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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, January 20, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Haley to advocate efforts to combat domestic violence

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=a3U24O2t

Gov. Nikki Haley will use her State of the State address to advocate her budget request aimed at combatting South Carolina's dismal domestic violence statistics. Haley is expected Wednesday to promote her \$11 million budget request for hiring 144 prosecutors statewide.

Associated Press: Committee approves interim director Hall to run SCDOT

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

Jeffrey Collins

A Senate committee unanimously agreed on Wednesday that interim South Carolina Department of Transportation Secretary Christy Hall should hold the job permanently, and forwarded its recommendation to the full Senate. But the Senate right now can't agree on much else about South Carolina roads.

Note: Senate President Hugh Leatherman has ordered four Democratic senators and four Republicans to talk behind closed doors to come up with a solution. Gov. Nikki Haley has said she will back any deal that includes more money for roads - even through an increased gas tax; an equal tax cut, likely on income taxes; and restructuring of the board that runs the DOT. Most lawmakers agree all three items are necessary to get something passed.

Greenville News: Senate panel backs Hall, stalls on DOT restructuring

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/01/20/senate-panel-backs-hall-stalls-dot-restructuring/79050474/>

Tim Smith

The Senate Transportation Committee on Wednesday unanimously recommended Senate confirmation of State Transportation Secretary Christy Hall, then unanimously and quickly approved a resolution to permanently allow the governor to appoint the transportation secretary.

Note: A year ago, in her annual speech to the Legislature, Gov. Nikki Haley proposed raising the state's gas tax by 10 cents per gallon if lawmakers also scrapped the present system of selecting highway commissioners and reduced the state's income tax.

The State: Education chief asks for \$481 million more for K-12 schools

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article55629275.html>

Jamie Self

South Carolina's schools chief wants state lawmakers to spend nearly \$481 million more on public education next year. Most of the money would benefit the state's lowest-performing school districts, Education Superintendent Molly Spearman told a House K-12 budget-writing panel Wednesday.

Note: The new spending also would include more money for students enrolling in college-level courses, something S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley is pushing as a way to make sure S.C. high-school graduates are prepared for college or careers.

Associated Press: House panel: Move the museum to house the Confederate flag

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=88vONoF5

Seanna Adcox

The museum that will house the Confederate flag removed from Statehouse grounds last summer needs to relocate to attract more visitors and become more self-reliant, legislators on a House budget-panel said Wednesday.

Note: Last week, Gov. Nikki Haley said \$3.6 million is still too high, but she did not recommend an amount. Instead, she put a \$1 placeholder in her budget request.

Note: "We didn't want to discount it. We said we think it should be in a museum, and we want it be in a place of respect so people would feel good about, but the General Assembly needs to work on what that price tag is," she said Friday in releasing her executive budget.

S.C. General Assembly News:

The State: Senate panel approves Christy Hall to head Transportation Department

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article55620415.html>

Cassie Cope

State senators on a transportation panel unanimously approved Christy Hall to lead the S.C. Department of Transportation Wednesday. The full Senate likely will consider Hall's appointment next week, said panel chairman state Sen. Larry Grooms, R-Berkeley. Senators praised Hall.

Post and Courier: S.C. Ethics Commission moves to prohibit spending campaign funds on club memberships

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160120/PC1603/160129937>

Maya T. Prabhu

Lawmakers and candidates can no longer use campaign cash to pay memberships to places such as country clubs, the State Ethics Commission decided Wednesday. Commission Executive Director Herb Hayden said investigators learned while doing audits that a handful of candidates listed the fees as an expense. The commission previously did not prohibit that use of campaign funds, he said.

Post and Courier: Rep. Chip Limehouse proposes moving Confederate museum to the Lowcountry

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160120/PC1603/160129940>

Cynthia Roldan

Republican Rep. Chip Limehouse is suggesting moving the Confederate Relic Room to the Hunley Museum in North Charleston to boost its visitor numbers. Limehouse, chairman of the House's Transportation, Regulatory and Cultural Subcommittee, said the rest of the state's Military Museum could remain in the Midlands or elsewhere.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

USA Today: There's nothing soft about liberal bigotry

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2016/01/20/nikki-haley-response-obama-debbie-wasserman-schultz-diversity-column/78935238/>

Ruben Navarett Jr.

But first, Democrats are right to be afraid of Haley. The 43-year-old daughter of Indian immigrants is the first female and minority governor of the Palmetto State. She is smart, telegenic, sincere, affable and well-spoken. She knows how to deal with people, isn't easily pigeonholed and thinks politics should be about addition not division.

Bloomberg: Why Immigration Is a Big Deal to Conservatives

<http://www.bloombergtv.com/articles/2016-01-20/why-immigration-is-a-big-deal-to-conservatives>

Ramesh Ponnuru

Nikki Haley, the governor of South Carolina, is the latest Republican to learn how important immigration has become to conservatives. In her response to the State of the Union address, she argued both that immigrants should be made to feel welcome and that we have to maintain control of our immigration policy.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: SC port volume up 10 percent in 2015

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

Container volume through the Port of Charleston increased more than 10 percent during 2015, about twice the rate of other ports across the nation. South Carolina Ports Authority Chairman and CEO Jim Newsome provided the figures for the authority board Wednesday during its first meeting of the year in Charleston.

The State: USC plans \$200 million health-care campus

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article55639490.html>

Andrew Shain

The 39-year-old school move from its site next to the Dorn Veterans Affairs Medical Center to 14 acres near Palmetto Health Richland hospital in North Columbia that USC owns, school chief operating officer Ed Walton said after a budget request hearing before a state House panel on Wednesday.

Greenville News: Survey: SC among states with highest Obamacare costs

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/01/20/survey-sc-among-states-highest-obamacare-costs/79064200/>

Liv Osby

South Carolina is among the states whose residents pay the most for health care costs under Obamacare, a new survey shows. The Palmetto State is third highest, according to the study from GOBankingRates.com, a portal for personal finance and consumer banking information.

Local News:

Sun News: Group seeks to rebrand Atlantic Beach Bikefest as 'Unity Bikefest'

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article55678255.html>

Emily Weaver

A request for accommodations tax money to rebrand the Atlantic Beach Bikefest into an event where organizers say all races could feel welcome came up empty in tax spending suggestions. But organizers are still working on plans to bring their idea of a "Memorial Day Weekend Unity Bikefest" to life.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Daimler Trucks announces \$22.7M investment in Gaffney facility

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160120/ARTICLES/160129982/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Daimler-Trucks-announces-22-7M-investment-in-Gaffney-facility>

Daimler Trucks North America on Wednesday announced a \$22.7 million investment to expand facilities and improve operations in Gaffney. The company will invest in Freightliner Custom Chassis Corp., and the investment includes the construction of a new logistics center and expansion of its current office building.

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