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Subject: Morning Clips – Friday, January 22, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

WTOC: Lowcountry schools support Gov. Haley's plan to retain rural teachers

<http://www.wtoc.com/story/31025805/lowcountry-schools-support-gov-haleys-plan-to-retain-rural-teachers>

Traci Washington

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley addressed the high teacher turnover rate in rural schools in our area, and a possible solution to keep educators from leaving poor districts. Are you planning to be a teacher? You can go to college for free – but there's a catch. You have to teach in a rural, challenged school district for eight years.

WBTW: Gov. Haley's school plan gets high marks

<http://wbtw.com/2016/01/21/gov-haleys-school-plan-gets-high-marks/>

Robert Kittle

Gov. Nikki Haley's plan to improve rural schools is getting high marks from a couple of state lawmakers who have focused for years on education. The governor talked about her plan during her State of the State address Wednesday night. Part of the governor's plan is to use incentives to attract good teachers to rural areas and give them an incentive to stay.

WLTX: Senate Reacts to Governor's Call for Ethics Reform

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/2016/01/21/senate-reacts-governors-call-ethics-reform/79140052/>

Joyce Koh

The Governor's call for senators to do something about ethics reform topped the conversation at the State House Thursday. The discussion on the Senate floor also included reaction to Speaker Jay Lucas's statement, in which he said the Senate has ignored ethics and "our bills idly sit in the bottom of an empty Senate desk drawer."

Note: Martin has been a proponent of passing ethics reform in the Senate. He said when the Governor Nikki Haley told lawmakers to stand on ethics issues, it "vindicated" his efforts.

Charleston Business Journal: Haley vows to veto roads plan that doesn't cut income tax, reform S.C. DOT

<http://www.charlestonbusiness.com/news/56767-haley-vows-to-veto-roads-plan-that-doesn-t-cut-income-tax-reform-s-c-dot?rss=0>

Gov. Nikki Haley offered an all-or-nothing proposition to legislators mulling remedies to fix the state's crumbling transportation infrastructure. In her State of the State speech Wednesday night to a joint session of the House and Senate, Haley said any legislation aimed at investing in roads and bridges must include reform of the S.C. Department of Transportation and a cut in the state income tax.

Note: "Pass legislation that cuts our taxes, reforms our flawed transportation system, and invests in our roads, and I will sign it," Haley said. "Pass legislation that does not do all three of those things, and I will veto it. The choice is clear, and it's all yours."

The State: Senators to take up roads proposal Tuesday

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article55920665.html>

Cassie Cope

State senators will start debating a road-repair bill Tuesday, but deep divisions indicate they are nowhere near a deal. State Sen. Ray Cleary, R-Georgetown, made a procedural move Thursday to set up debate on a road-repair proposal starting Tuesday.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley's insistence on a huge tax cut as part of a roads bill makes a deal difficult, Democrats say.

Aiken Standard: Attorney General Alan Wilson talks human trafficking, reform in Aiken

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160121/AIK0101/160129857/attorney-general-alan-wilson-talks-human-trafficking-reform-in-aiken>

Derrek Asberry

Aiken County was included in a four-county investigation that led to the arrest of six people connected to human trafficking – a crime that annually generates \$150 billion worldwide, said S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson. During a Thursday lunch with the Aiken Republican Club, Wilson said his office requested additional help from the General Assembly to better crack down on stopping minors from being subjected to prostitution.

Note: His comments came a day after Gov. Nikki Haley's State of the State address on Wednesday, where in an off-the-script moment, Haley called out the Senate for not moving on ethics reform.

CNN: National Review, conservative thinkers stand against Trump

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/01/21/politics/national-review-magazine-opposes-donald-trump/>

Dylan Byers

National Review, the conservative magazine founded by William F. Buckley, will publish a special issue on Friday opposing Donald Trump's bid for the presidency, the publication revealed Thursday night. The cover was tweeted by the magazine shortly before 10 p.m. ET.

Note: While Republicans like House Speaker Paul Ryan and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley have signaled opposition to some of Trump's policy proposals, there has not been an aggressive effort by the GOP establishment to counter his rise.

WCSC: Emergency meeting scheduled on eliminating homelessness in the Lowcountry

<http://www.live5news.com/story/31030011/emergency-meeting-aims-to-come-up-with-plan-on-eliminating-homelessness-in-the-lowcountry>

Aaron Maybin

An emergency meeting is being held to come up with a plan to eliminate homelessness in the Lowcountry and the state. The meeting is calling for Governor Nikki Haley to consider declaring a state of emergency to deal with the problem. It will be held at North Charleston City Hall at 11 a.m. Friday.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Associated Press: House panel wants to specify fetal tissue can't be sold

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=qHiDTWb2

Seanna Adcox

House subcommittee members said Thursday that state law should specify that it is illegal to sell fetal tissue, and that donating tissue requires a woman's written consent, though they found no evidence either is occurring in South Carolina. The panel initially wanted to ban both tissue sales and donations. But that vote was overturned after Rep. Raye Felder - a breast cancer survivor - said donations for medical research should remain an option.

Post and Courier: Farmer relief bill introduced in S.C. House

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160121/PC1603/160129848>

Gavin Jackson

A bill offering grants to flood-affected farmers was introduced Thursday with the support of more than half of the S.C. House of Representatives. The S.C. Farm Aid bill supplements "inadequate" crop insurance payments to cash-strapped farmers who lost more than \$375 million from the October flood.

Index-Journal: O'Dell honored with Chamber Legacy Award

<http://indexjournal.com/news/O-Dell-honored-with-Chamber-Legacy-Award>

Colin Riddle

The late state Sen. Billy O'Dell will be remembered as a true statesman -- a title cemented with an honor he received posthumously Thursday. O'Dell, who represented portions of Greenwood, Abbeville and Anderson counties for 27 years in the state Senate, received the Legacy Award from the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce during its annual meeting.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Greenville News: Haley makes strong statement on ethics

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2016/01/22/haley-makes-strong-statement->

ethics/79120296/

Editorial

Agree or disagree with her tactics, Gov. Nikki Haley on Wednesday night made a strong statement about the need for South Carolina lawmakers, particularly senators, to finally pass meaningful ethics reform in 2016. In the middle of her State of the State address, Haley asked senators to show their support greater ethical accountability.

Note: Haley justifiably expressed exasperation over the Senate's continuing failure to pass meaningful ethics reform. "Last year I told you I didn't know what else to say about ethics reform," she said. "Yet here we are again."

Aiken Standard: State must adequately fund public education

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160122/AIK0201/160129884>

Editorial

Now in the third week of the new legislative session, South Carolina state senators and House members have overwhelming challenges in front of them – public K-12 education among them. They must at least try to move forward in a positive direction. Still, the legislators and Gov. Nikki Haley must determine that direction and find the resources to meet ongoing needs that date back decades.

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Post and Courier: Something was missing from the governor's State of the State speech

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160122/PC16/160129866>

Brian Hicks

It was, in some ways, quite a touching moment. On Wednesday night, Gov. Nikki Haley recognized the families, victims and survivors of the Emanuel AME Church massacre at the beginning and end of her State of the State speech. She had tears in her eyes as she applauded those people, good souls who have endured a horrible loss.

Times and Democrat: Haley and heat of national spotlight

http://thetandd.com/news/haley-and-heat-of-national-spotlight/article_79a69ce8-bae1-59a3-afd3-da361757cda3.html

Editorial

It's the call that every aspirant in the political hinterland dreams of: "Will you give our party's response to the State of the Union address?" The answer is always "yes" – and then the drama begins. The stakes are incredibly high. Many fail, some miserably (see Gov. Bobby Jindal in 2009) but the opportunity is exposure to more than 30 million people as the alternative voice to the president of the United States.

Post and Courier: Pump up the gas tax for S.C. road needs

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160122/PC1002/160129830>

Editorial

State roads and bridges continue to deteriorate, yet the debate continues on how to fund overdue work and what reforms should be undertaken in the process. Sooner or later, legislators have to advance a repair and maintenance program — at the least. Otherwise, they will get what they deserve from the voters, most of whom drive motor vehicles and know just how badly improvements are needed.

Note: In her State of the State address Wednesday night, Gov. Nikki Haley called for reforms that will restrain the political horse-trading on projects.

South Carolina News:

The State: SC prepares for winter storm

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article55794755.html>

The South Carolina Upstate braced Thursday for the first winter storm of the year, with a dangerous mixture of ice and snow forecast for the I-85 corridor. Winter storm warnings were issued for 15 counties across northern South Carolina, effective until as late as 7 p.m. Saturday, according to the National Weather Service.

Associated Press: What We Know: Key takeaways on 'potentially crippling' storm

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=C7EoSJp1

- What is it? "A potentially crippling winter storm," according to the National Weather Service, which

forecasts heavy snow and high winds across the northern mid-Atlantic region, including Baltimore, Washington, Philadelphia and New York City.

Associated Press: The Latest: South Carolina emergency crews prep for storm

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

Emergency officials in South Carolina are telling state agencies to get ready in case they need to respond to a winter storm that could affect parts of the state. Emergency Management Division spokesman Derrec Becker said late Thursday the state's emergency center hasn't activated yet, but agencies are preparing.

Rock Hill Herald: Freezing rain, slush hits York County as region prepares for ice, snow; Charlotte commute treacherous

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article55838220.html#storylink=cpy>

Jennifer Becknell

A winter storm with an extended period of freezing rain, sleet and snow is expected to hit York County and the Carolinas early Friday, with treacherous travel possible through the weekend, forecasters say. Charlotte has already seen significant snowfall, and the commute is already treacherous as several crashes have been reported. Drivers are encouraged to stay off the roads if possible.

The State: Millions in federal dollars expected for SC's mental health recovery after flooding

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article55898715.html#storylink=cpy>

Avery G. Wilks

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is set provide the state about \$5 million to hire on-the-ground counselors who will start support groups, refer residents to mental health or substance abuse centers and pass out materials that explain mental health symptoms and where help is available after a disaster, according to William Wells, disaster response coordinator at the S.C. Department of Mental Health.

Post and Courier: Georgia police officer indicted on two murder counts in shooting of Moncks Corner native

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160121/PC16/160129890>

Andrew Knapp

A suburban Atlanta police officer was indicted by a grand jury Thursday on two counts of felony murder among other charges in the fatal shooting of Anthony Hill, the naked and unarmed Moncks Corner native who was running at him last year.

The State: Pharmaceutical company owes SC \$124 million for losing drug case, US Supreme Court says

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article55962445.html#storylink=cpy>

Clif LeBlanc

South Carolina's treasury soon will have at least \$124 million more, thanks to the state's victory in a lawsuit against a pharmaceutical company. The U.S. Supreme Court on Jan. 11 let stand a July ruling by the state's highest court that Janssen Pharmaceuticals must pay \$124.3 million of \$327 million awarded by a Spartanburg jury in a case involving the antipsychotic drug Risperdal.

Local News:

Post and Courier: InterTech Group, SCE&G partnership helps North Charleston lead state in solar energy

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160121/PC05/160129859>

David Wren

The first utility-scale, solar-power project to be built under 2014 legislation was dedicated Thursday in North Charleston, now home to nearly a third of all solar initiatives in South Carolina. TIG Sun Energy, a division of The InterTech Group Inc., and South Carolina Electric & Gas have partnered on the Jerry Zucker Solar Park, named after the late InterTech founder.

Note: Lawmakers unanimously ratified the legislation and Gov. Nikki Haley signed it four months later.

Greenville News: Effort to bury power lines has proven costly, slow

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/greenville/downtown/2016/01/21/effort-bury-power-lines-has-proven-costly-slow/79117476/>

Eric Connor

It's been slightly more than a decade now since the December 2005 ice storm crippled the Upstate and accelerated calls for electric power lines to be buried underground. The vision, at first, was to see to it that

another wholesale blackout in the region would become less likely with each passing major winter storm.

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