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To:
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Subject: Morning Clips – Monday, January 25, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley got a call from an appreciative George H.W. Bush after State of the Union response

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160124/PC1603/160129635>

Schuyler Kropf

Gov. Nikki Haley spokewith former President George H.W. Bush and former first lady Barbara Bush in the days after she delivered the national Republican response to President Barack Obama's State of the Union.

Note: The conversation, however, reportedly didn't veer toward "V-P" talk, Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams said of the cordial call. "President and Mrs. Bush called to tell the governor they appreciated her speech and they ended up talking about the family's South Carolina roots, and their shared love of our state," Adams said.

Thurmond seat's money race: In the months since Republican state Sen. Paul Thurmond of James Island announced he wouldn't seek re-election this year, about a dozen people have come forward to say they're interested in succeeding him.

No word on a Cruz Charleston base TV ad: Republican presidential hopeful Ted Cruz specifically targets the Columbia/Fort Jackson media market in a South Carolina primary television ad that issues a warning to the military community about defense cuts.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Senate roads 'working group' frustrates legislators

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160122/PC1603/160129726>

Cynthia Roldan

A state Senate working group that is expected to propose a new plan for fixing South Carolina roads is also highlighting just how much the issue has divided lawmakers. When the session started two weeks ago, a group of eight lawmakers gathered as a "working group," at the suggestion of Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence.

S.C. Political News:

The State: Polls: Trump, Clinton remain the leaders in SC

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article56358605.html>

Andrew Shain

Trump leads U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas by 40 percent to 21 percent, according to the poll from CBS News/YouGov. The New York billionaire has gained 2 percentage points since the last CBS News poll in mid-December, while Cruz has lost 2 percentage points.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

The State: Beach nourishment adds value to SC coast

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/op-ed/article56159175.html>

Tim Kana

Gov. Nikki Haley's proposed budget includes \$40 million for beach nourishment in recognition of the importance of South Carolina's beaches to our tourism economy. Many will oppose this, while a certain constituency cannot wait for more sand to be placed on such beaches as Edisto, Hunting Island and Pawleys Island.

Rock Hill Herald: Certificate of need process needs reform

<http://www.heraldonline.com/opinion/editorials/article56420000.html>

Editorial

With the need to fix state roads and reduce the inequity in public education, the Legislature may have too much on its agenda to get around to streamlining the certificate of need program. But, as the endless dispute over who gets to build a hospital in Fort Mill indicates, the program needs to be overhauled.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley, who supports getting rid of CON, had requested the opinions from the federal agencies.

Post and Courier: Keep 17-year-olds in school

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160125/PC1002/160129687>

Editorial

Some of the 17-year-old students who drop out of school have academic, health or family problems. Some of them have jobs, car payments and children. They see little advantage to being in school. But school is just where they need to be if they hope to cope with problems, get better jobs, pay their bills and care for their children.

Times and Democrat: Gov. Haley not to blame for hospital loss

http://thetandd.com/gov-haley-not-to-blame-for-hospital-loss/article_124252df-ea20-585d-a18b-98e4b097540b.html

Editorial

No wonder Gov. Nikki Haley had a simple and general response to civil rights activist Jesse Jackson blaming her policies for closure of Bamberg County Memorial Hospital in 2012. More to the point: Jackson gets high marks for theater in using the backdrop of the hospital where Haley was born to criticize her policy in rejecting Medicaid expansion. But he is wrong about Haley and the policy being to blame for closure of the Bamberg facility.

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: State ranks near bottom in substance abuse spending

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/01/24/state-ranks-near-bottom-substance-abuse-spending/77835906/>

Anna Lee

The calls came 95 times last year. In each, a Greenville County coroner was summoned to a hospital, home or hotel room after someone was found dead of a drug overdose. Roughly half of the 95 overdoses in 2015 involved either heroin or fentanyl, an opioid about 50 times more powerful than morphine.

Post and Courier: New Emanuel AME pastor in sermon about hope: 'Our best days are in front of us'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160124/PC16/160129632>

Melissa Boughton

The Rev. Dr. Betty Deas Clark was trembling and scared Sunday morning as she stood in the pulpit at Emanuel AME Church. She'd had less than 24 hours to prepare the first sermon she would deliver to her new congregation. She wrote from the heart but agonized over every word – praying she would be able to minister to the needs of people she had yet to get to know.

Post and Courier: Carolina's first governors get some love with new plaque

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160125/PC16/160129798>

Robert Behre

The old Charleston County Courthouse has a new plaque, one remembering the first Englishmen to rule here. It bears the names of the dozen men who served as proprietary governors between the colony's founding in 1670 and the dawn of the 18th century.

The State: Winnsboro Wal-Mart closing is a rarity, but still sparks shock, outrage

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article56269905.html#storylink=cpy>

Roddie Burris

For nearly 18 years, Wal-Mart has been the grocer, pharmacist, hardware store and one-stop shopping center of choice for many in this Fairfield County town and nearby communities. But just more than a week ago, the international retail giant announced plans to close the Wal-Mart Supercenter on the U.S. 321 Bypass along with 268 other stores nationwide.

Local News:

Rock Hill Herald: Catawba Indian Assistant Chief Wayne George dies

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article56124265.html>

Andrew Dys

Wayne George, assistant chief for the Catawba Indian Nation, has died. George, 67, was assistant chief since 2011. He was re-elected in 2015 and served with other American Indian organizations. George also worked among tribal leaders in the 1990s and early 2000s.

National News:

Associated Press: Kerry dismisses posturing ahead of peace talks on Syria

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AS_UNITED_STATES_SYRIA?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2016-01-25-02-06-39

Matthew Lee

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Monday dismissed Syrian government claims and opposition complaints as posturing ahead of U.N.-led peace talks that are supposed to begin this week. Kerry, in Laos after discussing the negotiations with officials in Switzerland and Saudi Arabia last week, said he expected there would be clarity about when the talks would start within the next 72 hours.

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