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Subject: Clips – Saturday, February 22, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Experience lead to state's swift response time

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140221/PC1603/140229791/experience-lead-to-states-swift-response-time>

Cynthia Roldan

Seasoned heads of South Carolina's agencies say their familiarity with each other led to what they consider a very effective response to the two winter storms that pummeled the state in as many weeks. While Gov. Nikki Haley's leadership mobilized the agencies into working together, according to Kim Stenson, director of the state Emergency Management Division, it was the also fact that the heads of each of the agencies are veterans at responding to storms that helped with minor issues.

CBS: This year's governor's races likely to have 2016 implications

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/this-years-governors-races-likely-to-have-2016-implications/>

Jaqueline Alemany

As governors from all over the country convene in Washington, D.C., this weekend for the National Governors Association annual meeting, this fall's 36 governor's races are coming into sharper focus.

Note: Republicans Chris Christie, Scott Walker, Bobby Jindal, Rick Perry, John Kasich, Susana Martinez, Mike Pence, Nikki Haley – all are considered possible presidential candidates and all have either national name recognition or are highly regarded by national Republican leaders.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Rock Hill Herald: Local donors contribute to gubernatorial campaigns

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/02/21/5703083/local-donors-contribute-to-gubernatorial.html>

Jie Jenny Zou

Gov. Nikki Haley and Vincent Sheheen have received equal support from donors in York, Chester and Lancaster counties. The latest campaign finance reports show that Haley, a Republican seeking re-election this year, and Sheheen, a Democratic state senator from Camden, have received about \$62,000 in donations from the three counties.

Note: "We're overwhelmed by the support of so many in York, Chester and Lancaster counties," said Rob Godfrey, Haley campaign manager. He added that the "governor looks forward to visiting the area frequently over the course of the campaign."

Florence Morning News: Graham hosts campaign event in Florence

http://www.snow.com/news/article_beab45ea-9b76-11e3-926d-001a4bcf6878.html

Gavin Jackson

Unlike those campaigning for his Senate seat, Republican Senator Lindsey Graham did not call out his opponents Friday evening. Instead, he continued a kick off tour that brought him to Florence where his only direct campaign talk was about the June primary. Without securing 50 percent of the primary vote, Graham would face a runoff two weeks after the primary against the second place candidate, the only way Graham's opponents see they can beat him.

Aiken Standard: Former principal to run for state representative seat

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140222/AIK0101/140229863/1004/former-principal-to-run-for-state-representative-seat>

Derrek Asberry

An Aiken County resident has recently announced her decision to run as a Democratic candidate for the S. C. House District 84 seat in the June 10 primary. North Augusta resident Rosie Berry announced her

candidacy on Friday for the seat currently held by S.C. Rep. Roland Smith, R–Aiken, who is set to retire at the end of his current term. A graduate of the University of South Carolina, Berry earned her bachelor's in 1976 and her master's in 1978.

Opinion / Editorial News:

Times and Democrat: Primary race against Graham begins in earnest

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/editorial/primary-race-against-graham-begins-in-earnest/article_1368a37e-9b78-11e3-a624-001a4bcf887a.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Sen. Lindsey Graham's GOP challengers; OUR OPINION: Connor is first to hit airwaves in battle that is about forcing runoff. One candidate has spent much of the week claiming he is the choice of supporters of the tea party while another is the first to take to the airwaves in the campaign to oust U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

New York Times: G.O.P. Congressman in South Carolina Takes a Risk With a Foray Into Immigration

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/22/us/politics/gop-congressman-in-south-carolina-takes-a-risk-with-a-foray-into-immigration.html?hpw&rref=politics&_r=0

Julia Preston

After the sterling conservative voting record he has established during three years in Washington, Representative Mick Mulvaney, a Republican, can take a few political risks in his South Carolina district, one of the most conservative in this reliably Republican state. This week he did just that. Mr. Mulvaney convened a town-hall meeting in this country town on the troublesome issue of immigration, with an audience of Latinos.

Times and Democrat: Senator visits SCSU, says he senses a new attitude there

http://thetandd.com/news/senator-visits-scsu-says-he-senses-a-new-attitude-there/article_4f31465a-9b86-11e3-a9a3-001a4bcf887a.html

Dale Linder-Altman

U.S. Senator Tim Scott, a South Carolina Republican, met with the administration and students at South Carolina State University Friday as part of a "listening tour" of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Scott said while everyone asks him for help and money, he's looking not just for need, but for institutions providing the greatest return on investment.

Legislative Session News:

Associated Press: 65 gun permits revoked due to reporting law

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=L8DBZ6Gr

Seanna Adcox

A new law meant to keep guns out of the hands of the mentally ill has so far stopped 55 attempted handgun sales and caused 65 concealed weapon permits to be revoked, the chief of the State Law Enforcement Division said Friday. The law approved last year ordered courts across South Carolina to send SLED their records on residents who have been declared mentally ill or involuntarily committed to a mental institution.

Post and Courier: SLED revokes 65 concealed weapons permit under new law inspired by Alice Boland case

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140221/PC1610/140229836/1031/sled-revokes-65-concealed-weapons-permit-under-new-law-inspired-by-alice-boland-case>

Andrew Knapp

The chief of South Carolina's law enforcement agency says a new law meant to stop the mentally ill from buying guns has already prevented 12 people from getting a concealed weapons permit. Chief Mark Keel told legislators Friday that the State Law Enforcement Division also has revoked 65 permits because of the law that was approved in May and went into effect Aug. 1.

Aiken Standard: College textbook debate heats up

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140222/AIK0101/140229840/1007/AIK0101/college-textbook-debate-heats-up>

Rob Novit

In the midst of a controversy over textbooks at two state colleges, S.C. Rep. Roland Smith, R-Warrenville, offered his own opinion after seeing one of them. "I will say that book was pornography," he said. "I don't like the taxpayers' money used for that." A House committee has approved a penalty totaling \$70,000 for USC Upstate and the College of Charleston – arguing the use of books with gay themes.

The State: Embattled state rep will not seek re-election

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/02/21/3283600/sc-politics-embattled-state-rep.html#storylink=cpy>

Embattled state Rep. Ted Vick announced Friday he will not seek re-election in November. The Chesterfield Democrat has been arrested twice for driving under the influence. His first DUI arrest, in Five Points in 2012, included a charge of unlawful carrying of a pistol. At the time, Vick was a leading candidate for the new 7th District seat in Congress. He dropped out of the race after his arrest.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: SC ice storm power outages down to 200 customers

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=dn66sNpV

Officials say almost everyone in South Carolina who lost power in last week's winter weather has had their electricity restored nine days after the ice storm. The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina say less than 200 people remain without power from the winter storm that started Feb. 12. All the customers are with Santee Electric Cooperative in Clarendon, Florence, Georgetown and Williamsburg counties.

Times and Democrat: SNAP recipients could recover benefits lost because of storm

http://thetandd.com/news/snap-recipients-could-recover-benefits-lost-because-of-storm/article_79ebe930-9b69-11e3-be01-001a4bcf887a.html

Individuals who are currently enrolled in the state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program can recover their benefits if they were lost because of an extended power outage in the aftermath of last week's ice storm. The South Carolina Department of Social Services reports that individuals can visit their local county DSS office and fill out and sign an affidavit of loss benefits (DSS Form 1634B).

Associated Press: Winter storm left scars on SC's only national park

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=YoFmK6HR

Bruce Smith

After South Carolina's worst winter storm in a decade, it took rangers an entire day to cut through the fallen trees and limbs blocking the road to the state's only national park, Congaree National Park southeast of Columbia. "I've never seen an ice storm do damage like that in my life," Joe Meekins, a park ranger said Friday. "We weren't expecting quite that damage."

Associated Press: SC Army Guard unit gets Berry as new commander

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1cvfl89a

The South Carolina Army National Guard's 178th Combat Engineer Battalion is getting a new commander. A ceremony is scheduled for Saturday in Brattonsville to install Maj. Kevin Berry as the new commanding officer. The battalion's headquarters is in Rock Hill. It oversees armories in Fort Mill, Chester, Lancaster and Wellford.

The State: USC consolidates administration jobs to save \$400,000 a year

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/02/21/3283933/usc-consolidates-administration.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

The University of South Carolina gave four administrators additional responsibilities Friday, moves that allowed the school to consolidate three open positions and save more than \$400,000 in annual salary. The cost cutting comes as state lawmakers, led by House Ways and Means chairman Brian White, R-Anderson, have challenged the state's public colleges to find ways to save money to stem rising tuition costs.

Local News:

Florence Morning News: PDRTA officials says no impact from data breach

http://www.snow.com/news/article_78f64220-9aa4-11e3-976f-0017a43b2370.html

Gavin Jackson

Fallout from the data breach that Pee Dee Regional Transportation officials were alerted to in January

remains under control according to an update from the agency's director. Executive director Chuck MacNeil said according to its IT contractor and internal monitoring of financial data, there have not been any red flags, but as a precaution PDRTA is switching bank accounts.

National News:

MSNBC: Governors come to DC, bringing their drama with them
<http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/governors-come-dc-drama-follows>

Benjy Sarlin

A gaggle of governors from both parties are descending on Washington this weekend to attend the winter meeting of the National Governors Association and huddle with their respective partisan election committees. Some of the guests are bringing more baggage than others.

Note: Christie, the chairman of the Republican Governors Association, will meet with the group's executive committee – composed of other high profile governors like Bobby Jindal of Louisiana and Nikki Haley of South Carolina – for the first time since 'Bridgegate' began.

Associated Press: Obama: Americans deserve a vote on minimum wage

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_OBAMA?](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_OBAMA?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-02-22-06-04-04)

[SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-02-22-06-04-04](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_OBAMA?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-02-22-06-04-04)

President Barack Obama says hardworking Americans deserve a vote in Congress on a minimum raise hike. In his weekly radio and Internet address, Obama says six states have already raised their minimum wage and more are considering it. Obama says he's taken action, too, by raising wages for federal contractors.

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