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To:
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Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, December 30, 2015

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

WLTX: Group Hopes to Bring People of Different Faiths Together

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/local/2015/12/29/group-hopes-bring-people-different-faiths-together/78043276/>

Janae Frazier

Members of the Interfaith Partners of South Carolina on Tuesday announced the launch of South Carolina Interfaith Harmony Month. The group's chairman, Dr. Will Moreau Goins, explains the group--which has members of several different religions--is using the month of January to host programs, events and festivals that explore different faiths and cultures.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley had already declared January to be Interfaith Harmony Month. To see a list of events that have been planned, go to the Interfaith Partners of South Carolina website.

WSPA: "We welcome Syrian refugees" says Interfaith Partners of SC

<http://wspa.com/2015/12/29/we-welcome-syrian-refugees-says-interfaith-partners-of-sc/>

Dawn Logg

Gov. Nikki Haley proclaims January as "SC Interfaith Harmony" month to promote "diversity in belief" and "unity in compassion". Interfaith Partners of SC launched the harmony month at the state house Tuesday morning, that's filled with special events, meetings, and educational opportunities.

S.C. Political News:

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: Donald Trump, Jeb Bush campaign in South Carolina today

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151230/PC1603/151239970>

Maya T. Prabhu

Both candidates are in the state the day after some big headlines in the Republican primary race. U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy, representing Spartanburg, announced his endorsement of U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio and former New York Gov. George Pataki announced he was leaving the race.

Associated Press: GOP presidential candidate Jeb Bush plans SC meet-and-greet

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=gR2MVLcx

Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush is planning a campaign stop in South Carolina. The Florida governor is holding a meet-and-greet Wednesday evening at Hudson's Smokehouse BBQ in Lexington.

Island Packet: Donald Trump visits Hilton Head today

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/politics-government/election/article52116610.html#storylink=cpy>

Zach Murdock

The leading Republican presidential candidate will hold a campaign rally at 11 a.m. today at the Westin Hilton Head Island Resort & Spa. We will provide live coverage right here beginning at 9 a.m. Those with reserved tickets will be shuttled to the hotel from the old community park at Shelter Cove Towne Centre.

WCBD: Donald Trump to hold campaign rally on Hilton Head Island

<http://counton2.com/2015/12/30/donald-trump-to-hold-campaign-rally-on-hilton-head-island/>

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is scheduled to hold a post-Christmas campaign rally on Hilton Head Island. The rally on Wednesday is billed as a holiday meet-and-greet. It will be held at the Westin Hilton Head Island Resort and Spa. The event is the last one of the year planned for Trump in South Carolina.

McClatchy DC: Trump plans to 'spend big' on advertising in primary states

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/election/Candidate-match/article52212880.html>

Lesley Clark

Donald Trump – who has remained atop the Republican presidential primary polls despite little advertising – plans to ramp it up in the early primary states as voting nears. Trump tweeted Tuesday morning that his presidential campaign is “\$35,000,000 under budget,” boasting that he’s in “first place,” even though he’s “spent very little.”

S.C. General Assembly News:

Greenville News: Pickens County delegation urges DHEC to deny coal ash disposal at Liberty site

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2015/12/29/pickens-county-delegation-urges-dhec-deny-coal-ash-disposal-liberty-site/78037840/>

The Pickens County Legislative Delegation sent a letter to the state Department of Environmental Control on Tuesday to express its opposition to a company’s plans to dispose of coal ash at a site near Liberty, state Sen. Larry Martin said.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Job One: Put America to work

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151230/PC1002/151239974>

Editorial

The U.S. unemployment rate remained at 5 percent in November, its lowest level since 2008. And when the Labor Department releases its final 2015 statistics, they will include the fewest Americans seeking new unemployment benefits since 1973.

Post and Courier: More than warm weather

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151230/PC1002/151239975>

Editorial

Well over 2,000 record high temperatures were tied or broken during the first half of this month across the country, according to the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration and Weather Underground. The United Kingdom has also broken high temperature records, as have Australia and New Zealand.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: New power deal finalized for Century Aluminum, but future concerns remain

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151229/PC05/151229422>

David Wren

A three-year power contract that will keep Century Aluminum’s Mount Holly smelter partially operating also exposes a difficulty the company might face with its plan to buy all of its electricity on the open market. The agreement with Santee Cooper, approved unanimously Tuesday by the utility’s board of directors, gives Century enough power to operate Mount Holly at half-capacity.

Post and Courier: S.C. overtakes Alabama to become the nation’s 23rd most populous state

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151229/PC16/151229412>

David Slade

South Carolina’s population is now greater than Alabama’s, making the Palmetto State the nation’s 23rd largest, thanks to all the new residents pouring in. Growth has both pros and cons, but if it’s a popularity contest between states, South Carolina is among the winners.

Post and Courier: Consumers’ Choice patients caught up in hospital, insurance company negotiations

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151229/PC16/151229405>

Lauren Sausser

As last-minute negotiations between Medical University Hospital and South Carolina’s largest private health insurance company have seemingly stalled, Nikki Colwell doesn’t know where she’ll turn for treatment for her cystic fibrosis come Friday.

National News:

New York Times: Goodbye, 2015, the Year Before the Campaign Storm

<http://www.nytimes.com/politics/first-draft/2015/12/30/>

Maggie Haberman

This year, there were 17 Republican presidential candidates, six Democrats, and a race that was upended by the presence of one flamboyant New York billionaire, Donald J. Trump. As 2015 draws to a close, there are 12 Republican candidates and just three Democrats. And Mr. Trump remains, as the race heads into a new, uglier phase of engagement among the candidates, particularly among the Republicans.

Politico: Clinton fights to reclaim New Hampshire

The state that breathed life into Hillary Clinton's 2008 campaign is proving to be a tough climb this time.

<http://www.politico.com/story/2015/12/hillary-clinton-new-hampshire-217213#ixzz3voGc99gf>

Annie Karni

This time around, the first-in-the-nation primary state is shaping up to be the tougher early-voting-state battleground — Clinton allies are willing to acknowledge she could lose it to Bernie Sanders, the senator from neighboring Vermont who is currently leading in the polls.

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