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To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Thursday, February 4, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Ex-Sen. Lugar says MOX facility vital to nuke agreement

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=wHqLIN4K

Meg Kinnard

Finishing a South Carolina plutonium reprocessing project is critical to keeping up the U.S. end of a critical nonproliferation deal with Russia, one of the federal lawmakers instrumental in the agreement said Thursday after touring the facility that's still under construction.

Note: But the project is years behind schedule and billions over its original budget. Last week, Gov. Nikki Haley told South Carolina's attorney general that she wants to sue the U.S. Department of Energy for the agency's failure to meet completion deadlines.

Note: Haley warned Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz in December that the state would be forced to sue if his agency didn't start making payments. A clause in the law, however, makes the fine "subject to the availability of appropriations."

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 arguing over their inability to officially debate the issue. Senate Majority Leader Harvey Peeler criticized his colleagues Thursday 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 without cutting income taxes and restructuring the Department of Transportation.

Greenville News: Senate debates not debating roads

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/02/04/senate-debates-not-debating-roads/79821654/>

Tim Smith

Senate Majority Leader Harvey Peeler of Gaffney watched the Senate meet for a month without taking up the issue he said most South Carolinians want addressed and he couldn't take it anymore. So Peeler took to the floor Thursday to lecture his colleagues about the delay and pleaded with them to start the debate on road funding.

Note: Peeler asked the Senate to take up a controversial DOT restructuring bill immediately, saying restructuring was one of four "hurdles" any roads bill had to clear before something could be passed, the others being funding, tax relief and a possible veto by Gov. Nikki Haley.

Note: The issues were linked by Haley a year ago when she said she would approved a 10-cent increase in the gas tax if lawmakers also agreed to an income tax cut and a new way of picking highway commissioners.

Aiken Standard: Former senator says shutting down MOX would be 'catastrophic'

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160204/AIK0101/160209751>

Derrek Asberry

Advocacy for the Savannah River Site MOX facility continued Thursday when former U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar said shutting down the facility would be "catastrophic." Lugar, a former Republican senator from Indiana, spent Thursday morning touring the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility – the main building in the MOX project that is expected to convert 34 metric tons of weapons-grade plutonium into commercial nuclear fuel.

Coastal Observer: Pawleys Island: Town due to start beach repair March 1

<http://www.coastalobserver.com/articles/2016/020416/4.html>

Charles Swenson

The town of Pawleys Island will pay \$665 an hour for a contractor to push up sand on the island's narrow south end to rebuild a dune damaged by storms in October. Work is scheduled to start March 1. Town Council awarded a contract this week to Goodson Construction of Darlington.

Note: The council also approved a contract with Beam and Associates to lobby the legislature for a share of \$40 million Gov. Nikki Haley put in her budget for beach nourishment. The town wants \$3 million.

North Myrtle Beach News: City Council makes exception to use of tents on the beach

http://www.nmbtimes.com/nm/publish/news_1071.html

Pat Dowling

During the February 1 North Myrtle Beach City Council meeting, City Council passed second (final) reading of an ordinance that provides an exception to the prohibition against the use of tents on the beach between May 15 and Sept. 15 by allowing "baby tents" to be placed on the beach during that time frame to provide shade only for "persons 18 months of age or under."

Note: City Council passed a resolution in support of Gov. Nikki Haley's \$40 million budget request for beach restoration. The governor's proposed budget includes \$40 million for beach renourishment in recognition of the importance of South Carolina beaches to the state's tourism economy.

Palmetto Business Daily: Trident CEO Council urges governor to focus on infrastructure improvements

<http://palmettobusinessdaily.com/stories/510661616-trident-ceo-council-urges-governor-to-focus-on-infrastructure-improvements>

Tom Leonard, executive director of Charleston, South Carolina-based Trident CEO Council, recently penned a letter to South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley urging her to take action with regard to the state's declining infrastructure. Leonard pointed out that these problems could negatively impact the Palmetto State's ability to perform in the national marketplace.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Associated Press: Bill requires police to get judge's OK to withhold video

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=njcx2sxx

Seanna Adcox

Law enforcement agencies in South Carolina would need a judge's blessing to withhold dashcam video under legislation intended to prevent police from indefinitely blocking the public's ability to scrutinize an officer's action. Senate Judiciary Chairman Larry Martin says his bill could inject confidence in a police decision.

Greenville News: Concerns raised on bill requiring release of dash-cam video

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/02/04/concerns-raised-bill-requiring-release-dash-cam-video/79810548/>

Tim Smith

A Senate subcommittee on Thursday held the first hearing on a bill by Senate Judiciary Chairman Larry Martin of Pickens that would require law enforcement agencies or prosecutors to ask a judge if they want to withhold a dashboard camera video whose release they feel could harm the law enforcement agency.

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: Senate airs frustrations on roads debate delay

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160204/PC1603/160209712>

Gavin Jackson

The widely anticipated Senate roads debate remains slow moving to the ire of many lawmakers a month into the legislative session. Those frustrations will reportedly be discussed on the Senate floor today, per a Senate aide. Much of the debate that's happened this year has been done in private among a group of eight senators.

S.C. Political News:

Post and Courier: Presidential endorsements of note in South Carolina today

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160204/PC1603/160209698>

Schuyler Kropf

Former S.C. Democratic Party Chairman Dick Harpootlian endorsed Bernie Sanders for president. The move is considered significant in that Harpootlian was an early supporter of Barack Obama, has fund-raising skills, and is one of the more politically loose tongues in state politics.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: 200K Undiscovered SC grant to rehabilitate freedman's home

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=dZsirck1

A South Carolina effort to attract tourists to less-visited areas of the state will help preserve a freedman's cottage in Beaufort County. A \$200,000 Undiscovered South Carolina grant from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism will be used to rehabilitate the historic Garvin House in Bluffton which was constructed around 1870.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Times and Democrat: Dear Gov. Haley: Send help now

http://thetandd.com/news/dear-gov-haley-send-help-now/article_eebf2653-8cbd-593b-ae5d-217463a9ee40.html

Todd Rutherford

The damage left by last October's 1,000-year flood has caused an unprecedented \$12 billion in damages to our state and left thousands with destroyed or damaged homes. Local businesses also suffered significant damage. We haven't witnessed anything similar since the devastation caused by Hurricane Hugo in 1989.

Local News:

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

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

Diane Knich

City of Charleston officials and advocates for the homeless say the encampment on upper Meeting Street will be cleared in the next 30 to 60 days. The announcement was made Thursday afternoon at a meeting at One80 Place, a local organization that provides shelter and other services to the homeless. The city released a 10-point plan to remove the encampment and help residents find homes.

National News:

McClatchy DC: Donald Trump vs. Ted Cruz is a fight for conservatism's future

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article58200063.html#storylink=cpy>

David Lightman

The battle between Ted Cruz and Donald Trump isn't just a fight for the Republican presidential nomination. It's also a struggle for the soul of conservatism in America. Trump, the blunt real estate mogul new to political combat, represents a less ideological brand of conservatism, one that is more a quick reaction to events.

Associated Press: General says troop cuts would leave too few to train Afghans

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160204/AIK0106/160209755/general-says-troop-cuts-would-leave-too-few-to-train-afghans>

Richard Lardner

The senior U.S. commander in Afghanistan says if the American troop level is cut to 5,500 as President Barack Obama has proposed, there will be too few left to train the still-fledgling Afghan security forces. Army Gen. John F. Campbell's assessment underscores the risks of Obama's longstanding goal of ending the war before he leaves office in January 2017.

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