

**From:** Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>  
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## Clips – Friday, January 1, 2015

### Governor Nikki Haley News:

**WIS:** As Gov. Nikki Haley's star rises, she could have an interesting 2016

<http://www.wistv.com/story/30863304/as-gov-nikki-haleys-star-rises-she-could-have-an-interesting-2016>

Will Whitson

It has been a roller coaster year for both the state of South Carolina, and Gov. Nikki Haley finds herself back in the national spotlight as 2015 ends. Two separate national news outlets have Haley at the top of their lists for news coverage this year.

**Note:** Haley has said over and over again, though, that she's committed to the state of South Carolina and hasn't put much thought into the idea of the Vice Presidency or another national title.

**KOCO:** Gov. Fallin bets barbecue with South Carolina governor on Orange Bowl outcome

<http://www.koco.com/news/gov-fallin-bets-barbecue-with-south-carolina-governor-on-orange-bowl-outcome/37214724>

Gov. Mary Fallin has agreed to a friendly wager with South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley on the outcome of the Orange Bowl playoff game between Oklahoma and Clemson. The loser will have to send their state's best barbecue to the winner. Fallin said she intends to host a meal with 25 foster children at the Governor's Mansion if OU prevails.

**FOX 25:** Gov. Fallin, Gov. Haley make a friendly Orange Bowl bet

<http://okcfox.com/news/local/gov-fallin-gov-haley-make-a-friendly-orange-bowl-bet>

Austin Prickett

Hours before the Orange Bowl Governor Mary Fallin announced that she has a friendly wager with South Carolina's governor pending the outcome of Thursday's game. The Sooners take on Clemson Thursday at 3 p.m. in the Orange Bowl with the winner heading to the National Championship.

**Note:** Gov. Fallin announced she agreed to a friendly wager with South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley. The governor whose team loses the Orange Bowl must send a BBQ dinner to the other state.

**Aiken Standard:** Payday arrives for missed MOX milestones at the Savannah River Site

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20151231/AIK0101/151239886/payday-arrives-for-missed-mox-milestones-at-the-savannah-river-site>

Derrek Asberry

South Carolina should begin collecting today \$1 million a day from the Department of Energy for the agency's failure to either remove one metric ton of weapons-grade plutonium from the state or process one ton through the Savannah River Site's Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility.

**Note:** However, collecting the money, which would max out at \$100 million a year, may prove to be a challenge since the department has yet to acknowledge Gov. Nikki Haley's attempt to levy the funds or her threat to sue if DOE refuses to pay.

**Note:** Still, Chaney Adams, Gov. Haley's press secretary, said removing any plutonium from SRS is a good thing for South Carolina, but only if the federal government follows through on the plan.

**Note:** "The DOE does not have a great track record of keeping its promises to the people of South Carolina, which is why we will continue to push them in every way we can to make sure our state is not a dumping ground for others' nuclear waste," Adams said.

**Politico:** Insiders give their top predictions for 2016

*Get ready for a Ted Cruz-Nikki Haley ticket. And a GOP establishment freak-out in January.*

<http://www.politico.com/story/2016/01/insiders-predictions-2016-217264#ixzz3w1g8Zo9o>

Steven Shepard

Donald Trump will win the GOP presidential nomination and pick Mike Huckabee as his running mate. The

FBI will file criminal charges related to Hillary Clinton's use of a home-brew email server as secretary of state. A Ted Cruz-Nikki Haley GOP ticket will defeat a Hillary Clinton-Tim Kaine Democratic ticket to claim the White House. These are just a handful of 2016 predictions from members of The POLITICO Caucus — a collection of the top activists, strategists and operatives in the first four states that will cast ballots next year.

**Post and Courier:** Price tag again seen as obstacle to making military retiree benefits tax-exempt  
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160101/PC1603/151229891>

Gavin Jackson

Current and future military retirees could see a state tax break as soon as next year unless its \$36.7 million price tag scuttles it again. The proposed bill, named the South Carolina Giving Back to Our Veterans Act, would phase in over three years an income tax exemption on the retirement benefits of an estimated 58,000 current military retirees.

**Note:** At a meeting with 11 military base commanders located in the state, Gov. Nikki Haley said she would sign the bill, which the House approved unanimously in April, if it reaches her desk.

**Note:** "We had \$1 billion in new money last year and have \$1.2 billion in new money this year," Haley said at the S.C. Military Base Task Force meeting on Dec. 9. "I have told the Legislature over and over again: Send me that bill so I can sign."

**Associated Press:** Most doctors will be required to use prescription database  
[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ASjsr779](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ASjsr779)

Seanna Adcox

Most doctors in South Carolina will soon be required to consult a statewide database of patients' medical history as a way to combat the state's rampant prescription painkiller problem. The changes will direct any doctor who wants to bill either Medicaid or the state health plan to use the database that's been voluntary since 2008, said Christian Soura, director of the state's Department of Health and Human Services.

**Note:** In response to his report, Gov. Nikki Haley created the Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Council, which similarly concluded one year ago that mandating the database's use is key to combatting abuse of OxyContin, Percocet and other opioids.

**Easley Progress:** Governor to attend Collins fundraiser on Jan. 5  
<http://theeasleyprogress.com/news/2737/governor-to-attend-collins-fundraiser-on-jan-5>

D.C. Moody

Gov. Nikki Haley is expected to attend a fundraiser for Freshman Rep. Neal Collins on Jan. 5 in Pickens County. Collins will host the event at the Pickens County Career and Technology Center, 990 Chastain Road in Liberty, from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. Haley is expected to speak to Pickens County residents along with the candidate.

## **S.C. Political News:**

**Bloomberg:** Republicans scramble to pick up Graham supporters in South Carolina  
<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article52629115.html>

Michael C. Bender

Aside from the One Eared Cow Glass gallery and a shuttered Grice's fruit basket shop, there is little in a half-mile stretch of Columbia that separates the state headquarters of Republican presidential rivals Marco Rubio and Jeb Bush.

## **S.C. General Assembly News:**

**WSAV:** SC Legislature to Tackle Issues From Flooding to Cell Phones in 2016  
<http://wsav.com/2016/01/01/sc-legislature-to-tackle-issues-from-flooding-to-cell-phones-in-2016/>

Brittany Shane

Devastating floods and videotaped officers are among the 2015 headlines that South Carolina legislators are responding to in bills proposed for debate this year. Legislators are offering various ways to help residents still reeling from the Oct. 2-5 storm that brought catastrophic flooding. Proposals include distributing state surplus to victims, requiring property tax relief for damaged homes and loaning money to help repair dams.

**Post and Courier:** Gun reform bills pit state lawmakers against each other

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160101/PC1603/160109921>

Cynthia Roldan

A battle for gun control and gun rights in South Carolina is brewing among legislators, with both sides of the aisle promising to fight for their cause. More than a dozen bills filed by Democratic lawmakers in both the House and the Senate would make the gun-buying process more stringent while others would bar military-style weapons from the hands of Palmetto State would-be rifle owners.

**Associated Press:** Legislators up for debate this year address 2015 headlines

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=FpigFIOe](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=FpigFIOe)

Seanna Adcox

Devastating floods and videotaped officers are among the 2015 headlines that South Carolina legislators are responding to in bills proposed for debate this year. The massacre at a historic black church in Charleston last June also resulted in a wide array of measures pre-filed in December for the upcoming session.

### **Opinion / Editorial Roundup:**

**Times and Democrat:** S.C. voters must know the rules for primaries

[http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/s-c-voters-must-know-the-rules-for-primaries/article\\_771d00a0-60c5-5c59-b96f-f65b38839df1.html](http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/s-c-voters-must-know-the-rules-for-primaries/article_771d00a0-60c5-5c59-b96f-f65b38839df1.html)

Editorial

New Hampshire sent out its first absentee ballots on Dec. 26, allowing votes to be cast. And states such as South Carolina are accepting applications for absentee ballots. Soon the political numbers game will shift from polling to votes and delegates. With only the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primaries ahead of South Carolina's first-in-the-South primaries in February, the state is going to be political center of action for much of the next two months.

### **South Carolina News:**

**Greenville News:** Clemson answers Tucker Hipps allegations

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2015/12/31/clemson-answers-tucker-hipps-allegations/78125404/>

Ron Barnett

Clemson University denies that it "owed a duty of care" to Tucker Hipps and argues that he may have contributed to his own death during a fraternity run in September 2014. In court documents filed this week, the university answered allegations made in a lawsuit brought by the parents of the political science major from Piedmont, including that he was forced to walk along a narrow railing of the State 93 bridge over Lake Hartwell.

**Associated Press:** Clemson University responds to lawsuit over student's death

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=TsOniUrY](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=TsOniUrY)

Clemson University is denying allegations made in lawsuits about the death of a student who died during a fraternity run in September 2014. The Greenville News reports (<http://gmnol.co/1YSbc2v>) the school filed the documents in the past week, answering allegations made by the parents of Tucker Hipps in an earlier lawsuit, including that he was forced to walk along a narrow railing of a bridge over Lake Hartwell.

**Greenville News:** Flu claims eight lives so far in SC

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/01/01/flu-claims-eight-lives-so-far-sc/78142780/>

Liv Osby

The flu claimed the lives of at least eight South Carolinians as 2015 came to a close. The state Department of Health and Environmental Control reports that seven of the deaths occurred among those 65 and older, the group most at risk. The eighth person was in the 50-64 group. Of those who died, fewer than five were among Upstate residents, DHEC reports.

**Greenville News:** SLED turns Pickens GOP investigation over to attorney general

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2015/12/31/sled-turns-pickens-gop-investigation-over-attorney-general/78137534/>

Ron Barnett

The State Law Enforcement Division has turned over a report of its investigation into activities of Pickens

County Republican Party Chairman Phillip Bowers to the state Attorney General's Office, according to a spokesman for the AG. Attorney General Alan Wilson's Office had asked SLED to look into undisclosed allegations in August.

**The State:** Speed a factor in many fatal crashes involving SC police

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article52560675.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

A Columbia officer died Nov. 7 after running a red light at 64 mph in a 30-mph zone and being hit by another officer while both were responding to a call. The other officer was injured, but no civilians were hurt – although they are more often the casualties in high-speed police crashes in South Carolina.

**Post and Courier:** Amazon must begin collecting sales taxes in S.C. on Friday

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151231/PC05/151239891>

Warren L. Wise

South Carolina shoppers are supposed to pay state sales taxes for their online purchases under the honor system. Many don't. They won't have a choice starting Friday for purchases they make through Amazon, the world's largest online retailer. A tax break passed by state lawmakers in 2011 expires on Jan. 1, putting South Carolina in line with other states where officials cut similar deals to induce the company to make investments and create jobs.

**The State:** SC attorney spreads gospel of the rule of law

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article52461435.html>

John Monk

Five months after he stepped down from a year-long stint as president of the American Bar Association, Columbia attorney William Hubbard is back at work in his law firm's downtown building. Being president of the 400,000-member American Bar Association – the first South Carolina lawyer in that role – proved a whirlwind experience for Hubbard.

**The State:** SCE&G opens Lake Murray floodgate again Friday

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article52625935.html>

SCE&G was to reopen one spill gate at the Saluda Hydro facility today because recent rainy weather continues to dump a high volume of water into Lake Murray, the utility announced in a news release.

## Local News:

**Associated Press:** Medal of Honor recipient charged in misdemeanor hit-and-run

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=0d2Kvq3Z](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=0d2Kvq3Z)

Martha Waggoner

A Medal of Honor recipient who lost an eye while taking a grenade blast to save a fellow Marine now faces a hit-and-run charge in South Carolina, police say. Retired Cpl. Kyle Carpenter, 26, turned himself in and appeared in court Thursday with an attorney on misdemeanor charges of hit-and-run and making an improper left turn, police said in a news release.

## National News:

**Associated Press:** Obama says he'll meet with attorney general on gun options

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160101/PC1601/160109890>

Kevin Freking

President Barack Obama will meet Monday with Attorney General Loretta Lynch to discuss executive actions he could take to make it harder for "a dangerous few" to get their hands on guns. Obama said on his weekly radio address that he gets so many letters from parents, teachers and children about the "epidemic of gun violence" that he can't "sit around and do nothing."

**Associated Press:** Clinton campaign says it raises \$37M in 4th quarter

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=f8c9wza7](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=f8c9wza7)

Hillary Clinton's campaign for president said Friday it raised \$37 million in the past three months and more than \$112 million in all of 2015 to support her bid for the Democratic nomination. Clinton's team also said she raised \$18 million for the Democratic National Committee and state Democratic parties nationwide in the fourth quarter.

Brian Symmes

Cell: 803-673-9437

Office: 803-734-0304