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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Tuesday, January 12, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

CBS News: Behind the decision to tap Nikki Haley for State of the Union rebuttal

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/state-of-the-union-address-president-obama-governor-nikki-haley-rebuttal/>
President Obama is preparing to lay out his priorities for the country in Tuesday night's State of the Union address, and so is one other person who will be answering him. While the president is technically the man of the night, the Republican party also gets a voice in rebuttal - a tradition that dates back to then House Minority Leader Gerald Ford in 1966, who went on to become president.

Note: "I always go back to that five -year-old Indian girl that lived in Bamberg that just wondered what was out there. And to be able to think that I will now have the ability to address the country is very humbling, but it's really an honor," Haley said.

Business Insider: Meet the rising GOP star responding to Obama's final State of the Union address

<http://www.businessinsider.com/nikki-haley-sotu-response-2016-1>

Allan Smith

When South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley (R) gives the response to President Barack Obama's State of the Union Address on Tuesday, she'll be doing so as a popular, young, rising female star in the Republican Party with potentially loftier goals. Her signature moment was her decision to remove the Confederate battle flag from the South Carolina state-capitol grounds after Dylann Roof allegedly killed nine black Charleston churchgoers in June.

CNN: State of the Union: Barack Obama to sell optimism to nervous nation

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/01/12/politics/state-of-the-union-2016-highlights/>

Stephen Collinson

President Barack Obama will stand before Americans to update them on the State of the Union for the last time on Tuesday, and is promising an upbeat assessment of how far the nation has come since the crisis-shrouded first days of his administration.

Note: The GOP will highlight one of its rising stars, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who is often touted as a possible vice presidential nominee, in their official televised response to the president's address.

Associated Press: Obama's State of the Union address seeks to frame race

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160112/AIK0106/160119878>

Julie Pace

President Barack Obama's final State of the Union address will unmistakably attempt to frame the choice facing Americans as they select his successor, doling out an optimistic vision of the country's future in contrast with what he sees as the pessimism that's pervasive in the Republican primary.

Note: Republicans selected South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley to give the opposing party's rebuttal. In another reminder of the fast-approaching election, Haley is seen as a potential running mate for the eventual GOP nominee.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Associated Press: Legislators pledge to respond to education court order

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1iDCxuEg

Seanna Adcox

Legislators start the 2016 session facing a June deadline for developing a plan to improve South Carolina's public schools so that more students have a chance for success. Legislative leaders pledge to respond to the state Supreme Court's November 2014 ruling that poor, rural students lack educational opportunities.

Associated Press: SC Senate remembers another colleague who died in office

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

South Carolina senators have started their 2016 session remembering another colleague who died in office. Several senators gave speeches Tuesday remembering Billy O'Dell. The Republican from Greenwood died of heart problems at his home Thursday. O'Dell desk was draped in black Tuesday, just as the Senate did for Clementa Pinckney, the Democrat from Jasper County who was shot and killed with eight others during a Bible study at a Charleston church in June.

Post and Courier: 'Trump not Welcome' resolution filed in S.C. Statehouse

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160112/PC1603/160119791>

Maya T. Prabhu

A York County Democrat says Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is not welcome in South Carolina. In a resolution filed Tuesday, Rep. John King, D-Rock Hill, said that Democrats and Republicans alike believe Trump is an embarrassment to the country's political process.

Associated Press: 2016 legislative session kicks with 2 new members

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=hrJTV2Sj

South Carolina's 2016 legislative session kicks off with a new member in each chamber. The House and Senate gavelled in the January-to-June session at noon Tuesday. Republican Rep. Russell Fry of Surfside Beach was sworn in as the newest House member.

S.C. Political News:

Greenville News: TV ads part of Cruz's latest SC push

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/01/12/tv-ads-part-cruz-latest-sc-push/78685198/>

Rudolph Bell

Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz will have air support as he marches through South Carolina over the next few days. His campaign's first television ads in the Palmetto State were scheduled to begin today, said spokeswoman Catherine Frazier. "This is the stage of the campaign where we're working to get our message out across all fronts," she said.

Greenville News: Paul says he will skip N. Charleston debate after not making main stage

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/01/12/paul-says-he-skip-n-charleston-debate-after-not-making-main-stage/78657152/>

Amanda Coyne

Sen. Rand Paul and businesswoman Carly Fiorina have been named participants in the "undercard" portion of Fox Business Network's Republican presidential debate in North Charleston on Thursday. Paul told CNN Monday evening that he would skip the debate in protest.

Post and Courier: Republicans holding local rallies ahead of Thursday debate

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160112/PC1603/160119781>

Schuyler Kropf

Some of the Republican presidential candidates are holding rallies around Charleston ahead of Thursday's debate on the Fox Business Network. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio on Wednesday will meet with supporters at 12 noon at the Water Dog Grill, 1035 Johnnie Dodds Blvd., Mount Pleasant.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Washington Post: What Nikki Haley can do tonight

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/right-turn/wp/2016/01/12/what-nikki-haley-can-do-tonight/>

Jennifer Rubin

This might be the rare State of the Union address in which there is more genuine interest in the respondent than the president. Let's face it, President Obama will be gone from office in a year. In the meantime most of his agenda will largely be blocked by the courts (e.g. executive orders on immigration) or Congress (on tax hikes).

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: S.C. drivers can still use licenses as airport ID for now

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/01/11/sc-drivers-can-still-use-licenses-airport-id-now/78501942/>

Nathaniel Cary

South Carolinians will still be able to use driver's licenses as identification to fly out of airports in South Carolina and to gain entrance into federal buildings and military bases for now, but that could change if the state doesn't enhance its driver's license security enough to please the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

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