thursday debated their lack of a debate on a road-repair bill, wrapping up the legislative session's fourth week without discussing a proposal to fix the state's crumbling roads. "I have absolutely lost my patience when it comes to this infrastructure debate that we are not having," said Senate Majority Leader Harvey Peeler, R-Cherokee.

Note: Democrats blame Republican Gov. Nikki Haley for the roads impasse, saying she complicated the process by insisting any gas-tax increase to pay to fix roads be tied to tax cuts.

Post and Courier: Roads bill in S.C. Senate still lacks traction

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160204/PC1603/160209680>

Gavin Jackson

Tempers flared Thursday as senators pointed fingers at each other over the lack of progress on the roads bill, an issue dubbed a "top priority" by many in the chamber. Senate Majority Leader Harvey Peeler told lawmakers his patience is wearing thin over the lack of movement on the House-approved roads bill.

Note: Reforming the structure of those organizations, especially the DOT Commission, is a priority for Republicans and necessary to prevent a threatened veto from Gov. Nikki Haley.

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley mum on possible presidential endorsement, but speculation swirls around Rubio, Bush

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160204/PC1603/160209672>

Cynthia Roldan, Emma Dumain

Political pressure is building for Gov. Nikki Haley to endorse a presidential candidate. With just two weeks to go until the South Carolina Republican primary, speculation is growing on whether she'll endorse a candidate, and if so, who it will be.

S.C. General Assembly News:

WCSC: SC Lawmakers passionately debate future of roads bill

<http://www.live5news.com/story/31146508/sc-lawmakers-passionately-debate-future-of-roads-bill>

Will Whitson

Lawmakers expected a lot of intense emotion on the Senate floor from the start of an impromptu debate on roads. "Y'all are wasting my time and I'm ticked off about it! I would rather y'all waste my money, but I know we'll get to that later on in the session," Senator Shane Massey said.

S.C. Political News:

CNN: Graham: Cruz worse than Obama

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/02/04/politics/lindsey-graham-barack-obama-ted-cruz-foreign-policy/index.html>

Gregory Krieg

How much does Lindsey Graham dislike Ted Cruz? Count the ways. On the question of foreign policy, the Texas senator is "just as wrong as Obama, if not worse," Graham told CNN's Wolf Blitzer on Thursday. "In Ted Cruz's world, dictators do very well," he continued, comparing his colleague's foreign policy to that of Ron Paul, the former congressman, Republican presidential candidate and long-time leading libertarian.

The State: Cruz, Clinton winning SC money fight

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article58536828.html>

Andrew Shain

South Carolinians were opening their check books for Republican Ted Cruz and Democrat Hillary Clinton at the end of 2015. Cruz, a U.S. senator from Texas enjoying a rise in the polls heading into the New Year, topped all Republican presidential candidates in S.C. campaign contributions during the final three months of 2015, according to an analysis of federal election data.

The State: Trey Gowdy, Tim Scott may get hit by Rubio friendly fire on national security

Marco Rubio has attacked Ted Cruz for supporting law most of Rubio's backers voted for

<http://www.thestate.com/news/nation-world/national/article58501823.html#storylink=cpy>

Vera Bergengruen

Sen. Marco Rubio's presidential campaign received a significant boost with the endorsements of two popular South Carolina Republicans, Sen. Tim Scott and Rep. Trey Gowdy, but recent shots at his rivals could create some awkward moments on the stump.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

The State: Make home buyouts part of flood recovery

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/editorials/article58475683.html>

Editorial

AFTER FLOODING in May 2010 caused \$2 billion in damage to businesses and homes in and around Nashville, Tennessee, local leaders there took several steps to avoid a similar catastrophe. Under one program, city officials used federal emergency funds to buy more than 200 severely damaged houses in the most flood-prone areas.

Post and Courier: Tim Scott takes a chance on speaking his mind

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160205/PC16/160209695>

Brian Hicks

The circus is coming to town next week, and Tim Scott is already practicing his breath-taking, death-defying, high-wire act. Yes, as soon as the New Hampshire votes are counted Tuesday, Trump and Cruz, Kasich and Carson, Barnum and Bailey and all the other clowns will roll into South Carolina for two weeks of barnstorming and three-shows-daily tent revivals.

Post and Courier: In defense of compromise

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160205/PC1002/160209666>

Editorial

Donald Trump has done a lot of colorful name-calling in his bid for the Republican presidential nomination. So when the brash front-runner finished second to Ted Cruz in Monday night's Iowa Caucuses, some detractors of "The Donald" predictably aimed the word "loser" — perhaps his most overused insult — back at him.

Post and Courier: S.C. workers must take a stand for better wages

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160205/PC1002/160209667>

Erin McKee, Richard Trumka

On Saturday, the South Carolina AFL-CIO will host a summit to discuss how we can raise wages and improve the lives of working people. The summit will bring together a diverse group of people from across the state to talk about how to rein in corporate power, grow the middle class, and make our politicians more accountable to the needs of ordinary working people.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley has provided over a billion dollars in incentives to get profitable global corporations to relocate to the state in recent years.

South Carolina News:

WIS: Faith, forgiveness, and the future: Emanuel AME's survivors look forward

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31143367/faith-forgiveness-and-the-future-emanuel-ames-survivors-look-forward>

Billie Jean Shaw

A night of worship quickly turned into a night of horror. "After I heard the shots, I thought he would've shot and run out, I didn't know it would've kept on going," Felicia Sanders said. Sanders is one of the three people who survived when a gunman opened fire inside Emanuel AME Church in Charleston on June 17. Nine people were murdered.

Associated Press: DHEC chief attending energy symposium in Charleston

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=w8FpjyTs

Offshore oil and gas, solar power and nuclear energy in South Carolina are the focus of an energy forum being held in Charleston. South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control director Catherine Heigel is the keynote speaker for the daylong event Friday.

Post and Courier: Officials: Summerville police wrong in withholding public information on sex crimes

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160204/PC16/160209659>

Melissa Boughton

The Summerville Police Department is breaking the open-records law by not releasing basic public information about at least two violent crimes reported against women, according to an attorney and press advocate.

Local News:

Post and Courier: City officials, homeless advocates hope to clear Tent City in 30 to 60 days

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160204/PC16/160209701>

Diane Knich

The sprawling homeless encampment known as Tent City along Upper Meeting Street will be cleared in 30 to 60 days, Charleston officials and homeless advocates said Thursday. The announcement was made at a meeting at One80 Place, a local organization that provides shelter and other services to the homeless.

Florence Morning News: TIF District extension included in \$12 million Florence schools project

http://www.scnow.com/news/education/article_f644e4a6-cad7-11e5-8493-9b793c8148d6.html

Joshua Lloyd

Financing for the proposed improvements to the McClenaghan building, the Poynor building and the Beck Early Childhood Center could be paid by the city of Florence through a \$12 million tax increment financing district borrowing.

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