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To:
Date: 1/24/2016 10:47:20 AM
Subject: Clips – Sunday, January 24, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Index-Journal: Local administrators say Gov. Haley's education budget a step in the right direction
<http://www.indexjournal.com/news/Local-administrators-say-Gov--Haley-s-education-budget-a-step-in-the-right-direction>

Ariel Gilreath

With promises that education will be a funding priority in South Carolina this year, Gov. Nikki Haley has proposed a \$300 million increase in funds to education in her 2016-17 budget with a focus on rural and poor school districts.

Note: In Haley's budget, she outlines six points she intends to focus on: education governance, funding the basics, school facilities, reforming the First Steps program for preschool-age children, technology and recruiting and retaining teachers.

Index-Journal: Government fund could see some changes in coming year
<http://indexjournal.com/news/Government-fund-could-see-some-changes-in-coming-year>

Colin Riddle

Despite Gov. Nikki Haley's call to include \$113 million in this year's budget for local governments, the General Assembly could easily bypass her request outlined in her executive budget. The amount would fully fund the state's obligation for the local government fund since 2008.

The State: THE BUZZ: Will SC Democrats 'feel the Bern?'
<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article56169240.html>

Jamie Self

Imagine: Democrats in both Iowa and New Hampshire pick U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders as their presidential nominee – a possibility, according to recent polls. Wins by Sanders in those two states then shift the tide in South Carolina's Feb. 27 Democratic nominating contest.

The governor's ethics 'Hail Mary' In her sixth annual State-of-the-State address, S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley applauded how South Carolinians came together in the wake of the Emanuel AME Church shooting to bring down the Confederate flag. She highlighted the lives of the victims and the forgiveness their families showed in the days following the Charleston massacre.

Note: "It is my fervent wish that, in this year, we, as the representatives of those people, act in a manner that is worthy of that greatness," Haley appealed to lawmakers.

Post and Courier: Obamacare 'coverage gap' excludes 123,000 South Carolinians from health insurance, including Jim Connor

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160123/PC16/160129774/1177/obamacare-x2018-coverage-gap-x2019-excludes-123000-south-carolinians-from-health-insurance-including-jim-connor>

Lauren Sausser

Jim Connor earned between \$50 and \$75 a week delivering pizzas in Summerville until a cancer diagnosis sidelined him late last year. The problem is — one of many problems, in fact — Connor has no health insurance. He can't get a federal discount to purchase an Obamacare policy. He's 12 years too young for Medicare. His employer doesn't offer any coverage.

Note: In her Republican address to the nation earlier this month, Gov. Nikki Haley called President Barack Obama's signature health care law a disaster. She said it's a "health care plan that has made insurance less affordable and doctors less available."

S.C. General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Making political points through Viagra, reporter registration legislation frustrates state

politicos

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160124/PC1603/160129768>

Cynthia Roldan

Some of South Carolina's lawmakers who have filed bills with the intent of making political statements about abortion and licensing reporters have already left many frustrated and others furious just two weeks into the 2016 legislative session.

Post and Courier: Changes to state ethics rules make lawmakers reconsider spending campaign cash on club memberships

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160124/PC1603/160129742>

Maya T. Prabhu

After years of using campaign cash to pay for memberships at country clubs, dinner clubs and other organizations, lawmakers now have to pick up their own tabs. The State Ethics Commission recently ruled that those expenses are not allowed under campaign money rules. Several lawmakers, and some candidates, have used campaign cash to pay membership dues at private dinner clubs, such as the Capital City Club and The Palmetto Club, where they said they conducted political business.

S.C. Political News:

The State: Cruz trying to overcome Trump's lead in SC

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article56249410.html>

Andrew Shain, Jamie Self

After seeing Ted Cruz speak in Columbia this month, David Edwards turned to his son and recalled seeing another Republican who ran for the White House. "We had the same feeling for (Ronald) Reagan, and people can't stop talking about him," the Columbia piano teacher said of the late president.

Note: After S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley urged voters to avoid the campaign's angriest voices in her nationally televised State of the Union response this month, Trump accepted the "angry" label during the GOP presidential debate in North Charleston.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Take a stand for ethics reform

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160124/PC1002/160129676>

Editorial

During her State of the State address Wednesday, Gov. Nikki Haley asked senators who support ethics reform to stand up. About a dozen did. Some who didn't, like Sen. Thomas McElveen, D-Sumter, said they resented Mrs. Haley's schoolmarm-ish tactic. But Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort, applauded Gov. Haley's move as an apt way to let South Carolinians see where their senators stand on the issue.

The State: SC Gov Nikki Haley's agenda: several good ideas, one really bad one

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article56150395.html#storylink=cpy>

Cindi Ross Scope

FOR SEVERAL weeks now, Gov. Nikki Haley has been rolling out smart policy and funding proposals, and on Wednesday night she wrapped them in a pretty bow and presented them to the General Assembly in her sixth State of the State address:

Post and Courier: Rep. Chip Limehouse wasn't waving battle flag, but it hit him in the face

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160124/PC16/160129795>

Brian Hicks

Well, at least Chip Limehouse can say he knows what it feels like to be on a battlefield. Last week, the Charleston lawmaker suggested moving the Confederate Relic Room — home of the battle flag taken off Statehouse grounds last July — from Columbia down to the Lowcountry. And he was immediately outflanked, ambushed and hit with friendly fire.

Post and Courier: Time to repair lax zoning laws

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160124/PC1002/160129675>

Editorial

When Andres Duany came to Charleston last year to assess the city's building review processes, one of his recommendations was to rewrite Charleston's byzantine zoning laws, which allow for around 50 different

zoning designations. Not only is the code dizzyingly complicated, but it is clearly inadequate in some cases — and not just regarding the Sergeant Jasper property proposal that has pitted neighbors and preservationists against the developers.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: New moped laws would hurt poor

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160124/OPINION/160129863/1128?Title=New-moped-laws-would-hurt-poor>

Editorial

The S.C. House has passed a bill that would effectively put many of the working poor out of their jobs. The bill would require that mopeds be licensed and insured. And it would require a valid driver's license to operate one. Lawmakers behind the bill say it would increase the safety of moped drivers.

Island Packet: Ways of the Gullah matter more than ever

<http://www.islandpacket.com/opinion/editorials/article56278555.html>

Editorial

Nothing says Lowcountry like Dr. Buzzard, Dr. Bug, Dr. Eagle and Dr. Hawk. We're not endorsing the voodoo they practiced in Beaufort County in the early 20th century, but we take the pulse of the secretive world of root doctors and other Gullah traditions in today's edition because they mirror our unique community.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: South Carolina's record month for gun checks adds to strain of FBI system

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160124/PC16/160129807>

Andrew Knapp

Nearly 50,000 South Carolinians tried to get guns or permits to carry the weapons in December — more than in any other month in history. The spike, shown through statistics from the FBI's criminal background check system, came during a holiday season when President Barack Obama hinted at the new gun control measures he was planning for the new year.

Aiken Standard: Rep. Joe Wilson talks positives of school choice during Aiken visit

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160123/AIK0101/160129736/rep-joe-wilson-talks-positives-of-school-choice-during-aiken-visit>

Bill Bengston

Today, U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., offers his thoughts on school choice during a visit to Mead Hall Episcopal School, a private school in Aiken. Lunchtime at Mead Hall had an unusual atmosphere Friday afternoon, with U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., paying a visit, in observance of National School Choice Week.

Associated Press: Icy conditions, power outages tail off in SC after storm

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8KtogY9J

South Carolina is shaking off snow and icy rain and getting back to normal. The state Department of Transportation said Saturday all interstate highways were open and passable as temperatures rose and conditions improved. Interstates 26 and 95 had seen temporary, partial closures due to ice on bridges.

Local News:

Post and Courier: New pastor coming to Emanuel AME seeks to bring hope, unity

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160123/PC16/160129647>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

The Rev. Dr. Betty Deas Clark has been named pastor of Emanuel AME Church, where nine black worshipers were gunned down on June 17 by an avowed white racist. She will be the church's first female pastor.

The State: Historic flooding still takes toll on courses

<http://www.thestate.com/sports/golf/article56313365.html#storylink=cpy>

Bob Spear

Almost four months after the October floods, golf course around South Carolina are still waiting to discover the total effect of the disaster that hammered the state. "We have stabilized, but we won't know the complete impact until the spring," Country Club of Lexington superintendent Mark Swygert said. "There was

just so much water that created structural and agronomical issues.”

Post and Courier: Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg assembles advisory team

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160123/PC16/160129638>

Diane Knich

The new hires are: Josh Martin and Rick Jerue, who will serve as senior advisors; Robin Griffith who will serve as his special assistant; Jack O'Toole, director of communications; and Mike Whack, who will hold the new special assistant for quality of life and community outreach job.

Sun News: Myrtle Beach area home sales increased 15.6 percent in 2015

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/business/real-estate-news/article56148395.html>

Audrey Hudson

Home sales in the Myrtle Beach area were up 15.6 percent for 2015, a continuation of steady increases over previous year sales that suggests the Grand Strand real estate market remains on steady ground. Sales statewide were up nearly 11.7 percent, and 12 percent for the entire coastal Carolina region, which Realtors hope will carry over into 2016.

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