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To:  
Date: 12/14/2015 4:12:30 PM  
Subject: Afternoon Clips – Monday, December 14, 2015

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## Afternoon Clips – Monday, December 14, 2015

### S.C. General Assembly News:

**Post and Courier:** Palmetto Sunrise: Busy week in Columbia

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151214/PC1603/151219696>

Cynthia Roldan

Members of the General Assembly will be meeting over the next few days in what is likely the last busy week of December for them before the holidays. There's only a month left until the 2016 Legislative session starts, and those who want much of their work ready to go by the time the bell summons them back to their respective chambers are plugging away.

### S.C. Political News:

**Associated Press:** Trump supporters shrug off the fuss, say he gets it

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

Jill Colvin, Bill Barrow

To dozens of Trump supporters interviewed in the past week by The Associated Press in the first-to-vote states of Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, the near universal condemnation of the billionaire's plan is simply baffling. After the attacks in Paris and deadly shootings in San Bernardino, California, they say only Trump is taking on what they believe is a clear and present danger to the country.

### Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

**Greenville News:** We need to address Social Security

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/contributors/2015/12/13/we-need-address-social-security/77058490/>

Henry McMaster, Inez Tenenbaum

The two of us signing this guest editorial don't always agree on policy issues, but we do agree on this: If our nation does not take significant action now on Social Security, we will be forced to make drastic, even desperate decisions later just to keep the program alive.

### South Carolina News:

**Associated Press:** Century Aluminum begins shutting down plant with 600 workers

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=HuUK1fi0](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=HuUK1fi0)

Century Aluminum began closing its Goose Creek plant Monday, a move expected to put 600 people out of work eventually. The company started to shut down one of the two lines that make aluminum at the plant, Century spokeswoman Samantha Dubay said. The first layoffs will come next week, with about half of the plant's employees affected by the initial line closure, Dubay said.

**Post and Courier:** Century Aluminum begins shutting down Mount Holly smelter

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151214/PC05/151219692>

David Wren

Century Aluminum's Mount Holly smelter is scheduled to begin shutting down one of its two pot lines today in advance of a planned plant shutdown by the end of this year because of a stalemate over electricity prices with Moncks Corner-based utility Santee Cooper.

**Post and Courier:** National gas price nears \$2/gallon ahead of Christmas

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151214/PC05/151219676>

Warren Wise

With less than two weeks to go before the busy Christmas driving season, average gasoline prices are knocking on the \$2-a-gallon threshold. Both motor club AAA's Daily Fuel Gauge Report and gas price gauger GasBuddy reported Monday the average national price for a gallon of gas slipped a couple of pennies last week to \$2.01 a gallon. That's almost 53 cents lower than this time last year.

**The State:** Deadline Tuesday to enroll for health insurance

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article49698085.html>

Cassie Cope

Tuesday is the deadline to enroll for health insurance through the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace and have coverage guaranteed by Jan. 1. Members of the Consumers' Choice Health Plan, which is terminating all of its policies as of Dec. 31, also should enroll in order to have health insurance in place on Jan. 1.

**Greenville News:** Colgate-Palmolive plans Greenville warehouse

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2015/12/14/colgate-palmolive-plans-greenville-warehouse/77287696/>

Rudolph Bell

Another big company, Colgate-Palmolive, will distribute its products from a location on South Carolina's Interstate 85 corridor. The household products giant plans to open a distribution center near the intersection of White Horse Road and Interstate 85 in Greenville, according to a real estate executive involved in the lease deal.

## **Local News:**

**Post and Courier:** NAACP calls for Charleston schools chairwoman to step down over \$18 million shortfall

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151214/PC16/151219690>

Deanna Pan

The Charleston NAACP is calling for the resignation of Charleston County School District Board Chairwoman Cindy Bohn Coats as the district continues its investigation of an \$18 million budget shortfall. In a prepared statement Monday, NAACP President Dot Scott said the district's auditing firm "sounded the alarm" about CCSD's financial issues for years, but board members "took no steps to fix it."

**Greenville News:** Greenville student chosen for U.S. Youth Senate

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/education/2015/12/14/greenville-student-chosen-us-youth-senate/77305180/>

Nathaniel Cary

A senior at J.L. Mann High School in Greenville has been chosen as one of two students to represent South Carolina at the 54th United States Youth Senate. State Superintendent Molly Spearman selected Max Parsons of J.L. Mann and Quadri Bell, a junior at Manning High School in Clarendon School District Two as the two South Carolina delegates.

**Sun News:** Horry County mulls new strategy for collecting unpaid EMS bills

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article49677305.html>

Charles D. Perry

With unpaid EMS bills continuing to mount, Horry County officials on Monday rolled out a strategy for recouping some of that outstanding debt. The plan encourages officials to try to collect smaller amounts from poorer patients and to use a collections agency in pursuing debtors who live out of state.

## **National News:**

**Associated Press:** Obama says military hitting IS group harder than ever

<http://www.independentmail.com/topstories/obama-ramps-up-bid-to-explain-how-us-will-fight-extremists-jmgurnpublicidaporgcd7bc5cbcdade4b6fb4f545.html>

Josh Lederman

President Barack Obama on Monday said the U.S.-led coalition is making progress against Islamic State militants in both Iraq and Syria, as he delivered an update on the campaign aimed at reassuring Americans worried about the spread of extremism-fueled terrorism. "We are hitting ISIL harder than ever," Obama said, using the shorthand for the Islamic State group.

**New York Times:** Bowe Bergdahl to Face Court-Martial on Desertion Charges

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/15/us/bowe-bergdahl-to-face-court-martial-on-desertion-charges.html>

Richard A. Oppel Jr.

A top Army commander on Monday ordered that Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl face a court-martial on charges of desertion and endangering troops stemming from his decision to leave his outpost in 2009, prompting a huge manhunt in the wilds of eastern Afghanistan and landing him in nearly five years of harsh Taliban captivity.

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