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Subject: Clips – Sunday, February 7, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

WSPA: Greenville County Chamber of Commerce Supports Gas Tax Hike To Fix Roads

<http://wspa.com/2016/02/06/greenville-county-chamber-of-commerce-supports-gas-tax-hike-to-fix-roads/>

Dave Jordan

Greenville Chamber of Commerce is throwing its support behind a measure backed by Governor Haley that would raise revenue needed to fix South Carolina's crumbling roads. Governor Haley has said she supports raising the gas tax as long as there are cuts in the state income tax.

Associated Press: New domestic violence gun law in SC hard to track in court

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=CLtg5tq2

Jeffrey Collins

South Carolina lawmakers passed a law last year banning some people convicted of domestic violence from owning guns. But the state's antiquated court records system could prevent advocates from tracking how it is working. Last year, Democrats and Republicans came together to pass the law giving a lifetime gun ban for the worst abusers and an automatic three- or 10-year ban in other serious cases.

Note: A domestic violence task force created by Gov. Nikki Haley determined that 62 percent of domestic violence cases in South Carolina end with a not guilty verdict.

The State: The Buzz: Meet SC's top 2016 GOP donor – and the candidate he likes

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article58848813.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Through Collum's Lumber Products, Hank Scott donated \$200,000 to a pro-Marco Rubio political action committee last year, the only six-figure contribution tied to a candidate in the presidential race from a S.C. individual or company, according to the Federal Election Commission data.

'I hope I didn't offend' While senators were debating the fact that they were not debating roads Thursday, state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, D-Kershaw, blamed the impasse on Gov. Nikki Haley's insistence that an income tax cut be included in any road-repair bill that also raises gas taxes.

A new Hope for the GOP: Hope Walker, who worked for the S.C. GOP before running Mike Huckabee's 2016 presidential campaign in South Carolina, was named the state party's executive director last week.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Aiken Standard: Aiken County Council, Legislative Delegation to meet in joint work session Monday

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160206/AIK0101/160209603/aiken-county-council-legislative-delegation-to-meet-in-joint-work-session-monday>

Maayan Schechter

Aiken County Council and members of the Aiken County Legislative Delegation will meet Monday to discuss the proposed Whiskey Road corridor study, local government funds and other pending and proposed legislation in the Statehouse. The joint work session is open to the public at 6 p.m. in the Aiken County Government Center Sandlapper Room, 1930 University Parkway.

S.C. Political News:

The State: How SC race shaping up ahead of New Hampshire

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article58851793.html>

Andrew Shain

South Carolina soon will get the spotlight in the 2016 Republican presidential campaign. For now, attention

is on New Hampshire, which holds the next primary on Tuesday. Seven candidates vie at 8 p.m. Saturday in debate on ABC in Manchester, N.H. where GOP front-runner Donald Trump returns to the stage after skipping the last debate in Iowa.

Post and Courier: In South Carolina, success at the polls often starts at the pulpit

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160206/PC1603/160209562>

Robert Behre, Schuyler Kropf

South Carolina's presidential primaries will be held on Saturdays this month, but for the candidates trying to sway voters their way, the next few Sunday mornings will loom just as large. The state's Democratic and Republican voters both attend church regularly — in larger numbers, percentage-wise, than voters in most other states. Almost 80 percent of all voters identify as Christians.

The State: For some SC women, Hillary Clinton's draw of history has less appeal

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article58903848.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

Columbia's Mamie Hayes-Hartwell describes Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton's chance to become the nation's first female president in spiritual terms. "I believe in divine order. ... This is her destiny," says the 53-year-old Hayes-Hartwell. In the 2008 S.C. Democratic primary, Hayes-Hartwell voted for another historic candidate — then-U.S. Sen. Barack Obama.

Greenville News: Rubio to make multiple stops in the Upstate next week

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/02/06/rubio-make-multiple-stops-upstate-next-week/79948448/>

Rudolph Bell

A debate watch party in downtown Greenville Saturday night for supporters of Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio served as a precursor for a 10-stop swing through South Carolina next week by the Florida senator. In the Upstate, Rubio will campaign in Spartanburg, Simpsonville, Greenville and Easley, his campaign announced Saturday.

Post and Courier: In sums large and small, South Carolina Republicans in on the campaign money game

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160206/PC1603/160209670>

Emma Dumain

Monsignor Steven Brovey, the rector for the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Charleston, gave \$120 to U. S. Sen. Marco Rubio, sensing the Floridian's strong Catholic faith would "help him reach out to the poor, to help those that are weak."

Rock Hill Herald: Women's rights, education focus at Clinton event in Rock Hill

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article58922618.html>

Teddy Kulmala

Former first daughter Chelsea Clinton said she believes this presidential election is more important than any other she's seen — including the two in which her father, former President Bill Clinton, ran for election and re-election.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

The State: The other problem with SC legislators policing their own ethics

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article58729743.html>

Cindi Ross Scope

THE STATE Ethics Commission ruled last month that it's illegal to use campaign funds to pay for memberships or other expenses at the Capital City Club and the Palmetto Club and other private dinner clubs. It's a ruling that could have some serious lifestyle consequences for a number of elected officials, as the commission noted that several were using campaign money to cover these expenses.

Times and Democrat: Clyburn, Scott roles give S.C. reason for pride

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/clyburn-scott-roles-give-s-c-reason-for-pride/article_91db0af3-e44c-55b9-b082-b8b9b30d1238.html

Editorial

February's Black History Month observance is a fitting time to recognize that two South Carolina African-

Americans of completely different political persuasions are history makers of note on the national level. First there is 6th District Congressman James Clyburn, who has been a leader across decades and is the state's most prominent Democratic politician.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: SC makes tax fraud a priority

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160207/opinion/160209766>

Frank Abagnale

The S.C. Department of Revenue recently announced a comprehensive anti-fraud initiative focused on income tax refund fraud, a nationwide problem that increases and intensifies every year. As a South Carolina resident and subject matter expert, I am pleased to provide my assistance on this effort.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Countywide fire district needed

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160207/opinion/160209768>

Editorial

Three Spartanburg County fire districts are in trouble because their all-volunteer staffs limit their response times, and they can't afford to hire paid firefighters. It's becoming harder to run all-volunteer fire departments. Volunteers have regular jobs during the day, which limits their ability to respond quickly to daytime fires

Post and Courier: Tent city was founded on good deeds, faulty logic

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160207/PC16/160209564>

Brian Hicks

More than a year ago, some folks from local churches started showing up at a vacant piece of property on Meeting Street to feed the homeless. They'd bring in grills, cook hot dogs and serve anyone who'd listen to a short sermon. They call those hot dog ministries.

Aiken Standard: Transparency appreciated in Savannah River Site, German fuel decision

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160206/AIK0201/160209679/1018/AIK02>

Editorial

The Department of Energy should be applauded for its transparency while deciding if the Savannah River Site will accept highly-enriched uranium from Germany. A public meeting Thursday in North Augusta added more clarity on the potential transfer and also allowed members of the public to voice their opinions.

Post and Courier: How to close the achievement gap

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160207/PC1002/160209495>

Editorial

For years, educators have been trying different ways to close the achievement gap between white and black students in Charleston County. Finally, one of those attempts is working. That puts the Charleston County School Board in an encouraging position to spread the concepts being used successfully at Meeting Street Academy and Meeting Street Elementary @ Brentwood, to reach Burns Elementary students.

Post and Courier: End unjust S.C. practice of putting juveniles in solitary

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160207/PC1002/160209528>

Victoria Middleton

It would be nice to confirm that South Carolina is indeed "a step ahead" of a new presidential directive banning solitary confinement for juveniles ("South Carolina prisons a step ahead," The Post and Courier, Jan. 30). Regrettably, there is evidence that the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice has taken a step backward, after a period of reform.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Post and Courier: Clyburn joins Charleston summit calling for \$15-an-hour minimum wage

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160206/PC16/160209463>

Christina Elmore

Rachel Nelson has worked for 10 years at a fast food restaurant in Charleston. Years spent fighting for a raise, usually a nickel at a time, have amounted to her current wage — \$9 an hour. "My last check, all I was able to do was pay our light bill," said Nelson, a 35-year-old mother of three. "I don't want to depend on public assistance forever."

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: Wet roads have cost DOT millions in claims, lawsuits

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/02/07/wet-roads-have-cost-dot-millions-claims-lawsuits/79866952/>

Tim Smith

For Mike Wooten, chairman of the state Department of Transportation, wet roads are a deeply personal issue. It was about two years ago, Wooten said, when his wife was traveling a highway outside Bennettsville during a heavy rainstorm and hit water on the road, spun out and into a ditch.

Post and Courier: Growing workforce provides opportunities, but attitudes must change, experts say

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160206/PC05/160209618>

David Wren

In the quest for qualified, highly skilled workers, success often comes down to perception. That's why state and local economic development officials are trying to change the way workers view advanced manufacturing careers and how industries see the Charleston region as a place to do business.

Post and Courier: Nearly 600 South Carolinians earn GED certificate retroactively after passing score lowered

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160207/PC16/160209557>

Deanna Pan

When Kerri Dye took the GED last summer, she passed every section of the exam — social studies, science, language arts — with flying colors. Except for math, which she failed by one point. “I was surprised to be honest with you,” Dye said, laughing.

Post and Courier: Yes, there will be another recession, and people should financially prepare

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160207/PC05/160209700>

David Slade

As the U.S. stock market continues its roller-coaster ride, invocations of the “R” word have been popping up more frequently, particularly in the financial press. That’s “R” as in recession — a disturbing thought, considering many people are still suffering from the Great Recession that technically ended in mid-2009.

Post and Courier: Supporters’ letters paint Michael Slager as ‘go-to’ officer who kept calm under pressure

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160206/PC16/160209705>

Andrew Knapp

For months, much of the public formed its opinion of Michael Slager from a video of the North Charleston police officer shooting a black man in the back. That’s unfair, his relatives, friends and fellow officers said in letters recently revealed through an open-records request, and it fails to account for his true qualities.

Local News:

Associated Press: Project to remove trees on I-95 in Jasper County delayed

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=dW8oyqtr

Some unexpected problems with cutting down trees on Interstate 26 north of Charleston has led to delays in a project meant to improve the safety of the southern part of Interstate 95 in South Carolina. The Island Packet of Hilton Head reports that improvements to the southernmost 30 miles of I-95 won't start before next year.

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