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Subject: Clips – Monday, January 16, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley, United Nations News:

Post and Courier: S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley prepares for confirmation hearing in tough political terrain
http://www.postandcourier.com/news/s-c-gov-nikki-haley-prepares-for-confirmation-hearing-in/article_8cd129d0-d93b-11e6-b402-b398d37e248c.html

Emma Dumain

Gov. Nikki Haley's confirmation to be U.S. ambassador to the United Nations was expected to be a mere formality for one of President-elect Donald Trump's least controversial Cabinet-level nominees. But in the past several days, the pressure has heightened for Haley to perform well under the bright lights of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's hearing room.

CBS News: Gingrich says Trump shouldn't have a "good relationship" with intel agencies right now
<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/newt-gingrich-says-donald-trump-shouldnt-have-good-relationship-with-intel-agencies/>

Emily Schultheis

As tensions remain high between President-elect Donald Trump and the intelligence community over Russian election interference, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich said Sunday that Mr. Trump shouldn't have a good relationship with the U.S. intelligence agencies right now.

Note: That means his foreign policy and national security Cabinet officials -- including secretary of state nominee Rex Tillerson, defense secretary nominee James Mattis and U.N. ambassador nominee Nikki Haley -- will have a "really large assignment."

Note: Gingrich said, adding that Tillerson, Mattis and Haley will be "the explainers who have to be able to go both ways -- that is, walk and say, 'Mr. President what you said yesterday was interpreted the following way.'"

Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley: From Bamberg to the United Nations
http://www.postandcourier.com/news/s-c-gov-nikki-haley-from-bamberg-to-the-united/article_1e11a492-d441-11e6-a71f-2b3c8a9c5103.html

Maya T. Prabhuy, Andrew Knittle

It's time for South Carolina to say goodbye to Gov. Nikki Haley. The Bamberg native will trade the Governor's Mansion for a residence in a New York hotel suite after she wins an expected Senate confirmation to become President Donald Trump's U.S. ambassador to the United Nations in as little as two weeks.

S.C. General Assembly News:

The State: SC lawmakers giddy to work with dealmaker McMaster
<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article126660609.html#storylink=cpy>

Avery G. Wilkes

After 14 years of combative Govs. Mark Sanford and Nikki Haley, S.C. lawmakers are ready for a dealmaker. They think they have one in soon-to-be Gov. Henry McMaster, a Ronald Reagan Republican, former U.S. attorney and state attorney general known for using his deep Southern drawl to build a consensus.

Note: Publicly, S.C. lawmakers offer mostly guarded assessments of Haley and their optimism about McMaster, who will ascend to the governor's office once Haley is confirmed as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations in a few weeks.

Greenville News: State Chamber wants sales tax on gas

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2017/01/13/state-chamber-wants-sales-tax-gas/96547720/>

Ron Barnett

The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce is urging lawmakers to do away with the sales tax exemption on gasoline and eliminate the sales tax cap on automobile purchases in order to generate money to fix the state's deteriorating roads. That's one of the three key thrusts of the Chamber's legislative agenda for this year, along with improved workforce development and streamlining of business licenses for small businesses.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley has insisted that any gas tax increase must be accompanied by a tax cut somewhere else. But with her imminent departure to become ambassador to the United Nations, she won't be a factor in the upcoming debate.

Note: Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster hasn't made his position known on the issue, but Pitts said the state's business community is "very comfortable" with McMaster becoming governor after Haley leaves.

The State: SC Senate GOP Caucus spent nearly \$315,000 in failed bid to flip 2 Midlands seats

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article126645864.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

The S.C. Senate GOP Caucus spent \$312,993 in a failed bid to flip two Midlands Senate seats from blue to red in November. Despite that spending blitz, Democrat Mia McLeod won the Nov. 8 general election for Richland County's District 22 Senate seat and Democrat Mike Fanning won the District 17 Senate seat, which includes Fairfield County.

Rock Hill Herald: Rock Hill mom hopes lawmakers 'move past stigma' to legalize marijuana for medical use

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article126545749.html#storylink=cpy>

Tracy Kimall

When the seizures hit, 14-year-old Isabel Jurado can't come out of them. Her parents and caregiver scramble to find the life-saving medications to end the life-threatening episodes which, each time they come, further weaken her body.

Associated Press: With two empty S.C. House seats, a look at past resignations

http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/with-two-empty-s-c-house-seats-a-look-at/article_6fbf6721-b872-5d7a-a68a-87a591cfa3b4.html

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina's legislative session begins with two empty House seats and the possibility of additional suspensions amid a prosecutor's continued investigation into Statehouse corruption. The cases of the two suspended House members are vastly different, but for residents of both districts, the result is an absent representative.

S.C. Political News:

The State: Poll: 5th District race open, but there is a leader

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article126488914.html#storylink=cpy>

Bristow Marchant

The early leader in a probable special election for South Carolina's 5th District congressional seat is a candidate who isn't even in the race, a poll says. State Rep. Tommy Pope, R-York, has a lead over three potential challengers for the seat now held by Mick Mulvaney, slated to join the Trump Administration as director of the Office of Management and Budget, according to the poll.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Greenville News: Rep. Trey Gowdy joins intelligence committee

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2017/01/13/rep-trey-gowdy-joins-intelligence-committee/96538074/>

Mary Orndorff Troyan

Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-Spartanburg, was named to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Friday, the first South Carolina member of Congress to be on the panel. "Protecting the safety and security of our fellow citizens is the preeminent function of government. When it comes to our national security, we cannot afford to take risks," Gowdy said in a prepared statement.

Post and Courier: Congressman wants to make it easier to buy gun noise suppressors

http://www.postandcourier.com/politics/palmetto-politics-congressman-wants-to-make-it-easier-to-buy/article_cf64ca68-d751-11e6-88bc-3baccfe98f63.html

Schuyler Kropf, Caitlin Byrd, Andrew Knittle, Andy Shain

U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan, R-S.C., introduced legislation this week to make it easier for the shooting public to buy gun noise suppressors. And he ended up having to defend himself against critics on Twitter.

Tim Scott nails it on social media: U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, the only black Republican senator, shut down a racist tweet Wednesday with a pithy one-word response.

Templeton files campaign alert: Mount Pleasant Republican Catherine Templeton has put off announcing her 2018 governor's race intentions until spring but she has opened an account with the state.

Gov. Haley's Clemson Flag: The pro-Confederate flag S.C. Secessionist Party again showed its displeasure at Gov. Nikki Haley ordering an unauthorized flag be flown from the Statehouse Dome.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Island Packet: Ports Authority needs accountability

<http://www.islandpacket.com/opinion/editorials/article126696899.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

For more than a decade, the State Ports Authority has been a disinterested landlord of one of the finest slices of land in Beaufort County. As a result, the 317-acre waterfront tract primed for development in the town of Port Royal has remained the ugly, fenced-off site of a shuttered port.

South Carolina News:

WIS: Midlands residents rally to protest repeal of the ACA

<http://www.wistv.com/story/34264248/midlands-residents-rally-to-protest-repeal-of-the-aca>

Warren Stocker

Dozens of rallies happened throughout the nation on Sunday as part of a nationwide protest of the repeal of the Affordable Care Act - including one that took place in front of the Governors Mansion here in Columbia. The campaign called the "Day of Action" was spearheaded by Democratic members of Congress such as Senator Bernie Sanders, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer, and House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi.

The State: Former school officer will not be charged, sues sheriff, school district

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article126379009.html#storylink=cpy>

Cynthia Roldan

Federal authorities announced Friday they don't have enough evidence to charge a former Spring Valley High School resource officer with criminal civil rights violations. Former school resource officer, Deputy Ben Fields, made national headlines in 2015 when a student recorded him on video flinging another student across the room while attempting to arrest her.

WIS: Ex-deputy cleared of wrongdoing in slamming student files lawsuit against Lott, others

<http://www.wistv.com/story/34255582/ex-deputy-cleared-of-wrongdoing-in-slamming-student-files-lawsuit-against-lott-others>

Hours after federal prosecutors say they would not be charging a former deputy recorded tossing a Spring Valley High School student across a classroom, that deputy has filed a lawsuit against several entities. Former Richland County Sheriff's Department Deputy Ben Fields has filed a defamation suit against the sheriff's department, Sheriff Leon Lott, and Richland School District 2.

Post and Courier: Dylann Roof's path to execution could be long, complicated journey

http://www.postandcourier.com/church_shooting/dylann-roof-s-path-to-execution-could-be-long-complicated/article_422030f0-d8fc-11e6-8592-cb964cec0199.html

Glenn Smith, Jennifer Berry Hawes

Dylann Roof is on a path to execution for killing nine people inside Charleston's Emanuel AME Church, but his journey to the death chamber is anything but certain as his case begins a potentially long slog through the federal appeals process. The community let out a collective exhale last week at the conclusion of Roof's emotional hate crimes trial. But complex legal challenges and a shortage of lethal drugs used in executions could slow or derail Roof's date with a lethal injection.

Local News:

Rock Hill Herald: 'Save our health care' residents chime during Rock Hill walk protesting Obamacare repeal

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article126734879.html#storylink=cpy>

Amanda Harris

Without the Affordable Care Act, commonly referred to as Obamacare, Fort Mill resident Amy Hilton Schuler said her uncle could die. Schuler, 43, said she and her uncle have type 1 diabetes and rely on insulin treatments. She said that without the ACA, her uncle, who has many other health problems related to diabetes, won't be able to get the treatments he needs.

Sun News: Looking for work? Myrtle Beach center seeking 200 employees

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article126715709.html#storylink=cpy>

STARTEK recently announced that it is seeking to hire 200 full-time and temporary employees at its Myrtle Beach call center at a job fair on Saturday. The job fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Barefoot Resort Conference Center, 2250 Premier Resort Blvd.

Island Packet: Flu cases on the rise locally, though not yet at rates elsewhere in SC

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/article126719034.html#storylink=cpy>

Jeff Shain

Lowcountry hospitals are seeing a slight upswing in flu cases since the holidays, though perhaps not at the rate that has made it a concern in other parts of South Carolina. Beaufort Memorial Hospital reported 26 influenza cases in the first week of January, the second consecutive week the number has topped two dozen.