

**From:** Symmes, Brian  
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**Subject:** Afternoon Clips - Monday, December 16, 2013

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## Afternoon Clips – Monday, December 16, 2013

### Governor Nikki Haley News:

**Florence Morning News:** STARTEK Inc. selects Horry County for customer support center  
[http://www.scnw.com/news/business/article\\_4c37ad0c-6663-11e3-97d3-001a4bcf6878.html](http://www.scnw.com/news/business/article_4c37ad0c-6663-11e3-97d3-001a4bcf6878.html)  
STARTEK Inc., a global provider of business process outsourcing services, today announced plans to locate a new customer support center in the Myrtle Beach area. The company's investment of \$10 million is expected to create as many as 665 new jobs over a five-year period and result in an annual economic impact exceeding \$45 million, according to studies by economists at Coastal Carolina University.  
**Note:** "The best resource we have here in South Carolina is our people, which is why we excel in delivering quality customer service," said Gov. Nikki Haley. "Today we celebrate STARTEK's decision to invest \$10 million and create more than 600 new jobs along the Grand Strand."

**Greenville News:** Chinese textile firm picks S.C.; expected to hire 500 in 5 years  
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131216/BUSINESS/312160064/Chinese-textile-firm-picks-S-C-expected-hire-500-5-years>  
Chinese textile company Keer Group has selected Lancaster County for its first facility outside of China, Gov. Nikki Haley's office announced today. The company's \$218 million investment is expected to create 501 jobs within five years, Haley's office said. Keer will construct and operate a 230,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in Indian Land, located in Lancaster County.  
**Note:** "Keer's commitment to our state is a strong testament to South Carolina's pro-business environment and capable and ready workforce," Haley said. "We welcome Keer to South Carolina and celebrate their \$218 million investment that will create 501 jobs in Lancaster County."

**Rock Hill Herald:** Chinese executive says he's bringing yarn factory, 500 jobs to Lancaster County  
<http://www.heraldonline.com/2013/12/16/5509231/chinese-executive-says-hes-bringing.html#storylink=cpy>  
Eric Frazier  
The head of a Chinese textile company says he is bringing a new yarn factory and 500 jobs to Indian Land, S.C., part of what local officials call a growing trend of Chinese firms setting up shop in the Charlotte region. Shang Qing Zhu, chairman of the Keer Group, a manufacturing company about two hours from Shanghai, told the Observer in a telephone interview that he is pleased to be bringing his company to the area.  
**Note:** South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley joined Lancaster County officials in trumpeting the announcement as one of the largest in the county's history.

**Associated Press:** Court: Occupy can sue Governor Haley over arrests  
[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4w5gv9hX](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4w5gv9hX)  
Meg Kinnard  
Gov. Nikki Haley isn't immune from being sued by Occupy Columbia protesters who were kicked off the Statehouse grounds in 2011, a federal appeals court ruled Monday. The Republican governor could theoretically appeal the decision by the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to the U.S. Supreme Court. Her attorneys did not immediately return a message. The ruling was the latest step in a civil dispute that has been ongoing since Occupy Columbia launched its protest at the Statehouse grounds Oct. 15, 2011, part of a nationwide series of demonstrations against economic inequality.

**The State:** Court: Gov. Nikki Haley, state officials can be sued for Occupy arrests  
<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/16/3162528/court-gov-nikki-haley-state-officials.html#storylink=cpy>  
Andrew Shain  
Gov. Nikki Haley and state law enforcement agencies can be sued by Occupy Columbia protestors arrested in 2011 after living for a month on the S.C. State House grounds, a federal appellate court ruled Monday. Haley and other state officials are looking for protection from civil legal penalties for carrying out their duties.

But the state violated the First Amendment rights of 19 protestors arrested after a letter from the governor called for their removal by 6 p.m. Nov. 16, 2011, the ruling from the Fourth Circuit of Appeals said.

**Greenville News:** Democratic chair says Haley bungled service rollout

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131216/NEWS03/312160054/Democratic-chair-says-Haley-bungled-service-rollout>

Rudolph Bell

South Carolina's top Democrat said in Greenville today that he suspects a lot of residents haven't signed up for the state's latest identity-theft protection because Gov. Nikki Haley bungled the transition to a new service provider. Haley spokesman Rob Godfrey was contacted and is working on a response. Jaime Harrison, chairman of the South Carolina Democratic Party, made the comment while presenting a "report card" that gave Haley grades of F-, F or D- on 11 matters, including last year's computer hacking at the state Department of Revenue.

### **2014 Campaign Cycle News:**

**The State:** S.C. Democrats give Gov. Nikki Haley a failing grade

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/16/3162519/election-2014-sc-democrats-give.html>

Adam Beam

The S.C. Democratic Party will release its "report card" of Republican Gov. Nikki Haley today -- and the grades are not good. Democrats gave Haley mostly failing grades, even a few F- grades (not sure how you can do worse than fail, but the Democrats say Haley did.) S.C. Democratic Party chairman Jaime Harrison is in the Upstate today to hold a news conference on the report card. The grades themselves are not news -- everyone knows Democrats are not fans of South Carolina's Republican governor. But heading into the 2014 election, it gives a glimpse of how Democrats plan to attack Haley.

### **S.C. Federal Delegation News:**

**Associated Press:** Rice proposes lawsuit against Obama

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=YqGq5GPN](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=YqGq5GPN)

U.S. Rep. Tom Rice is proposing that the House of Representatives sue the Obama administration for overstepping the powers of the executive branch. Rice introduced the resolution late last week. His website on Monday said the resolution, entitled "Stop This Overreaching Presidency," now has 30 co-sponsors. The lawsuit says the administration has frequently overstepped the limits placed on the executive branch by the Constitution.

### **South Carolina News:**

**The State:** S.C. tax and fee collections increased by 10 percent in November

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/16/3162370/state-house-sc-tax-and-fee-collections.html#storylink=cpy>

Adam Beam

S.C. officials collected \$573.6 million in taxes and fees in November, a 10 percent jump from November 2012. Of the big three sources of tax dollars -- sales, individual income and corporate income -- corporate taxes increased by \$15 million, a 260 percent jump from one year ago. Sales tax collections were up 7.2 percent, or \$13.6 million. Meanwhile individual income tax collections fell slightly to \$305.2 million, a 0.7 percent decrease. So far for the fiscal year that begins July 1, South Carolina's tax and fee collections are up 3.7 percent compared to the same time period one year ago.

**Associated Press:** Cargo volumes at SC ports up again in November

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=n6MwINyh](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=n6MwINyh)

The amount of cargo shipped through South Carolina's ports increased again last month. The South Carolina Ports Authority board learned Monday that container volume through the Port of Charleston was up more than 6 percent last month compared with November of 2012. Exports have been leading the increase. Through November, export container volume is up more than 12 percent over 2012 and is up almost 8 percent for the fiscal year that started July 1.

**Post and Courier:** New area code for South Carolina revealed

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131216/PC16/131219549/1177/new-area-code-for-south-carolina-revealed>

David Slade

South Carolina's fourth area code will be 854, The Post and Courier has learned. The area code will be used throughout the Lowcountry and Pee Dee areas, wherever the 843 area code is currently in use. That large section of South Carolina will have two area codes, so everyone will have to dial 10 digits to make a phone call within those areas, starting around the end of 2014. South Carolina's fourth area code will be 854, The Post and Courier has learned. The area code will be used throughout the Lowcountry and Pee Dee areas, wherever the 843 area code is currently in use. That large section of South Carolina will have two area codes, so everyone will have to dial 10 digits to make a phone call within those areas, starting around the end of 2014.

## Local News:

**Associated Press:** New SC call center to create more than 600 jobs

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=72jY9pRD](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=72jY9pRD)

A company that provides call center support for other businesses is locating a call center near Myrtle Beach and is expected to create more than 660 jobs in five years. State and local economic development officials on Monday announced that StarTek Inc. will be located in a new building being built in the Carolina Forest area just west of Myrtle Beach. The building is expected to be ready next fall. Until then, StarTek will operate out of temporary space at Horry Georgetown Technical College. The company begins hiring next month.

**Sun News:** StarTek to build call center in Carolina Forest, create 665 jobs

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2013/12/16/3907327/startek-to-build-call-center-in.html#storylink=cpy>

Dawn Bryant

StarTek, a Colorado-based company, will open a new \$10 million customer support center in Carolina Forest, creating as many as 665 jobs during five years, the company announced Monday morning. The company will lease a 50,000-square-foot building that will be built at International Drive and S.C. 3 near the new commercial development that includes McDonald's and Lowes Foods. The building will open in the fall, and until then, the company will operate and conduct employee training in space at Horry-Georgetown Technical College's Grand Strand campus on the former Myrtle Beach Air Force Base.

**Post and Courier:** Charleston-based affordable housing nonprofit going statewide in South Carolina

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131216/PC05/131219753/1177/charleston-based-affordable-housing-nonprofit-going-statewide-in-south-carolina>

Tyrone Richardson

Lowcountry Housing Trust will broaden its horizons next year. The local nonprofit is changing its name to South Carolina Community Loan Fund, representing a statewide initiative to grow affordable housing, food and other opportunities, officials said. "We have a broader reach with all our programs and we wanted a better name to reflect our new vision," said Karen Hauck, a spokeswoman for the trust. The nonprofit was founded in 2003 as the Charleston Housing Trust to be a source of financing for affordable housing construction in the city.

**The State:** Home Sales Dip Slightly In Columbia In November, Poised To Finish Year Strong

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=QTh80QcK](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=QTh80QcK)

Home sales in the Columbia area have been recovering from the recession steadily for about two years. But sales dipped slightly in November, possibly an after-effect from the partial government shutdown in October. Sales slipped 1.5 percent in November in the Columbia area to 607 from 616, compared to November 2012, according to a report Monday from the SC Realtors trade group. Statewide, sales were mixed, increasing just .6 percent overall to 4,449, with 10 out of 16 regions posting declines. The median price of homes that sold in November rose 16 percent in Columbia to \$154,500.

## National News:

**Associated Press:** NSA phone record collection ruled unconstitutional

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_289563/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=VPAUetjR](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_289563/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=VPAUetjR)

Frederic J. Frommer

A federal judge ruled Monday that the National Security Agency's bulk collection of phone records violates the Constitution's ban on unreasonable searches, but put his decision on hold pending a near-certain government appeal. U.S. District Court Judge Richard Leon granted a preliminary injunction sought by plaintiffs Larry Klayman and Charles Strange, concluding they were likely to prevail in their constitutional

challenge. Leon, an appointee of former President George W. Bush, ruled Monday that the two men are likely to be able to show that their privacy interests outweigh the government's interest in collecting the data.

**Associated Press:** Can this marriage be saved? GOP, hard-right groups

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_289563/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=YDHDXqAT](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_289563/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=YDHDXqAT)

Donna Cassata

Republican leaders and several hard-right groups are displaying the classic signs of a political divorce, including bitter name-calling and reprisals against one another. The recent eagerness of House Speaker John Boehner and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell to lash out at groups that have given them fits has unshackled others in the Republican ranks to publicly question the motivation of organizations like the Senate Conservatives Fund, Heritage Action, Madison Project and Club for Growth.

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