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Subject: Clips – Sunday, December 27, 2015

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Shooting thrusts Haley into national spotlight

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151227/PC16/151229599>

Cynthia Roldan

The slaying of nine people at Charleston's Emanuel AME Church in June thrust Gov. Nikki Haley into the national spotlight. But Haley worked on the issue with lawmakers behind the scenes. By the Monday following the shooting, Haley, flanked by the state's top politicians, called on the Legislature to change the law and furl the flag permanently.

Note: Her decision helped unify members from both sides of the aisle of the Legislature. It also provided political cover for Republicans who worried about how their constituents would react to the change.

Florence Morning News: Florence's Leatherman not backing down in 2016

http://www.scnw.com/news/local/article_d72052dc-ac27-11e5-9be6-d7dad84cc289.html

Joshua Lloyd

In a recent interview with the Morning News, South Carolina Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh K. Leatherman Sr. spoke about his most important moments of 2015, including both criticisms and accomplishments. The chairman of the Senate Finance Committee also gave some of his intentions and motives for the upcoming legislative session.

Q: Gov. Nikki Haley visited Florence earlier this year and called you out as a hindrance to ethics reform. Was she justified?

A: No. And I think she may have learned a lesson. I don't know what her issue is with me, but I'll leave that to her. ... If I see something that needs to be fixed, I'll go about fixing it.

S.C. General Assembly News:

The State: THE BUZZ: New Year's resolutions for SC politicians

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article51668540.html>

Cassie Cope

Under the State House dome, 2015 was rough at times – from fights over borrowing to pay to repair crumbling buildings to fights over whether to raise taxes to pay for crumbling roads to fights over the Confederate flag. So, cheers to 2016, and let's hope that a new legislative session will bring new solutions.

Post and Courier: Jean Toal: Don't popularly elect judges

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151226/PC1603/151229669>

Schuyler Kropf

State Rep. Chris Corley, R-Graniteville, has introduced a Statehouse bill that calls for judges to be made elected positions done by popular vote. Retiring S.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Jean Toal says that's a bad idea.

S.C. Political News:

Washington Post: SC's Gowdy backs Rubio for president

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article51724555.html>

David Weigel

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., has won the support of Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., the chairman of the Select Committee on Benghazi and one of the most popular members of Congress among the restless GOP base. "Marco is a rock solid conservative and a strong leader we can trust," Gowdy said on Saturday, in a statement first obtained by Townhall's Guy Benson.

CNN: Gowdy to offer Rubio his 'full support,' aide says

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/12/26/politics/trey-gowdy-marco-rubio-full-support/>

Eugene Scott

Rep. Trey Gowdy will spend the final days of 2015 campaigning in Iowa with Marco Rubio and will offer the Florida senator his "full support," a campaign aide told CNN Saturday. The aide, however, stopped short of saying that Gowdy would officially endorse Rubio.

Politico: Gowdy to campaign with Rubio

<http://www.politico.com/story/2015/12/gowdy-to-campaign-with-rubio-217143>

Kristen East

South Carolina Rep. Trey Gowdy will campaign alongside Sen. Marco Rubio next week in Iowa. The three-day swing through eastern and central Iowa includes stops in Burlington, Clinton, and Waterloo. Gowdy will appear alongside Rubio at the events on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Post and Courier: Lindsey Graham: a presidential campaign that dialed 911

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151226/PC1603/151229604>

Schuyler Kropf

Lindsey Graham's finest moment from his presidential run wasn't something he said. It's what he did with a blender, a meat cleaver, a samurai sword and some lighter fluid. In July, a day after GOP front-runner Donald Trump unilaterally disclosed Graham's private cell number to the world during a rally in Bluffton, Graham struck back in the best way he could, taking part in a humorous video showing him destroying old cellphones.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Greenville News: Pass expansion to dam safety office

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2015/12/27/pass-expansion-dam-safety-office/77578804/>

Editorial

At an additional cost of \$1.8 million per year, it is difficult to envision a rationale for South Carolina to not improve its dam safety program in the wake of last fall's torrential rains that caused nearly three dozen dams to fail. A bill presented by South Carolina Speaker of the House Jay Lucas would nearly quadruple the budget for the program that's administered by the state Department of Health and Environmental Control, according to a report by The State newspaper.

Note: A spokeswoman for Gov. Nikki Haley acknowledged after the flood that there's a funding gap in the agency and said that there would likely be a more money for the program in the executive budget. That needs to happen.

Post and Courier: Conservation's congressional boost

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151227/PC1002/151229526>

Editorial

When a landowner puts property under a conservation easement, others benefit — people who live nearby and are assured they will not end up with resort condominiums next door; animals that nest and feed there; passersby who appreciate a beautiful vista.

Post and Courier: Addressing sea level rise

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151227/PC1002/151229525>

Editorial

It's hard to imagine clearer wake-up calls than the storm that caused historic flooding across South Carolina in October and the news this month that Charleston had broken its all-time annual rainfall record. The city needs to intensify its preparations for flooding.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Aiken Standard: US Reps. Wilson, Clyburn voice support for sick nuclear workers

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20151226/AIK0101/151229548>

Derrek Asberry

Workers who developed cancer and other ailments due to their work at nuclear facilities should have better

access to federal compensation, according to two Palmetto State congressmen. U.S. Reps. Joe Wilson, a Republican, and Jim Clyburn, a Democrat, spoke about the issue after their colleague, Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, a Missouri Democrat, penned a letter earlier this week to the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Emanuel AME Church shooting victims' families inspire a nation

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151226/PC16/151229606>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

It lasts 13 minutes and 25 seconds. The small courtroom is packed with families about to get their first glimpse of Dylann Roof, the young man accused of killing nine of their loved ones in hopes of starting a race war. They expect him to be the story here, two days after the June 17 massacre at Emanuel AME Church's Bible study in Charleston.

The State: State rarely sanctioned dam owners before historic flood crumbled structures

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article51704170.html>

Sammy Fretwell

South Carolina regulators who are charged with protecting the public from hazardous dams made just a dozen enforcement cases against dam owners in 21 years, records show. And during one decade-long stretch, state officials didn't take enforcement action against anyone for breaking dam safety laws.

Associated Press: Male victims of domestic violence reluctant to reveal abuse

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=vPB3mD5p

Jeffrey Collins

University of South Carolina professor Raja Fayad had a secret he kept from most of his family, colleagues and even the police until his death. He was a victim of domestic abuse. The abuse appeared to be mental and emotional until Feb. 5, when Sunghee Kwon pulled out a 9 mm pistol she bought for \$90 at a pawn shop and killed them both after a 10-minute closed door meeting in his office.

The State: With too few teachers, SC schools look overseas to fill classrooms

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article51720675.html>

Jamie Self

Mimi Dabajo recalls eating meals of rice and salt growing up in a poor family in the Philippines. She knew education was the "only ticket to being successful." Now, the 34-year-old science teacher finds herself half a world away from her home country, teaching high school biology to students in rural Lexington County.

Post and Courier: Century Aluminum chief Michael Bless fights for Berkeley plant jobs

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151227/PC16/151229596>

David Wren

Just days before Century Aluminum's Mount Holly smelter was due to shut down, probably for good, Michael Bless was still working to strike a deal that would save at least some of the 35-year-old plant's 600 jobs and nearly \$1 billion in annual economic impact.

Post and Courier: Charleston gets first new mayor in 40 years

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151227/PC16/151229597>

Brian Hicks

It's been 40 years since Charleston had a changing of the guard and that kept both Mayor Joe Riley and his successor, John Tecklenburg, in the spotlight most of the year. Riley spent 2015 putting the finishing touches on four decades that changed the city immeasurably. He goes out a nationally respected and beloved public figure with approval ratings still north of 80 percent.

Rock Hill Herald: Heroin use on the rise regionally

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/crime/article51696370.html>

Teddy Kulmala

Heroin, which Brown said was very popular in the late 1970s and early 1980s, has not only made a comeback but is at the center of a nationwide epidemic causing increased overdose deaths and sparking concern among law enforcement and health officials across the country.

Associated Press: Solar panels cutting jail's utility bills, how much unknown

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=H9r8wCJn

Officials say solar panels atop Charleston County's jail are still working four years after the manufacturer went out of business, but no one knows how much power they're producing. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports (<http://bit.ly/1NQEKDd>) the panels have been cutting the jail's utility bills since their 2011 installation, but how much they're saving taxpayers is questionable.

National News:

Associated Press: At least 11 died from in Texas storms that spawned tornadoes

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

David Warren

Tornadoes that swept through the Dallas area caused substantial damage and at least 11 people died either from the storm or related traffic accidents and dozens of people were injured. It's the latest of a succession of freakish winter-weather events across the country that could include heavy snow and massive flooding Sunday from north Texas through eastern Oklahoma, eastern Kansas, western Arkansas and parts of Missouri.

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