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Subject: Morning Clips – Thursday, January 7, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Gov. Haley giving update on fight against domestic violence

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

Gov. Nikki Haley is planning to discuss progress on combatting domestic violence. Haley's office says she's holding a news conference at the Statehouse on Thursday. Haley is being joined by members of the South Carolina Domestic Violence Task Force, as well as prosecutors from around the state. A year ago, Haley created the task force to come up with systemic, cultural changes to combat the problem.

Times and Democrat: JOBS FOR BAMBERG

Jobs for Bamberg: Bourbon barrel maker investing \$3.6M

http://thetandd.com/news/jobs-for-bamberg-bourbon-barrel-maker-investing-m/article_6ea0d816-f490-5684-a6a8-2d9655bc7af2.html

Gene Zaleski

A start-up company announced Wednesday it plans to make barrels for the bourbon industry in Bamberg County. Black Water Barrels LLC plans to invest \$3.6 million, resulting in the creation of 57 new jobs over the next five years.

Note: "It's exciting to see new companies choose our state as their home for the future because it proves that Team South Carolina's approach to providing a business-friendly environment is working," Gov. Nikki Haley said. "Black Water Barrels' investment, and the 57 new jobs it will create, will make a real difference in Bamberg County, and is a reason to celebrate across South Carolina."

S.C. General Assembly News:

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Spartanburg County lawmaker files bill to get rid of same-sex marriage

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160105/ARTICLES/160109869/1180?Title=Spartanburg-County-lawmaker-files-bill-to-get-rid-of-same-sex-marriage>

Zach Fox

A Spartanburg County lawmaker says his attempt to get rid of same-sex marriage reflects the will of his constituents. Rep. Bill Chumley, R-Woodruff, and Rep. Mike Burns, R-Taylors, pre-filed a bill in the House to define marriage as between one man and one woman.

Aiken Standard: Aiken lawmakers support Rep. Hixon's bill to carry legally in Georgia

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160106/AIK0101/160109597/aiken-lawmakers-support-rep-hixon-x2019-s-bill-to-carry-legally-in-georgia>

Derrek Asberry, Maayan Schechter

S.C. Rep. Bill Hixon and virtually every other member of the Aiken County Legislative Delegation hope Hixon's bill, which would allow Palmetto State concealed-weapon permit holders to carry their guns into Georgia, will pass before it dies in the Senate.

Note: Sens. Tom Young, R-Aiken, and Shane Massey, R-Edgefield, also said they are in favor of passing the bill, but admitted that there are roadblocks in the Senate that are preventing it from reaching S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley's desk.

Post and Courier: S.C. lawmakers to consider raising high school dropout age from 17 to 18

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160106/PC16/160109580>

Paul Bowers

A simple plan to decrease South Carolina's high school dropout rate by raising the minimum dropout age from 17 to 18 is picking up steam as state lawmakers prepare to return to the Statehouse on Tuesday.

Note: Mark Epstein, a former guidance and career counselor in Charleston County schools, has been

drumming up support for the proposal and meeting with politicians, including local school officials, Rep. Mark Sanford and the staff of Gov. Nikki Haley.

Florence Morning News: Activists, state representatives oppose state funding of Confederate flag memorial

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_e6ed023a-b4da-11e5-8043-1761a3f7bdf6.html

Joshua Lloyd

A Florence community activist and several state representatives say they condemn any type of state funding for a new Confederate flag exhibit in Columbia, while others have said funding would be permissible but not at costs anywhere close to proposed figures.

The State: Chamber puts out agenda for General Assembly

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article53430240.html>

Roddie Burris

The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce said Wednesday it wants the General Assembly to focus on three issues when legislators return to the State House next week. Three top concerns are infrastructure accountability and funding, workforce development and business licensing reform. Previously, the chamber has listed eight or 10 issues of concern, said Ted Pitts, the chamber's president and CEO.

S.C. Political News:

USA Today: Trey Gowdy endorsement could be key to Marco Rubio's hopes in South Carolina

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2016/01/06/trey-gowdy-endorsement-could-boost-marco-rubio-in-south-carolina/78367248/>

Ledyard King

Sen. Marco Rubio has steadily racked up congressional endorsements, which are often flaunted but usually don't mean a lot. Rep. Trey Gowdy's endorsement could be different. Gowdy has gained national attention as chairman of the special House committee investigating the 2012 attacks in Benghazi.

Greenville News: To get Graham's endorsement, a presidential candidate must challenge Trump, Cruz

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/01/06/get-grahams-endorsement-presidential-candidate-must-challenge-trump-cruz/78361142/>

Rudolph Bell

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina said Wednesday that he'll expect any presidential candidate who gets his endorsement to challenge Donald Trump and Ted Cruz, the two candidates currently leading the contest for the Republican nomination.

The State: Rubio adds S.C. adviser, names finance co-chairs with DeMint ties

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article53401560.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Marco Rubio has added the S.C. director for John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign and named several supporters of the Republican Florida senator's mentor to lead his state finance team. Buzz Jacobs, who runs a Florida-headquartered political consulting firm, has joined the Rubio campaign as a senior adviser based in South Carolina.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Lindsey Graham may soon decide who to support for president

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160106/ARTICLES/160109822/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Lindsey-Graham-may-soon-decide-who-to-support-for-president>

Chris Lavender

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham said he may decide this month which Republican presidential candidate to support. On Wednesday, Graham was at The Piedmont Club in Spartanburg. He said he wants to make a decision on a candidate and possibly get involved with the campaign.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Index-Journal: Gun rights vs. gun deaths: Surely there is a balance

<http://indexjournal.com/opinion/editorial/Gun-rights-vs--gun-deaths--Surely-there-is-a-balance>

Editorial

And so, President Barack Obama, weary from the seemingly non-stop flow of gun-related deaths that have taken place during his two terms and frustrated that Congress is content to wring its hands over gun deaths but do nothing that might actually curb gun deaths without treading on Second Amendment rights, has walked upright into the political storm and issued executive orders designed to close up a few loopholes in current gun laws.

Post and Courier: North Korea's nuclear bluster

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160107/PC1002/160109574>

Editorial

It is revealing that North Korea announced its fourth nuclear weapons test — its third during the Obama presidency — as a “hydrogen bomb” despite seismic evidence contradicting that claim. The announcement was apparently a troubling cry for attention. The extra troubling question is — whose attention?

Post and Courier: Mayor Riley's fond farewell

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160107/PC1002/160109575>

Editorial

Charleston Mayor Joe Riley's farewell address to the city on Wednesday night was eloquent, poignant and to the point. He cited three areas that should particularly concern the city's residents and leaders: maintaining excellence in all areas of municipal endeavor, staying the course on racial progress, and protecting our natural environment.

South Carolina News:

The State: SC schools chief says rural teacher pay, school facilities are top priorities

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article53356395.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

Helping rural school districts replace aging facilities, access technology and pay teachers higher salaries are top priorities for South Carolina's schools chief, she told state senators Wednesday.

Sun News: Offshore wind energy hearing draws support for alternative energy, wildlife concerns

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article53407430.html>

Audrey Hudson

Developing wind energy offshore South Carolina's coast will be a long and complicated project that could take as long as a decade, but if no private investors come forward to pay for the effort the entire process would be dead in the water.

Associated Press: Pleicones being sworn in to lead South Carolina's top court

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=a7tE2qHv

South Carolina's top court is getting its first new leader in more than a decade. Costa Pleicones (Pluh-KOH-Nus) is being sworn in Thursday as the chief justice of the state's Supreme Court. He has been an associate justice on the high court since 2000. Pleicones replaces Jean Toal, who turned 72 last year and took mandatory retirement because of her age.

Post and Courier: High school seniors in uproar over last-minute change to exam exemption policy

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160106/PC16/160109589>

Paul Bowers

High school students across Charleston County issued a collective groan Wednesday as the school district announced that many of them were no longer off the hook for final exams. Under a pilot program in the 2014-15 school year, high school seniors could exempt themselves from taking final exams if they earned a grade of 85 or higher in a course.

Local News:

Anderson Independent: Upstate sheriffs support mental health parts of Obama gun control

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/upstate-sheriffs-support-mental-health-parts-of-obama-gun-control-28acc659-eb6b-5cd1-e053-0100007f2d-364445541.html>

Mike Ellis

Two Upstate sheriffs praised the mental health components of President Barack Obama's gun control

executive orders, but were skeptical about the effectiveness of the rest of the federal actions.

Aiken Standard: Aiken County officials to receive \$1.5M federal grant for Langley Dam repairs

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160106/AIK0101/160109601/aiken-county-officials-to-receive-15m-federal-grant-for-langley-dam-repairs>

Dan Brown

The long awaited repairs to Langley Dam could take a step forward soon with the Tuesday announcement of a \$1.5 million federal hazard mitigation grant. The grant includes a \$500,000 Aiken County match to bring the total funds allocated to Langley Dam repair work to \$2 million, according to County Administrator Clay Killian.

Times and Democrat: City buying 80 body cameras for officers

http://thetandd.com/community/city-buying-body-cameras-for-officers/article_d14aab65-508d-5e10-bd7b-7ba13a41c5f3.html

Princess B. Williams

Orangeburg City Council approved the purchase of 80 body cameras for officers during its Tuesday meeting. "There is a public confidence crisis, I think, in our law enforcement systems. Body cameras go a long way toward restoring some of that faith in our police services," Orangeburg Department of Public Safety Chief Mike Adams said.

Sun News: Just how many exits will the Bikefest traffic loop have? To be determined

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/bike-rallies/article53386480.html#storylink=cpy>

Emily Weaver

Traffic and safety plans for the Memorial Day weekend are shaping up to look a lot like last year with the return of a 23-mile traffic loop. But exactly when the loop will be activated, how many exits it will have and how drivers will know where to go are details that will be hammered out by a task force in the months to come.

The State: Newman gives up \$398,000 contract, steps down as lawyer for penny tax program

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article53404515.html#storylink=cpy>

Sarah Ellis, John Monk

Former Columbia City Councilman Brian DeQuincey Newman voluntarily stepped down as a contracted attorney for Richland County's transportation penny program the day before pleading guilty of failure to file state income taxes. In so doing, Newman gave up a job that was estimated to provide him a total of \$398,000 over five years.

Brian Symmes

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