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Subject: Clips – Sunday, January 3, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: Making South Carolina stronger

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article52756090.html>

The year saw a murder-suicide rock the University of South Carolina campus, the Legislature fail to address the state's crumbling roads and bridges, police officers shoot unarmed men, a gunman kill nine parishioners who had welcomed him, a long-divisive banner finally furled, a long-sought savior give up and quit, and historic rains cause historic damage.

Repairing dams, recovering from the flood will dominate 2016: The floods will cost the state an estimated \$114 million, according to Gov. Nikki Haley, with the federal government paying an additional \$493 million.

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The onslaught of college students, Part 2: It's what city planners dream of – hordes of young people and their disposable income crowding their downtowns.

As city grows, Columbia's affordable housing needs grow, too: Private investment is flooding downtown Columbia with housing developments targeted at students, young professionals and empty-nesters.

Will SC lawmakers fix our roads? South Carolina lawmakers, who will return this month to Columbia, must decide whether to send more money to the state Transportation Department to repair the state's crumbling roads and bridges.

Note: Senators must agree on how much to increase taxes, whether to use state surpluses on roads and whether to pass an income tax cut, a priority of Gov. Nikki Haley, who could veto any proposal that she does not like.

S.C. Political News:

The State: The Buzz: Who's not running again in 2016 – so far

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article52736280.html>

Andrew Shain

All 160 seats in the S.C. State House are up for election this year. But even before those contests, not every legislator will be back in Columbia next January. At least nine members of the General Assembly have said they do not plan to seek re-election. More than half are from the coast.

Post and Courier: Marco Rubio courts Midlands voters with stop in Lexington

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160102/PC1603/160109835>

Maya T. Prabhu

Marco Rubio hit the highlights of his presidential campaign platform during a meet-and-greet Saturday where he attempted to woo about 200 potential supporters. The U.S. senator from Florida drew decided voters as well as some who still are figuring out who to vote for on Saturday during his last stop in South Carolina.

Island Packet: Rubio steers clear of Trump; speaks to Hilton Head crowd

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/politics-government/election/article52783405.html>

Mindy Lucas

Presidential contender Marco Rubio shied away from taking on Republican front-runner Donald Trump during a campaign stop on Hilton Head Island Saturday. The freshman senator from Florida did not even mention the billionaire's name when asked by a young boy in the audience how he planned to compete with Trump.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Aiken Standard: Ethics reform ranks among top priorities for Aiken County Legislative Delegation

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160102/AIK0101/160109910/ethics-reform-ranks-among-top-priorities-for-aiken-county-legislative-delegation>

Christina Cleveland, Derrek Asberry, Maayan Schechter

Ethics reform should include state lawmakers being investigated by an independent body when facing ethical situations rather than being able to police themselves, said members of the Aiken County Legislative Delegation.

Note: Getting a bill with independent oversight language to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk will still be a struggle, said Massey, who believes there is still a strong divide among legislators.

Post and Courier: Most House lawmakers are late to work

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160102/PC1603/160109935>

Gavin Jackson

Summerville Republican Rep. Jenny Horne was the second-most-absent state House lawmaker in 2015, but, like others, she doesn't expect juggling family, work and legislative obligations will interfere with her 2016 congressional campaign. "I've been doing it for eight years. I can certainly do it," Horne said. "I've juggled a lot of different responsibilities over the years, and I'm looking forward to my campaign for Congress."

Note: Horne, for example, voted present the morning of May 28 and Stavrinakis came later, but neither were still around for the afternoon vote to send the criminal domestic violence bill, which they both supported in prior votes, to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk.

Index-Journal: Area legislators say Trump's surge shows doubt in GOP establishment

<http://indexjournal.com/news/Area-legislators-say-Trump-s-surge-shows-doubt-in-GOP-establishment>

Colin Riddle

What has seemingly become a long roster of butting heads, Donald Trump, the real estate mogul and reality TV star, has been no stranger to national news, taking criticism from right- and left-wingers alike, including Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina, who recently quit the presidential race with low poll numbers.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

The State: How the SC Transportation Commission is working to kill gas tax increase

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scoppe/article52309035.html#storylink=cpy>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

All last year, one of their top tactics for torpedoing a gas tax increase to pay for our pockmarked highways and deteriorating bridges was reminding people of the incomprehensibly bad judgment of the parochial horse-traders who would get to divvy up that money.

Post and Courier: Solid start on surplus property

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160103/PC1002/160109820>

Editorial

So far, an inventory of state government buildings has identified eight that can be considered surplus and should be sold. With a total of 7,800 buildings and a half-million acres under state ownership, it would be surprising if Gov. Nikki Haley's ongoing effort doesn't come up with a lot more.

Island Packet: SC message to world: No more plutonium

<http://www.islandpacket.com/opinion/editorials/article52801730.html>

Editorial

Here we go again. The federal government wants South Carolina to be the dumping ground for more of the world's plutonium, a toxic nuclear weapons component. At the same time, it is failing miserably in its promise to process and remove 12 metric tons of plutonium already at the Savannah River Site near Aiken.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley said a lawsuit against the federal government may be needed. Good for her. But that tactic -- like a previous governor's threat to lie down in the road to stop plutonium shipments, as well as previous lawsuits, and laws threatening steep fines against the federal government -- has not yet resolved this national problem.

Sun News: Haley, responsible offshore energy are South Carolina's future

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article52790380.html>

Bill Crowther

I want to thank Gov. Nikki Haley for standing firm in her support for responsible offshore energy exploration in the face of the environmentalist groups that showed up at the statehouse to demand she change her mind.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Flood victims face deadline to apply for federal assistance

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4lZfe3vA

Flood victims in the 24 counties covered by October's emergency declaration have until Monday to apply for federal aid. Since the deadline officially falls on Sunday, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is accepting applications through the next business day. Monday is also the deadline for returning disaster loan applications to the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Estill police officer shot, suspect in custody, SLED reports

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160101/PC16/160109855>

Christina Elmore

An Estill police officer was shot Friday during a confrontation with a suspect. State Law Enforcement Division agents were notified around noon of the shooting and responded to the town in Hampton County, spokesman Thom Berry said. Initial reports indicated that the officer had been talking with the suspect prior to the gunfire, Berry said.

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