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To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, January 6, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: One SC Fund awards grants to nonprofits for flood recovery

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article53318370.html>

Avery G. Wilks

The One SC Flood Relief Fund has awarded its first round of grants, totaling \$500,000, to support more than a dozen nonprofits working on recovery from the historic flooding on Oct. 4. The 13 nonprofits who received grant money are based in hard-hit areas across South Carolina.

Note: “We’ve asked the people of South Carolina to step up, and what we’ve seen so far is the best in our state – but there’s more work to be done,” Gov. Nikki Haley said in the release. “If you were blessed and did not have damage to your home, if you were blessed and able to get back into a safe place, pay it forward. Give whatever you can to support the One SC Flood Relief Fund.”

S.C. General Assembly News:

Associated Press: Panel takes look at South Carolina social welfare agency

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=MnfBLou3

Jeffrey Collins

A House panel that oversees state agencies and programs is taking a look at South Carolina's social welfare agency. The Department of Social Services has been one of the most scrutinized agencies on recent years, with child advocates saying the underfunded, poorly run agency was letting vulnerable and abused children through the cracks. But at Wednesday's meeting, several groups praised DSS Director Susan Alford, who took over a year ago.

Post and Courier: S.C. business leaders support gas tax boost but not sure how much

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160106/PC1603/160109594>

Gavin Jackson

South Carolina business leaders said Wednesday a gas tax increase is a necessary part of any legislative funding solution for crumbling state infrastructure. S.C. Chamber of Commerce President Ted Pitts said the pro-business organization has not endorsed a specific increase to the current 16.75 cents per gallon tax on motor fuel that funds roads and infrastructure.

Note: The Senate bill didn't include any DOT reforms or a 2 percentage point income tax reduction to offset the gas tax increase, as Gov. Nikki Haley has proposed.

WIS: SC Chamber rolls out agenda ahead of lawmakers' return

<http://www.wistv.com/story/30900079/sc-chamber-rolls-out-agenda-ahead-of-lawmakers-return>

Will Whitson

South Carolina lawmakers head back to the State House on Tuesday for the legislative session, but before they do, state businesses are voicing what they want to see accomplished this year. The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce is keeping their competitiveness agenda simple this year and focusing on three items: reforming business licensing, improving workforce development, and fixing the state's infrastructure.

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: Education-equity lawsuit up for discussion

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160106/PC1603/160109628>

Cynthia Roldan

With less than a week to go until the 2016 Legislative session starts, the number of panel meetings are starting to ramp up in Columbia. Today, a special Senate panel will meet at 1 p.m., to discuss the Abbeville County School District v. the State of South Carolina lawsuit, and the state's response to the landmark ruling by the Supreme Court in the now-22-year-old case.

S.C. Political News:

Aiken Standard: Sen. Marco Rubio to campaign in Aiken on Saturday

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160106/AIK0101/160109631/sen-marco-rubio-to-campaign-in-aiken-on-saturday>

Derrek Asberry

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio will visit Aiken Saturday to talk about his "vision for A New American Century" – a talking point he has used during his campaign to win the Republican nomination for president. Rubio will speak Saturday at Newberry Hall, 117 Newberry St. The doors will open at 8 a.m. and the event will run from 9 to 10.

Bloomberg: George W. Bush Could Be Key to Stopping Donald Trump, Republican Says

<http://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2016-01-06/george-w-bush-could-be-key-to-stopping-donald-trump-republican-says>

Michael C. Bender

But for at least one top Republican in South Carolina—the state that holds the American South's premier presidential nominating contest and only early state that has never dealt a primary defeat to a member of the Bush family—the 43rd president could be the party establishment's answer to stop front-runner Donald Trump in his tracks.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

WJCL: SC lawmakers react to president's executive actions for stricter gun laws

<http://www.wjcl.com/news/local-news/sc-lawmakers-react-to-presidents-executive-actions-for-stricter-gun-laws/123537594/story>

President Obama outlined his executive actions on Tuesday which called for a "national sense of urgency" to reduce gun violence. The president's actions would mean there would be extended background checks at gun shows and license requirements for more people who sells guns. Representative Mark Sanford of South Carolina's 1st District says the president's executive actions are not constitutional.

Greenville News: Representatives place wager on the "Barbeque Bowl"

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/sports/college/clemson/2016/01/06/representatives-place-wager-barbeque-bowl/78359672/>

Scott Keeper

Perhaps Monday night's national championship game between Clemson and Alabama should be dubbed the "Barbeque Bowl." South Carolina Congressman Jeff Duncan (R-SC-03) and Alabama Congresswoman Terri Sewell (D-AL-07) have made a friendly wager on who will win the game, with barbeque and bragging rights at stake.

McClatchy DC: Benghazi panel continues high-profile interviews, surpasses length of 9/11 inquiry

<http://www.thestate.com/news/nation-world/national/article53277965.html#storylink=cpy>

Anita Kumar

The committee investigating the fatal attacks in Benghazi, Libya will interview several high-profile Obama administration officials this week, including former CIA Director David Petraeus and former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta.

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: Study: South Carolina remains popular moving destination

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/2016/01/05/study-south-carolina-remains-popular-moving-destination/78299304/>

Amanda Coyne

South Carolina remains the second most popular destination for state-to-state moves, according to a new study from United Van Lines. The national moving company analyzed its customers' moving data for its annual National Movers Study. Oregon was the most popular destination for the third consecutive year, but South Carolina was close behind.

Associated Press: Company making bourbon barrels locating in Bamberg County

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

A company that makes barrels for aging bourbon and other spirits is locating in Bamberg County, creating almost 60 new jobs. Black Water Barrels LLC announced Wednesday that it is investing almost \$4 million in the plant that will make barrels of white oak for bourbon. It will also make barrels of other types of wood for other spirits and wine.

Local News:

The State: Midlands law enforcement leaders look toward 2016 issues

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article53350235.html>

Glen Flanagan

Columbia Police Chief Skip Holbrook and Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott spoke with The State during the last week of December about lessons learned in 2015 and big issues on their departments' radars for the new year. So what's on their minds?

Post and Courier: Sullivan's makes list of Top 10 'happiest seaside towns'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160106/PC16/160109607>

Prentiss Findlay

Sullivan's Island is one of the happiest seaside towns in America, according to Coastal Living magazine. The island is the only locale in South Carolina to make the cut for the 2016 rankings. Mayor Pat O'Neil said the honor is deserved but a surprise. "It's not at all something we went after. I have no idea how we got on their radar," he said.

Rock Hill Herald: Rock Hill to unveil proposed changes in school choice programs

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/education/article53144745.html>

Jennifer Brecknell

Superintendent Kelly Pew will unveil proposed changes for Rock Hill's school choice programs Thursday at Sullivan Middle School. Pew's proposals have been developed by the district administration during months of discussion and with input from a school of choice committee of parents, teachers and community leaders. That panel began meeting in September.

National News:

Associated Press: Cruz-Rubio battle over undecided Iowans intensifies

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=DArUUU1o

Steve Peoples, Scott Bauer

Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz are fighting for the favor of many of the same undecided voters across Iowa, where even some of the most attentive Republicans say they can't make up their minds less than four weeks before voting begins. That was so among Iowans who gathered before sunrise to hear Rubio at a town-hall-style meeting in Cedar Rapids.

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