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Subject: Morning Clips – Friday, October 16, 2015

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S.C. Flood Recovery News:

The State: Garners Ferry reopens; almost 100 Richland roads remain closed

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article39346782.html>

Cassie Cope

Traffic flowed once again on Garners Ferry Road Thursday, more than a week after it was submerged in historic floods. Part of Columbia's North Main Street, near Elmwood Park, also reopened. But it could be Thanksgiving or later before the state knows how much it will cost to repair its roads and bridges, acting S. C. Transportation Department chief Christy Hall said Thursday.

Florence Morning News: Florence County flood damages total more than \$4.4 million

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_7edeb036-7393-11e5-ad04-131639e542cf.html

Joshua Lloyd

Florence County Emergency Management officials reported Thursday morning more than \$4.4 million in flood damages to 475 privately owned structures in the county. Emergency Management Director Dusty Owens told county council that assessments are ongoing and totals could increase throughout the next several weeks.

Times and Democrat: Calhoun County assesses storm damage

http://thetandd.com/calhoun/calhoun-county-assesses-storm-damage/article_7ae68fe3-23ac-5fa5-8d18-5cb1ce705dfb.html

Princess Williams

Calhoun County is taking stock of the damage caused by recent floods and making repairs, officials say. Addressing county council on Monday, Emergency Services Director Bill Minikiewicz said the county had several roads that were closed or partially closed.

Sumter Item: Continental donates to Red Cross

<http://theitem.com/stories/continental-donates-to-red-cross,256168>

Continental Tire the Americas LLC and Continental AG have donated \$115,000 to the American Red Cross to aid their South Carolina neighbors who have been affected by the recent catastrophic flooding, a company news release said. Continental has approximately 1,300 employees and three facilities in South Carolina: a tire plant in Sumter, the headquarters for Continental Tire the Americas LLC in Fort Mill and a fuel systems facility in Fountain Inn.

Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Legislature to petition court on Abbeville education decision

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151016/PC1603/151019538>

Gavin Jackson

The Legislature will petition the state Supreme Court on Monday to reexamine the court's deadline for a plan to help struggling rural schools. According to House Speaker Jay Lucas' office, the petition will deal with the most recent court order from a landmark education case over unequal funding, something states across the country have faced.

Note: The courts already rejected one attempt in December by Gov. Nikki Haley, Senate President Pro Tempore Sen. Hugh Leatherman and Lucas to rehear the case.

Note: Neither the Attorney General's Office nor Haley's have said if they plan to file by the deadline, which was moved from Thursday to Monday due to recent flooding.

The State: State Chamber to honor Haley

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article39368445.html>

Gov. Nikki Haley has been named Public Servant of the Year by the S.C. Chamber. Haley will be honored Nov. 12 at the chamber's 36th annual Summit at Hilton Head. The chamber cited the state's falling jobless rate, job creation, and infrastructure investment during Haley's administration.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Times and Democrat: Lawmakers need to know situation before they return

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/lawmakers-need-to-know-situation-before-they-return/article_f9e149a8-0dea-5e47-9b00-86cb7a10e5cf.html

Editorial

South Carolina lawmakers know the state will be looking to them for leadership in recovery from the unprecedented flooding of October 2015. There is urgency in addressing issues such as repairing roads and bridges. But there is wisdom in a prudent approach. Amid the calls by some for lawmakers to return to Columbia for a special session, the governor and legislative leaders are saying haste is not the right approach.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley agrees, saying there is not enough information available to call lawmakers into special session now.

Post and Courier: S.C. roads are in dire need of gas-tax increase

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151016/PC1002/151019529>

Editorial

The damage and destruction caused by the recent flooding in the Midlands and along the coast is devastating. Our hearts and prayers — and those of all South Carolinians — go out to the families of those who have lost their lives, their homes and their livelihoods. In the midst of this time of trial, we have seen the greatness of South Carolina's citizens shine through — neighbors helping neighbors and folks from across the state stepping up to meet needs great and small.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Politico: Gowdy slams fellow Republican over Benghazi remark

<http://www.politico.com/story/2015/10/trey-gowdy-benghazi-committee-richard-hanna-214857>

Rachael Bade

GOP Benghazi Committee chairman Trey Gowdy blasted fellow Republican Rep. Richard Hanna on Thursday for claiming his investigation was aimed at hurting 2016 Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton. "Running investigations in a private, fact-centric way is unquestionably the right way to conduct a serious investigation," Gowdy said in the statement, arguing that Hanna knew nothing of what his panel was working on.

South Carolina News:

Anderson Independent: State Supreme Court rejects Hammond request

http://www.independentmail.com/news/state-supreme-court-rejects-hammond-request_45561707

Mike Ellis

The state Supreme Court has rejected a request by Zachary Hammond's parents to set a precedent of having solicitors removed from cases involving officers who shoot people. The Hammonds' petition alleges 10th Judicial Circuit Solicitor Chrissy Adams could not fairly prosecute the case because she has an "inherently symbiotic relationship" with the Seneca Police Department.

Times and Democrat: S.C. State finances improving, auditor says

http://thetandd.com/news/s-c-state-finances-improving-auditor-says/article_55bd4c10-997b-5c1a-8a77-7f6745eba30b.html

Dale Linder-Altman

After years of negative audit reports, huge deficits and low credit ratings, South Carolina State University showed a "substantial trend" toward improvement in 2014-15, according to its external auditor. Stathis Poulos of BDO LLC told trustees on Thursday that the university's operating deficit dropped by 60 percent in fiscal year 2015, down from \$10 million to \$4 million.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Leaders seek to improve mental health treatment for inmates

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20151015/ARTICLES/151019829/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Leaders-seek-to-improve-mental-health-treatment-for-inmates>

Daniel J. Gross

Nearly a quarter of Spartanburg County's jail inmates are on medications for mental health conditions. As of Wednesday, jail staff was administering psychiatric prescriptions to 178 of the jail's 722 inmates — and the numbers are climbing, officials say.

Associated Press: Man accused of killing officer in mall faces more charges

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=i2Tq6QhJ

A 34-year-old man accused of fatally shooting a police officer at a South Carolina shopping mall faces five additional charges. The State Law Enforcement Division says 34-year-old Jarvis Hall was charged Thursday with possessing stolen weapons and a stolen vehicle, replacing the license plate, resisting arrest, and receiving stolen goods.

The State: Richland jury deliberating whether bar culpable in death of Emma Longstreet

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article39361125.html>

John Monk

A Richland County jury deliberated, but made no decision Thursday evening whether to make the former owner of Loose Cockaboose Sports bar pay the parents of 6-year-old Emma Longstreet damages for the death of their daughter, who was killed by a drunk driver who had left the bar and was driving in an intoxicated state.

The State: Frazier key to Lexington County public corruption probe

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article39305532.html>

John Monk

Former Lexington town council member Danny Frazier was the key government informant who provided information to federal and state prosecutors that led to former Lexington County Sheriff James Metts pleading guilty to allowing the release of illegal immigrants from his jail.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Dorchester District 2 aims to relieve overcrowding with new attendance lines

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151015/PC16/151019514>

Paul Bowers

A new set of proposed attendance lines in Dorchester County School District 2 could relieve overcrowding at some elementary schools when the district opens three new elementary schools in the fall of 2016. The school that would see the greatest reduction in student population under the plan is Knightsville Elementary School, which would shed 682 students from its current population of 1,462 students.

National News:

CNN: Trump, Carson threaten to boycott next GOP debate

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/10/15/politics/trump-carson-cnbc-republican-debate-threaten-pullout/>

Dylan Byers

Republican front-runners Donald Trump and Ben Carson are threatening to pull out of the next Republican primary debate if the hosts don't agree to their demands. In a letter to CNBC, which is hosting the next debate, the two candidates said they would not participate in the Oct. 28 debate "if it is longer than 120 minutes including commercials and does not include opening and closing statements."

Associated Press: U.S. military to remain in Afghanistan

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151015/PC1601/151019515>

Julie Pace

President Barack Obama on Thursday abandoned his pledge to end America's longest war, announcing plans to keep at least 5,500 U.S. troops in Afghanistan when he leaves office in 2017 and hand the conflict off to his successor. It is another setback for the president in his quest to extricate the U.S. from more than a decade of war in Afghanistan and Iraq.

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