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To:
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Subject: Morning Clips – Monday, February 8, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Aiken Standard: A review of the Savannah River Site MOX project before Obama's budget rollout
<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160207/AIK0101/160209526/a-review-of-the-savannah-river-site-mox-project-before-obama-x2019-s-budget-rollout>

Derrek Asberry

This week will be a major one for the Savannah River Site's MOX project as President Barack Obama's budget proposal is expected to read one of two things: continue funding MOX or move forward with the downblending approach. Rather than using the SRS Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility to transform plutonium into nuclear fuel, downblending would dilute the plutonium and dispose of it at a repository.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley threatened to sue DOE in a Dec. 14 letter and made good on that threat last month when she asked Attorney General Alan Wilson to move forward with a lawsuit. In addition to Haley's efforts, Wilson also threatened to sue in September.

Associated Press: Recent State Laws on Domestic Abuse, Gun Rights

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/recent-state-laws-domestic-abuse-gun-rights-36756025>

Specifics of the state laws passed during the last two years that are intended to make it harder for people convicted or suspected of domestic violence to access firearms:

SOUTH CAROLINA: Republican Gov. Nikki Haley signed a law in 2015 that prohibits those convicted of domestic violence from possessing firearms and ammunition, for several years or for life depending on the severity of the crime. The law also bans firearm rights for some individuals who are subject to domestic violence protection orders.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Upstate lawmaker pushing bill allowing nonviolent offenders to attend family funerals
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160207/PC1603/160209622>

Maya T. Prabhu

An Upstate lawmaker wants to allow nonviolent inmates to attend loved ones' funerals, but corrections officials say they don't have the resources to do it safely. Sen. Karl Allen, D-Greenville, said he believes letting offenders who are not deemed a security risk pay final respects is the humane thing to do.

Post and Courier: Law would add up to three years to inmate's sentence if guilty of indecent exposure
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160207/PC1603/160209627>

Maya T. Prabhu

Inmates in the state's prisons sometimes expose themselves to the guards as a way of invoking fear or intimidation. And if new legislation is approved, that act could cost the offender an additional three years behind bars. Sen. Greg Hembree, R-Myrtle Beach, sponsored a bill calling for the new penalties at the request of a S.C. Department of Corrections victims' group to give the prisons another option to try to curb the number of those incidents.

Post and Courier: Dorchester 2 single-member district bill advances to Senate

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160208/PC16/160209583>

Paul Bowers

A state House bill to divide up school board seats according to geographic areas in Dorchester County School District 2 has advanced to the Senate, despite opposition from the board itself. The school board in Dorchester 2 is elected at large, meaning that every member represents the entire district.

S.C. Political News:

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: Marco Rubio schedules eight post-New Hampshire stops in South Carolina this week

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160208/PC1603/160209442>

Maya T. Prabhu

Last week's third-place Iowa Republican caucus finisher Sen. Marco Rubio has scheduled eight campaign stops on South Carolina starting Wednesday, the day after the New Hampshire primary. The U.S. senator from Florida's performance in Iowa was considered by many pundits to give him momentum going into the next few weeks.

Greenville News: Rubio to make multiple stops in the Upstate next week

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/02/06/rubio-make-multiple-stops-upstate-next-week/79948448/>

Rudolph Bell

A debate watch party in downtown Greenville Saturday night for supporters of Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio served as a precursor for a 10-stop swing through South Carolina next week by the Florida senator. In the Upstate, Rubio will campaign in Spartanburg, Simpsonville, Greenville and Easley, his campaign announced Saturday.

The State: Military rhetoric overshadowing real defense issues

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article59048023.html>

Jeff Wilkinson

Talk by presidential candidates about keeping the nation's military strong and defeating the self-described Islamic State has been bluster aimed at swaying early primary voters rather than views for a rational path to a safer nation, retired military leaders in South Carolina say.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Sun News: Make ethics the number one issue in legislative elections this year

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article59096838.html>

Chip Brown

Anytime this issue comes up, legislative defenses rise, and legislators attempt to carve out for themselves niches which protect their status quo. From financial disclosure, to legislators' relationships with donors, to the allocation of state contracts and other public business, the public interest must be paramount, even to the point where serving legislators must forgo those associations and business contacts in which they would otherwise be free to engage were they private citizens.

Aiken Standard: The tea leaves: Feds will look to shut down Savannah River Site MOX project

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160208/AIK0201/160209674/1018/AIK02>

Editorial

There's no need to wait for President Barack Obama's budget rollout. Look over the past several months and the tea leaves all point to one conclusion: The federal government will shamefully attempt to shut down the Savannah River Site's MOX project.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Almost 600 in SC getting GED after passing score lowered

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=LcFc0InS

Almost 600 South Carolinians will get their high school diplomas without having to again take the GED test. The South Carolina Education Department has announced that the GED Testing Service has lowered the passing score for the General Educational Development Tests from 150 to 145.

The State: Gun Sense SC aims to recruit in Columbia

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article59027223.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

Midlands residents tried to find common ground between gun owners and those proposing stricter background checks at a Gun Sense SC meeting Sunday. The nonprofit launched in Charleston in the wake of the June shootings that left nine people dead at the historic Emanuel AME Church. Organizers say the group has one goal – change state law so that every retail gun sale requires a background check.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Charleston's S.C. Aquarium launches tourism partnership program

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160207/PC05/160209623>

Allison Prang

About a dozen local tourist ventures are referring business back and forth under a new marketing partnership. "It's a sales tool," said Rou de Haas, senior group sales manager at the South Carolina Aquarium in downtown Charleston. "More importantly, it's an upselling tool."

Associated Press: Civil rights activist keynoting Orangeburg Massacre event

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=lgYUZS0n

Civil rights activist the Rev. Joseph Darby is the keynote speaker at a South Carolina State University observance of the Orangeburg Massacre. Monday is the anniversary of the 1968 incident in which state troopers opened fire, killing three students during a protest of a segregated bowling alley.

Associated Press: Suspect back in custody after escaping from hospital

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=GC3IVXEt

Authorities say a handcuffed 17-year-old boy wanted on two counts of attempted murder has been recaptured after escaping from outside of a Columbia hospital. The State newspaper (<http://bit.ly/1nXtUWp>) reports that the juvenile was found Sunday afternoon in Columbia. He was still in the handcuffs he was wearing before he escaped Saturday afternoon from Palmetto Health Richland.

Sun News: Myrtle Beach police lay out Bikefest plans at meeting for area businesses

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article58727148.html#storylink=cpy>

Elizabeth Townsend

Myrtle Beach Police Department officials invited businesses to work with them by spreading information to their employees and neighbors at a Memorial Day Bikefest meeting Friday morning at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center.

National News:

Associated Press: Cruz seeks to appeal to supporters on fringe of GOP

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

Scott Bauer, Steve Peoples

Some politicians run from polarizing endorsements. Ted Cruz seeks them out. The Texas senator's strength in the 2016 Republican presidential primary is drawn, at least in part, from the backing of high-profile figures from his party's far-right fringe.

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