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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Monday, January 11, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

USA Today: Haley says her speech won't compete with Tuesday's State of the Union address

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2016/01/11/nikki-haley-republican-response-state-union-speech/78630302/>

Mary Troyan

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley will speak to the nation immediately after President Obama delivers his State of the Union Address on Tuesday, but she refuses to call her speech a response to the president.

Note: "It's going to be an address," Haley told reporters last week. "I certainly am not one to compete against the president or try to imply that I could be. What I did want to do is just take this as an opportunity to express the challenges that I think we have seen in our state but also our country, and the solutions ... and the opportunities that could be there."

Note: Most recently, her handling of the state's massive flooding has drawn favorable reviews. "This will be very much just an address that allows me to talk to the country ... about the things that I believe are important," Haley said.

Note: She's also expected to promote her state's job growth and economic development projects that helped lower the unemployment rate to 5.5%, the lowest since 2001. "We've done a lot of great things in South Carolina," Haley said. "But we have a lot more things to do."

CNN: Paul Ryan: Nikki Haley has 'extremely bright' future in GOP

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/01/11/politics/paul-ryan-nikki-haley-state-of-the-union-obama/>

Tal Kopan

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is a "natural" and will deliver a "great" response to the State of the Union, House Speaker Paul Ryan said Monday. Haley will respond to President Barack Obama's speech for the Republican Party on Tuesday, an honor bestowed on rising stars in the GOP. The high-profile event has been both a launching pad for careers and an opportunity for embarrassment, depending on how the politician performs.

Associated Press: Feds recommend SC do away with medical building regulations

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=PupHL4Re

Meg Kinnard

The federal government on Monday recommended South Carolina repeal requirements that health facilities get state permission for many kinds of construction and expansion, backing up something Gov. Nikki Haley has sought for years.

Note: In a letter and attached statement to Haley, who sought officials' opinion in November, the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission wrote that laws requiring something known as a certificate of need impede competition and make such projects more expensive.

NPR (Audio): S.C. Gov. Haley To Give GOP Response To State Of The Union Address

<http://www.npr.org/2016/01/11/462627075/s-c-gov-haley-to-give-republican-response-to-state-of-the-union-address?sc=tw>

Sarah McCammon

Nikki Haley's leadership was repeatedly tested last year, as South Carolina coped with the aftermath of a deadly shooting at a black church in Charleston, and historic floods.

Politico: Wasserman Schultz: Nikki Haley chosen because the GOP has a 'diversity problem'

<http://www.politico.com/story/2016/01/debbie-wasserman-schultz-nikki-haley-state-of-the-union-2016-217582#ixzz3wyVe5ANZ>

Nolan D. McCaskill

Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz on Monday blasted South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, the Republican Party's pick to deliver the GOP's response to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address on Tuesday.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Associated Press: Flags at half-staff to honor the late state Sen. O'Dell

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ZoUwPai0

Flags atop South Carolina's Statehouse are flying at half-staff to honor the late Sen. Billy O'Dell. The funeral for the Republican state senator will be Monday afternoon at First Presbyterian Church in Greenwood. Gov. Nikki Haley requested that flags be flown at half-staff from sunup to sundown in O'Dell's memory.

Post and Courier: Groups support bills to close loophole in gun background checks

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160111/PC16/160119863>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

Two groups of people affected by gun violence issued a joint statement Monday supporting bipartisan South Carolina bills aimed at closing the so-called "Charleston loophole," which allowed the man charged with murdering nine people at Emanuel AME Church to buy a gun.

Greenville News: DHEC director suggests clarifying fetal tissue law

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/01/11/dhec-director-suggests-clarifying-fetal-tissue-law/78622550/>

Tim Smith

The director of South Carolina's health agency is suggesting changes to state abortion law, including a clarification that the sale or donation with reimbursement of fetal tissue is illegal. But after a fourth legislative hearing looking into whether the state's three abortion clinics sold or donated fetal tissue, no agency official has turned up evidence of any such illegal acts.

The State: SC lawmaker to Donald Trump: Stay out of my state

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article54133435.html>

Jamie Self

A S.C. lawmaker wants his own wall for Donald Trump. S.C. Rep. John King, D-York, plans to introduce a resolution Tuesday that says the Republican presidential front-runner is not welcome in South Carolina after a Muslim woman was ejected from his campaign rally in Rock Hill on Friday.

Island Packet: Sen. Tom Davis to talk Jasper port at 'changemakers' series on Hilton Head Island

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article54111425.html#storylink=cpy>

State Sen. Tom Davis will present the latest progress on plans to build the Jasper Ocean Terminal as the first presentation of The Changemakers 2016 Speaker Series at 6 p.m. Jan. 25 at the Coligny Theatre on Hilton Head Island. Davis is one of the port's most vocal advocates and has worked on the idea since he was chief of staff for then-Gov. Mark Sanford.

S.C. Political News:

The State: Martin O'Malley to attend King Day at the Dome, host SC justice forum

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article54106345.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley will attend the King Day at the Dome march and rally next Monday, his campaign said. O'Malley is the first 2016 Democratic presidential hopeful to confirm plans to attend the day's events. O'Malley will speak at the S.C. State House rally, said Tyler Jones, the campaign's state director.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Report outlines progress, challenges fighting human trafficking in South Carolina

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160111/PC16/160119862>

Dave Munday

Those concerned about sex trafficking in South Carolina still have no idea how widespread it is but say

they're making progress, according to a report released Monday by the attorney general's human trafficking task force. The state passed stricter penalties against those who force people or lure minors into commercial sex in 2012.

Associated Press: High court won't hear appeal over \$124M drug penalty in SC

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Vz1256Z3

Meg Kinnard

The U.S. Supreme Court said Monday that it would not hear an appeal from a Johnson & Johnson subsidiary assessed more than \$124 million in penalties for deceptive marketing of an anti-psychotic drug. The justices opted to let stand a lower court ruling that said Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. should pay the penalties for violations of South Carolina law.

Post and Courier: South Carolina's BMW plant sets production record in 2015

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160111/PC05/160119874>

David Wren

BMW Manufacturing in 2015 recorded its biggest production year in the plant's 21-year history, with 400,904 vehicles rolling off the production line. That represents a 15 percent increase over the production volume for 2014. Nearly three-fourths of the vehicles built at the Greer plant were exported through the Port of Charleston to more than 140 countries worldwide.

Post and Courier: At least two South Carolinians invited to State of the Union speech

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160111/PC1603/160119864>

Schuyler Kropf

At least two South Carolinians will be guests for President Barack Obama's final State of the Union address Tuesday. Greenwood City Councilwoman Edith Childs will be among the guests seated with first lady Michelle Obama.

Local News:

Post and Courier: At inauguration, new Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg says city can't rest

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160111/PC16/160119878>

Diane Knich

In his inaugural address, Mayor John Tecklenburg said a successful Charleston can't rest on its laurels. First, he said, city leaders have to deal with the problems caused by its success, such as flooding and sea-level rise. And he vowed to push for the long-stalled project to complete Interstate 526 across James and Johns islands.

Post and Courier: Law enforcement probes 'irregular accounting' at Charleston County School District

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160111/PC16/160119872>

Paul Bowers

Amid an investigation of multimillion-dollar budget shortfalls, a Charleston County School District employee has filed a report of fraud relating to district funds, according to a law enforcement spokesman.

Post and Courier: Former Berkeley County Sheriff DeWitt pleads guilty in DUI case, gets probation

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160111/PC16/160119880>

Melissa Boughton

Acknowledging that he had a problem with alcohol, former Berkeley County Sheriff Wayne DeWitt pleaded guilty on Monday to charges in connection with a drunken driving arrest a year ago. During an afternoon court hearing in Moncks Corner, DeWitt was sentenced to three years of probation and ordered to serve 60 hours of community service.

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