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To:
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Subject: Clips – Saturday, January 2, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: New law may enable charities to help more flood victims
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=uUzls4zF
Seanna Adcox

A new law written to assist Habitat for Humanity's home-building mission may be a boon in South Carolina's post-flood rebuilding efforts. The law that took effect New Year's Day allows charities that build or renovate homes for needy families to buy those construction materials free of sales tax. When they passed the exemption overwhelmingly in June, legislators could not have foreseen the benefit to a state ravaged by historic flooding months later.

Note: The One SC relief fund, which Gov. Nikki Haley launched in November, awarded \$500,000 to 13 charities in its initial round of grants announced Dec. 21, with each receiving between \$25,000 and \$150,000.

Wall Street Journal: Defenders of Confederate Symbols Mount a Counterattack
After a year in which flags came down across the South, opposition to the changes is growing
<http://www.wsj.com/articles/defenders-of-confederate-symbols-mount-a-counterattack-1451695705>
Cameron McWhirter

Not since at least the civil-rights movement have Americans challenged the South's Confederate symbols as fervently as they did in 2015. The June massacre of nine black churchgoers in Charleston, S.C., by a believed white supremacist "opened the floodgates," said John W. Adams, spokesman for the Florida Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Note: In June, South Carolina's Republican Gov. Nikki Haley, flanked by other political leaders in her state, called for removal of a Confederate battle flag flying in front of the state Capitol. "A hundred and fifty years after the end of the Civil War the time has come," she said to loud applause. The flag came down July 10.

S.C. Political News:

The State: Jeb Bush hopes to stage a comeback in SC
<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article52661635.html>
Jamie Self

Forty-five minutes late, Jeb Bush hurried onto the porch of a crowded barbecue restaurant where more than 100 people waited for the Republican presidential hopeful earlier this week. The former Florida governor – hoping to revive his struggling campaign and become the third Bush elected president – launched into a stump speech before taking questions at Hudson's Smokehouse, a favorite stop for GOP candidates.

Associated Press: Rubio kicking off new year with South Carolina stops
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=hwCvqXqK
Republican presidential hopeful Marco Rubio is starting the new year with several stops in South Carolina. The Florida senator is traveling Saturday to Pickens County, where he's holding a meet-and-greet at Mutt's BBQ Easley. Then he heads to Beaufort, where he will meet with voters at the visual and performing arts center at Hilton Head High School.

S.C. General Assembly News:

The State: SC Democrat fights abortion ban with proposal to limit Viagra
<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article52671320.html>
Cassie Cope

A Democratic lawmaker from Richland County acknowledges her proposal to make it more difficult to get

medication to treat erectile dysfunction likely will go nowhere. But state Rep. Mia McLeod says she wants to send a message to the GOP-controlled General Assembly about legislating about the bodies of South Carolinians.

Note: Once a deal is reached, lawmakers will vote again on the bill. If approved, the ban would head to Republican Gov. Nikki Haley's desk for her signature to become law.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Aiken Standard: The time to pay the piper arrives for DOE

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20151231/AIK0201/151239860/1018/AIK02>

Editorial

Today is the day. As of now, the U.S. Department of Energy owes the State of South Carolina \$1 million a day for not keeping promises made when the Savannah River Site became the de facto plutonium storage repository for the nation more than a decade ago.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley put the U.S. Department of Energy on notice last month when she demanded that promises made on the disposition of plutonium at the SRS must be kept – and that the time has come to pay the agreed price for not doing so.

Post and Courier: Look who's spying on Congress

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160102/PC1002/160109864>

Editorial

Despite complex rules meant to prevent it, the White House got access to foreign intelligence wiretaps of conversations between Israeli officials including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. legislators in the months before President Obama sent his nuclear agreement to Congress last summer.

Post and Courier: Justice Toal's unparalleled career

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160102/PC1002/160109863>

Editorial

S.C. Supreme Court Justice Jean Toal has accomplished a lot more than just being the first — the first woman to chair a standing committee of the S.C. House of Representatives, the first woman, and first Roman Catholic, on the S.C. Supreme Court and then the first female chief justice.

South Carolina News:

The State: More than \$1.2 million awarded in flood-related unemployment pay in South Carolina

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article52671740.html#storylink=cpy>

Avery G. Wilks

South Carolina residents received more than \$1.2 million in unemployment benefits related to the Oct. 4 flood. But less than 35 percent of the thousands of residents who applied for those benefits received payment, according to the state Department of Employment and Workforce.

The State: SCE&G begins closing Lake Murray floodgate

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article52625935.html>

John Monk

SCE&G began slowly closing the spill gate at the Saluda Hydro facility Saturday morning thanks to slowing inflows to Lake Murray overnight. SCE&G opened a spill gate Friday for the second time in several days, sending 18,000 cubic feet of water every second rushing down the Saluda River from Lake Murray.

Sun News: Completion of S.C. 707 construction delayed until 2018

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article52537315.html>

Audrey Hudson

The widening of S.C. 707 was hampered by historical amounts of rain in October plus an annoying cycle of spring downpours that will delay the final opening date of the new five-lane highway until 2018. "As soon as we dried out, it rained again," said Kimwood Partenheimer, senior project manager for Parsons Brinckerhoff, the engineering firm in charge of the project.

Local News:

Florence Morning News: Florence mayor strives for extended growth, taxpayer savings in 2016

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_8324d8e0-b0de-11e5-b11a-1ff3842e147e.html

Joshua Lloyd

Florence Mayor Stephen J. Wukela recently spoke with the Morning News about the city's progress in 2015 as well as what can be expected in 2016.

Associated Press: Stats: Horry had most traffic fatalities of any SC county

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=jYE5pQND

Statistics from the South Carolina Department of Public Safety show not only that Horry County had the most traffic fatalities of any county in the state in 2015 but also that fatalities increased almost 25 percent from the year before. The Sun-News of Myrtle Beach reports (<http://bit.ly/1R2lrwW>) that as of Dec. 28, 77 people had died in traffic-related incidents in Horry County in 2015, compared to 58 in 2014.

Rock Hill Herald: 10 QUESTIONS FOR 2016: What local issues will we be talking about in 2016?

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article52603020.html#storylink=cpy>

Voters, elected officials and business leaders across York, Chester and Lancaster counties – and throughout South Carolina – will have plenty of issues to debate and, we hope, act on over the next 12 months. Here are 10 questions you should be reading a lot about in 2016:

National News:

Associated Press: New laws in 2016 show states are diverging on guns, voting

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/nation-world/national/article52692910.html>

Geoff Mulvihill

Laws taking effect at the start of the new year show states diverging on some hot-button issues. Restrictions on carrying guns eased in Texas, for example, but got tighter in California. It is easier to register to vote in Oregon, but there is another step to take at the polls in North Carolina.

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