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To:
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Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, January 27, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Gov. Haley asks SC prosecutor to sue feds over MOX project

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

Meg Kinnard

Gov. Nikki Haley on Tuesday moved forward with her threat to sue the U.S. Department of Energy for the agency's failure to meet a Jan. 1 nuclear fuel deadline, asking South Carolina's top prosecutor to pursue litigation and collection of \$1 million daily fine.

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Aiken Standard: Haley seeks lawsuit over unpaid fines from missed MOX deadline at Savannah River Site
<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160126/AIK0101/160129550/haley-seeks-lawsuit-over-unpaid-fines-from-missed-mox-deadline-at-savannah-river-site>

Derrek Asberry

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley is looking to sue the U.S. Department of Energy because the agency has failed to acknowledge her attempt to levy \$1 million a day for a missed deadline at the Savannah River Site's MOX facility. Haley sent a Jan. 26 letter to S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson asking him to "initiate litigation on behalf of the state of South Carolina against DOE."

Note: "As you and I have discussed," Haley wrote to Wilson, "South Carolina will not idly stand by while DOE continues – in violation of federal law – to ignore its commitment to the people of South Carolina."

WOLO: Gov. Nikki Haley's Response to Nuclear Fuel Deadline Failure

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/2016/01/27/gov-nikki-haleys-response-to-nuclear-fuel-deadline-failure/>

Ashley Spivey

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The State: Senate finance panel weighs \$400 million in tax cuts as part of roads deal

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article56742753.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

After taking "baby steps" Tuesday, senators will try Wednesday to work out a deal on a road-repair bill.

Senators on a transportation panel agreed Tuesday to give the governor control of the commission that oversees the state Department of Transportation. The Senate's full Transportation Committee will take up that proposal Wednesday.

Note: The Senate plan meets some of the demands of a three-part roads deal set by the S.C. House and Gov. Nikki Haley. For example, it would give the governor control of the Transportation Department, now controlled by legislators.

Greenville News: Senators unveil tax relief plan for roads bill

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/01/26/senators-unveil-tax-relief-plan-roads->

bill/79346644/

Tim Smith

Sen. Ray Cleary, a Murrell's Inlet Republican and Sen. Joel Lourie, a Columbia Democrat, unveiled a proposal Tuesday before the Senate Finance Committee that would provide about \$400 million in annual tax relief through a combination of income tax cuts, expanded tax brackets, tax relief for businesses and even a state earned income tax credit that would help poor working South Carolinians compensate for an increase in the gas tax.

Note: But it would be more than the \$400 million per year proposed by Gov. Nikki Haley.

Note: It was Haley who a year ago tied the issues together, saying she would accept a 10-cent-per-gallon increase in the gas tax if lawmakers passed an income tax cut and also changed the way highway commissioners are chosen.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Associated Press: Tax credit for poor could trip up South Carolina road debate

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=36RzAy8N

Jeffrey Collins

The Senate Finance Committee sought consensus Tuesday on how to get more money for South Carolina roads and cut taxes. But the meeting showed where arguments may arise when the proposals hit the Senate floor. The latest compromise, worked on by four Democrats and four Republicans behind closed doors, would raise the gas tax by 12 cents over three years and a number of other fees to raise an additional \$665 million for roads when fully implemented in three years.

Post and Courier: New details on roads funding bill emerge

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160126/PC1603/160129477>

Gavin Jackson

State senators unveiled tax relief plans Tuesday to offset a gas tax increase and put more than \$650 million toward crumbling state roads. Some \$440 million would come from a 12-cent gas tax increase, once fully phased in over three years, while a Senate working group proposed nearly \$400 million in tax relief from several individual and business tax relief measures.

Post and Courier: Senate subcommittee approves bill that would track refugees, hold resettlement groups accountable

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160126/PC1603/160129478>

Maya T. Prabhu

Several South Carolina residents spoke on Tuesday during a Senate subcommittee meeting asking for any measure that would stop allowing refugees into the state. More than 20 people addressed the subcommittee, with a majority supporting legislation restricting refugees' access to the state.

Times and Democrat: 'YOU'VE GOT TO GET MOVING'

'You've got to get moving': With finances more stable, university urgently needs permanent leadership, lawmaker says

http://thetandd.com/news/you-ve-got-to-get-moving-with-finances-more-stable/article_a56034f1-dbe1-5221-abec-b8f321dcebf5.html

Dale Linder-Altman

South Carolina State University's fiscal situation has apparently become more stable than last year this time, and putting permanent leadership in place may now be the institution's most critical issue, Orangeburg Democratic Rep. Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter said Tuesday.

Post and Courier: Orangeburg representative stresses need for permanent leadership at S.C. State

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160126/PC1603/160129484>

Cynthia Roldan

An Orangeburg state legislator said Tuesday it's time for South Carolina State University's board of trustees to start searching for a new president to lead the financially embattled school. Democratic Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter addressed the school's trustees during a meeting of the House Ways and Means' Higher Education and Technical Colleges Subcommittee.

Seneca Journal: Legislators address municipal leaders at monthly meeting

<https://upstatetoday.com/2016/01/legislators-address-municipal-leaders-at-monthly-meeting/>

Greg oliver

Pickens County legislators told members of the Pickens County Municipal Association at their monthly meeting Monday they are working hard to address infrastructure issues in the state. "Roads are the number one concern of the citizens of South Carolina and the legislature," said state Sen. Larry Martin of Pickens.

Associated Press: Senators advance bill protecting people who film police

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

Seanna Adcox

A bill protecting people's right to film or photograph police officers in South Carolina without threat of arrest advanced Tuesday to the Senate floor, where it's already being held up. The measure overwhelmingly approved by the Judiciary Committee follows the death last April of an unarmed black motorist in North Charleston.

Associated Press: US House members to talk about refugees SC Senate committee

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4RHUs5av

Two U.S. House members from South Carolina are coming to the Statehouse to talk to a Senate committee considering a pair of proposals that would strictly limit refugees. Reps. Jeff Duncan and Mick Mulvaney are scheduled to speak to the Senate's General Committee on Wednesday morning.

S.C. Political News:

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Candidates for Senate District 5 exchange charges

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160125/ARTICLES/160129772/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Candidates-for-Senate-District-5-exchange-charges>

Chris Lavender

Sen. Tom Corbin, R-Travelers Rest, said he doesn't believe his challenger, Spartanburg attorney John B. White Jr., knows how things get done in the state Senate. White said Corbin is not effective in the Senate. The two traded barbs during a contentious debate held at Gramling United Methodist Church hosted by the North Area Precinct.

Greenville News: Rex Rice running again against Sen. Larry Martin

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/01/26/rex-rice-running-again-against-sen-larry-martin/79356018/>

Tim Smith

Former House member Rex Rice of Easley is running against Sen. Larry Martin of Pickens for the Republican nomination in Senate District 2, repeating their political duel of four years ago. Rice, who served in the House from 1995 to 2010, was among dozens of candidates statewide knocked off primary ballots in 2012 after a Supreme Court ruling about ethics paperwork.

Post and Courier: Lowcountry Democratic state legislator announces he supports Bernie Sanders

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160127/PC1603/160129470>

Cynthia Roldan

Another state legislator has announced his support for Democratic Presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders. Charleston's Rep. Wendell Gilliard announced Tuesday he was supporting the Vermont Senator, because he is fighting to address the issues that matter the most to African-Americans.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

The State: A few corrections on SC Gov Nikki Haley's State of the State address

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article56712473.html#storylink=cpy>

Cindi Ross Scope

Did I mishear that? Did I misunderstand the change the Legislature made to the state's basic education funding formula a couple of years ago? Did the Supreme Court misunderstand it, when it continued to insist that the state was unconstitutionally failing to adequately educate children ... based on where they are born and raised?

Post and Courier: Don't raise gas tax, reform road funding

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160127/PC1002/160129497>

Kate Schaefer

As anticipated, the road debate resumed its position at center stage in the Statehouse just days after legislators returned. As The Post and Courier noted in an editorial last week, “Sooner or later, legislators have to advance a repair and maintenance program — at the least.”

Greenville News: Discuss funding for addiction services

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2016/01/26/discuss-funding-addiction-services/79337516/>

Editorial

South Carolina needs to take a comprehensive look at providing more resources to help state residents recover from substance abuse. In stories this past Sunday and last month, Greenville News writer Anna Lee quoted a Columbia University report that revealed substance abuse costs South Carolina \$934 million every year in lost productivity and healthcare and public safety expenses.

Post and Courier: The road to political doom isn't paved with asphalt

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160127/PC16/160129522>

Brian Hicks

Let's say you have this semi-demanding part-time job. It doesn't pay much, not enough to get by, but you worked six months to get it, so there must be something attractive about the position. Now, say you showed up at that job every day and refused to do one of your primary duties. You probably wouldn't have that job very long.

Post and Courier: The Citadel steps up with an honorable response

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160127/PC1002/160129494>

Editorial

The Citadel's stated commitment to “honor, duty and respect” has played out in the way it handled a troubling incident last month, when photos surfaced showing freshmen dressed in pointed white hoods. Clearly, dressing in white hoods suggestive of the Ku Klux Klan — even while just singing Christmas songs — shows disrespect.

Post and Courier: Hillary's email burden grows

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160127/PC1002/160129493>

Editorial

Hillary Clinton faces a rising risk of being prosecuted for putting classified material on her private email server emails while secretary of state. And even if she eludes legal consequences, this stubborn scandal continues to cast a shadow on her already sluggish presidential campaign.

South Carolina News:

The State: SC State wants \$12 million loan forgiven

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article56697423.html>

Andrew Shain

S.C. State University, still struggling with its debt, needs the state to forgive a \$12 million loan, a move that could help the college remain open, school officials told a S.C. House budget panel Tuesday. New trustees, who started work in May, have begun turning around the state's only public black college. But administrators are up against a June deadline.

Post and Courier: House Ethics Committee, Bobby Harrell still discussing repayment of campaign funds

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160126/PC1603/160129511>

Maya T. Prabhu

The House Ethics Committee still has not set a hearing date with former House Speaker Bobby Harrell to determine the next steps for repayment of campaign funds. Committee Chairman Kenny Bingham, R-Cayce, said the two parties have discussed possible next steps in the months since they last met, in November, when they granted Harrell an extension of “at least 30 days” to gather information and witnesses.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Law enforcement faces new limits on Taser use

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160126/ARTICLES/160129746/1112?Title=Law-enforcement-faces-new-limits-on-Taser-use>

Daniel J. Gross

A recent federal appeals court ruling putting limits on Taser use is raising concerns among some local law

enforcement agencies. The opinion by the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals states that officers should only use Tasers when a person poses an "immediate safety risk." The decision stems from a case in which a mentally ill man in North Carolina died after being shot with a Taser five times.

Post and Courier: Slower cargo growth seen for next half-year at Port of Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160126/PC05/160129504>

David Wren

The State Ports Authority is scaling back expectations for the coming months following last year's near-record numbers for containerized cargo. "If you look at the December numbers for most ports, they are very modest — some negative and some slightly positive," said Jim Newsome, the SPA's president and CEO. "We expect flat to very modest growth over the next six months."

Seneca Journal: Ex-Oconee congressman pulled into libel case

<https://upstatetoday.com/2016/01/ex-oconee-congressman-pulled-into-libel-case/>

Carlos Galarza-Ve

Former congressman Gresham Barrett was recently pulled into a libel case in which a Myrtle Beach-area news company came out on the short end of a South Carolina Courts of Appeal ruling. The appeals court upheld a jury award for damages brought by a lobbyist against The Sun Publishing Co. and a former reporter, David Wren.

The State: Feds protecting South Carolina waters for endangered whales

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article56750008.html>

Sammy Fretwell

A stretch of the southern Atlantic coast needed by endangered right whales to survive will receive more federal oversight under a decision that's expected to put greater government scrutiny on efforts to locate and drill for oil and gas off the South Carolina seashore.

WSPA: S.C. Jobs Grow By 10,000 In December

<http://wspa.com/2016/01/26/s-c-jobs-grow-by-10000-in-december/>

Fred Cunningham

South Carolina's unemployment rate was unchanged in December, but the number of people working grew by more than 10,000 last month. The jobless rate in South Carolina remained at 5.5 percent in December according to the Department of Employment and Workforce. That's the same figure reported by the agency for November.

Associated Press: Lt Gov McMaster to speak at education rally

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5toopPPn

South Carolina's second-in-command is making an appearance at a rally supporting the notion that parents should have more choices when it comes to educating their children. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster's office says he is scheduled to speak on Wednesday at the My SC Education Rally. The event is scheduled for the Township Auditorium in downtown Columbia, and doors open at 11 a.m.

Local News:

Florence Morning News: Spearman says Florence School District 4 has four days to improve

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_95d2b142-c4a2-11e5-adbc-0fb07e30ea19.html?_dc=484352118801.32556

Shamira McCray

South Carolina State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman said Tuesday evening that Florence School District Four has made progress in clearing up accreditation deficiencies. There are still a couple of areas that have not been completed, and the district will have until Monday to do so.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Education superintendent supports making Meeting Street a public school

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160126/ARTICLES/160129745/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Education-superintendent-supports-making-Meeting-Street-a-public-school>

Zach Fox

S.C. Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman said in Spartanburg on Tuesday that she supports a public-private partnership that would turn Meeting Street Academy-Spartanburg into a public, District 7 school. Spearman was here to meet with education officials, to tour the Cleveland Academy of Leadership

and Meeting Street Academy, and to speak to the Rotary Club of Spartanburg.

Greenville News: Greenville County Schools may shift weather policy

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/education/2016/01/26/greenville-county-schools-may-shift-weather-policy/79364734/>

Nathaniel Cary

After the most recent winter storm paralyzed parts of northern Greenville County beneath a sheet of snow and ice that crews were still working to clear five days later, Greenville County Schools may shift how it approaches weather events that affect specific regions of the state's most expansive school district.

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