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Subject: Morning Clips – Monday, January 4, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Aiken Standard: Aiken lawmakers talk state infrastructure dilemma

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160104/AIK0101/160109868/aiken-lawmakers-talk-state-infrastructure-dilemma>

Derrek Asberry, Maayan Schechter

While the South Carolina Legislature appropriated funding for state roads this past session, lawmakers were unable to compromise on a long-term funding plan. Members of the Aiken County Legislative Delegation agree the condition of the state's roads and bridges remain one of the biggest and most frustrating issues facing the state's General Assembly this upcoming session.

Note: Legislators lamented that debates over gas tax, flat tax and income tax rates prevented a long-standing roads package from reaching Gov. Nikki Haley's desk. In addition, Haley previously said she would veto any gas tax increase unless it was offset by a reduction in the state's income tax.

Chicago Sun Times: For sale: Illinois isn't only state looking to unload a 'money pit' buildings

<http://national.suntimes.com/national-world-news/7/72/2378997/sale-illinois-isnt-state-looking-unload-money-pit-building>

Marsha Mercer

As commercial real estate prices rebound, some states see an opportunity to sell properties not even a governor can love.

Note: "We've got a lot of money pits in South Carolina," Republican Gov. Nikki Haley said of some state-owned buildings in the Palmetto State. "We need to get rid of them."

Note: She outlined a plan in December to reduce the state's footprint and sell buildings that are high-maintenance, lack adequate parking, or are simply old and smelly.

Note: When Haley arrived in office in 2011, she started asking about South Carolina's state-owned real estate. "No one could tell me what we own," she said, so she issued an executive order in 2013 to find out.

Note: An audit by CBRE, a commercial real estate firm, uncovered 7,800 buildings with 8.1 million square feet as well as 2,500 parcels of land totaling more than half a million acres. "We don't need to own that much space," Haley said.

Note: In South Carolina, Haley said agencies need to focus on their government work, not real estate.

Note: "We just don't need to be in the real estate business," she said. Getting rid of the state's money pits will be "a win-win for everybody across the board."

S.C. Political News:

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: Trump rolls out ads

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160104/PC1603/160109771>

Cynthia Roldan

With the South Carolina Republican primary less than two months away, party presidential frontrunner Donald Trump is rolling out TV and radio ad buys in several states. Trump's campaign announced this morning its "Great Again" TV Spot, which will air in Iowa and New Hampshire as of Tuesday, and will cost at least \$2 million per week to run.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Ease rural shrinking pains

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160104/PC1002/160109813>

Editorial

Lowcountry residents are unlikely to be surprised that South Carolina's population is growing. Mount

Pleasant, Charleston and Summerville are all attracting so many new residents that they struggle with how to provide roads and schools to meet the increased needs.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley is to be commended for recognizing that rural areas need assistance. In addition to designating additional funds for rural schools, she has worked to direct new business and industry to small towns that need jobs — and reasons for people to move in, not out.

South Carolina News:

Anderson Independent: Warm winter nights worrying Upstate peach growers

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/warm-winter-nights-worrying-upstate-peach-growers--27acf784-55e1-2ee3-e053-0100007f7380-364035921.html>

Abe Hardesty

In the fields on the 240-acre Musser Fruit Research Farm, Jeff Hopkins pointed to confused trees in late December that displayed — on the same branches — leaves from last summer and new growth of recent weeks. Near the entrance of the Clemson University facility, Hopkins marveled at the small patch of green, active Bermuda grass.

Post and Courier: Dyslexia activists push for change in South Carolina

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160104/PC16/160109937>

Lauren Sausser

In 2013, the South Carolina Dyslexia Task Force published a 60-page report at the General Assembly's request, addressing six specific ways the state could help students who suffer from the inherited learning disorder.

Post and Courier: Meet Duane Parrish, director of state Parks, Recreation & Tourism

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160104/PC05/160109950>

Duane Parrish has served as director for the S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism for almost five years. A hotelier and Mount Pleasant resident who worked for years in the Charleston market, he previously owned Premier Hospitality Group and was a deputy director of the Charleston Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Post and Courier: Colbert on Emanuel AME shooting: 'I was deeply moved by the reaction of my hometown'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160103/PC16/160109789>

At first, it seemed as though comedian and "Late Show" host Stephen Colbert was struggling to find the words to relate his personal experience dealing with the emotional aftermath of the mass shooting at Emanuel AME Church in his hometown of Charleston.

The State: LAKE KATHERINE: Residents eager for flooded neighbors to return – and many plan to do so

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article52839625.html#storylink=cpy>

Sarah Ellis

A life jacket topped a Christmas tree on Quail Lane. Christmas lights dangled from a dumpster and storage unit outside a home on Lelia's Court. Hopeful symbols of holiday cheer dotted the Lake Katherine neighborhoods wrecked by October floods.

The State: FOREST LAKE: Pavlovich Ballet School hopes to return to Forest Lake studio next month

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article52839145.html#storylink=cpy>

Sarah Ellis

He had just completed a state-of-the-art renovation to his 14-year-old Pavlovich Ballet School, home of the Columbia Classical Ballet company, in Forest Acres. He reopened his newly outfitted studio, tucked at the base of Forest Lake just off Forest Drive, on Aug. 4.

Local News:

Post and Courier: North Charleston nonprofit helps struggling homeowners with repairs

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160103/PC16/160109923>

Doug Pardue

Edna Washington didn't know what she was going to do after October's record rainstorms left the roof of her North Charleston home tattered and leaking. She knew patching likely would not hold for long on the nearly

60-year-old roof. It's the same one that was there when she moved into the house at 2631 Henry St. in 1958.

Rock Hill Herald: Duke officials: Lake Wylie water level 'stabilizing' after days of rain

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article52760130.html>

Teddy Kulmala

Duke Energy crews have been lowering the water level at the Lake Wylie dam in the aftermath of significant rainfall, officials said Saturday. The lowering of the water level at the dam was done earlier this week and Friday evening the gates at Lake Wylie were closed, said Jennifer Jabon, a spokeswoman for Duke Energy.

Florence Morning News: Rev. Jesse Jackson shakes and wakes voters during Florence visit

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_548c7ce0-b291-11e5-8480-4746c624b8f3.html

Shamira McCray

The Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. talked about the importance of voting when he spoke Sunday to a packed Majority Baptist Church sanctuary at the Emancipation Worship Experience. Jackson said the service was a commemoration of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 and the journey through slavery and freedom.

The Item: Co-op powers 4 rural South Carolina counties for 75 years

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160104/PC05/160109964>

Rick Carpenter

As Black River Electric Co-op powers through the end of celebrating 75 years of providing electrical service to rural Sumter, Lee, Clarendon and Kershaw counties, a new generation of users that power everything from cellphones to automobiles may not know about the company's roots.

National News:

Associated Press: Bill Clinton to stump for his wife, bringing old controversy

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ieUlsI4w

Lisa Lerer, Ken Thomas

For months, the former president has largely stayed out of the 2016 race, mentioned mostly in passing by Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton. On Monday, he heads out for his first solo campaign events, with stops planned in New Hampshire - a key primary state that gave much-needed momentum to his struggling 1992 presidential bid.

Washington Post: Donald Trump's provocative first TV ad raises temperature of GOP race

<http://www.thestate.com/news/nation-world/national/article52885680.html#storylink=cpy>

Robert Costa, Philip Rucker

Donald Trump's ad begins with a shot of President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. Then comes a U.S. battleship launching a cruise-missile strike. From there it moves swiftly through an explosive montage: The suspects in the recent California terrorist attack. Shadowy figures racing across the U.S.-Mexico border. Islamic State militants.

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