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To:
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Subject: Morning Clips – Thursday, December 31, 2015

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Kingstree News: Senators appeal to congress for relief for farmers

<http://www.kingstreenews.com/article/20151230/KTN01/151239972/1059/>

Michael Duke

On December 7, farmers traveled to South Carolina Statehouse to appeal to Governor Nikki Haley to ask congress for money to help them recover from an estimated \$376 million in crop damage due to October's historic flood. At the same time, in a letter to the governor, the Senate Special Committee appealed for help.

Note: In a December 1, press conference Haley said farmers have or should have insurance to cover their losses. She also sent a letter to South Carolina Congressional Delegation but noted in the letter that properly underinsured farmers should not lose their business because of the flood.

S.C. Political News:

Post and Courier: Trump responds to Hillary Clinton: 'Nobody respects women more than Donald Trump'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151230/PC1603/151239953>

Schuyler Kropf

Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump described the campaign as "war" as he defended bringing former President Bill Clinton's past into the 2016 race by saying Democratic rival Hillary Clinton had attacked him as the sexist one in the field.

Post and Courier: Jeb Bush defends decision to pull TV advertising from SC, Iowa during campaign stop in Lexington

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151230/PC1603/151239906>

Maya T. Prabhu

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush said his campaign's decision to pull large television and radio advertising purchases in South Carolina and Iowa provides an opportunity to put more staffers in early voting states.

Atlanta Journal Constitution: Trump in SC: 'If I don't win, I'll consider this a total and complete waste of time.'

<http://www.heraldonline.com/latest-news/article52309330.html#storylink=cpy>

Greg Bluestein

Donald Trump held his final campaign rally in 2015 the same way he staged his first of the year: a hodgepodge of boasts, bluster and brawn that delighted another huge crowd of supporters. If the front-runner's fans have made anything clear over the last year, it's that he's not going anywhere.

CNN: Jeb Bush nicknames pol 'Hurricane Katrina'

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/12/30/politics/jeb-bush-hurricane-katrina/>

Ashley Killough

Jeb Bush, in what was meant to be a light-hearted moment Wednesday, nicknamed a South Carolina elected official "Hurricane Katrina," a reference to a tragedy that killed nearly 2,000 people and is regarded as a low point in his brother's presidency.

Washington Post: Still struggling to rebound, Bush cancels ad buys in Iowa, South Carolina

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article52406985.html#storylink=cpy>

Ed O'Keefe

Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush is canceling reserved advertising time in Iowa and South Carolina, the latest reminder of his struggles to connect with voters – and a sign of possible fundraising troubles. Instead, Bush plans to redeploy roughly 50 staffers to the first four states holding contests next

year – Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada.

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: Marco Rubio to campaign across South Carolina Saturday

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151231/PC1603/151239902>

Maya T. Prabhu

U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio is scheduled to make three stops in South Carolina Saturday, making him the third Republican presidential candidate to visit the state this week. Rubio will start his day of South Carolina campaign stops at 11 a.m. at Mutt's BBQ Easley, 1020 Powdersville Road. For information or to register to attend, visit Eventbrite.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Peeler: Break up huge agency

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20151231/OPINION/151239967?p=2&tc=pg>

Harvey Peeler

Flu shots and dams ... oysters and septic tanks ... hospitals and landfills. What is the connection in all of these? The connection is DHEC — our Department of Health and Environmental Control. DHEC is larger than 76% of our towns in South Carolina. It is larger than Pickens, St. Matthews, Sullivans Island. Larger even than Pamplico where a new four-lane highway is being built to attract tourism. DHEC has 3500 employees — and a budget of \$600 million.

South Carolina News:

Florence Morning News: FEMA, SBA sets deadline for disaster relief in South Carolina

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_b811da08-af3f-11e5-acf1-b7f1b1b74f47.html

Jessica Imbimbo

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Small Business Association are offering financial assistance for those affected by the historic flooding in October. The deadline to apply for federal disaster relief is Jan. 4.

Associated Press: Church responds to lawsuit over donations after shooting

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=HNLt2NXI

Attorneys for the South Carolina church where nine parishioners were shot and killed in what police called a racially motivated attack have responded to a lawsuit seeking an accounting of millions of dollars in donations. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports (<http://bit.ly/1Ot8yW0>) that attorneys for Emanuel AME deny that the church hasn't been forthcoming with donation information.

The State: Barebones water-quality program in need of help, DHEC says

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article52400320.html>

Sammy Fretwell

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control is seeking nearly \$1 million next year to expand its water-quality monitoring program, which critics say has become so threadbare that regulators are having trouble determining how clean rivers and lakes really are.

Sun News: South Carolina granted extension on ID requirements at airports

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article52290515.html>

Audrey Hudson

South Carolina was granted an extension through October to meet federal rules on drivers licenses that will be required in the future for airline passengers to pass through security gates at airports nationwide.

Post and Courier: Costa Pleicones ascends to chief justice in final year on high court

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151231/PC1603/151229872>

Maya T. Prabhu

Costa Pleicones will reach the pinnacle of his professional ambitions on Jan. 1, when he ascends to chief justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court after serving 16 years as a justice on the state's highest court. But he'll only have a brief year in which to savor it.

Post and Courier: As attorney, judge, retiring Chief Justice Jean Toal broke barriers

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151231/PC1603/151239997>

Cynthia Roldan

Jean Toal has spent her life pushing back boundaries. A Columbia native, Toal became an attorney when less than 1 percent of the lawyers in the Palmetto State were women. And she tried cases when few women with law degrees actively practiced law.

Local News:

The State: Lake Murray dam to open spillway overnight

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article52365700.html>

Rachael Lowe

SCE&G announced Wednesday evening it is opening the spillway at its Saluda Hydro facility because of "significant upstream inflows into Lake Murray." This is only the second time since 1969 that floodgates will be opened at the Lake Murray dam. The other time was during the disastrous rainfalls of early October.

Associated Press: SC power company releasing water from Columbia-area dam

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Yj4142V6

Power company officials are releasing water from a swollen Columbia-area dam, saying downstream residents still rebuilding from historic October flooding should not worry. Local media outlets report South Carolina Electric & Gas Co. officials at 4 a.m. Thursday opened one spill gate from the Lake Murray Dam.

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