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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, December 31, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Gov. Haley and leaders of House, Senate ask for new Supreme Court education hearing
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141231/PC1603/141239927>

Cynthia Roldan, Jeremy Borden

South Carolina's top leaders pointed criticism this week of the state Supreme Court's recent landmark education ruling dampens expectations that the Legislature would use the case as a basis for drastic change to the state's K-12 education system, experts and officials said.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley, along with House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Hartsville, and Senate Pro-Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, said in new court papers Tuesday that the justices' November decision in the Abbeville schools case was flawed.

Note: Haley said in her court filing that the Supreme Court had failed to consider the governor and Legislature's most recent action to direct more funding and resources to the state's rural, impoverished schools.

Associated Press: Haley, lawmakers fight court ruling on education

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

Attorneys for Gov. Nikki Haley and the Legislature want the state Supreme Court to reconsider its ruling that lawmakers have failed South Carolina's poor, rural children. The State newspaper reports Wednesday (<http://bit.ly/174DbmK>) that the state's attorneys are seeking a rehearing on the high court's landmark order that lawmakers must fix the educational system to give more students the opportunity to succeed.

The State: Haley, lawmakers ask court to rehear school-equity case

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/30/3900672/haley-lawmakers-ask-court-to-rehear.html>

Jamie Self

Gov. Nikki Haley and state lawmakers are fighting a court order aimed at improving the state's school system in rural, poor districts. In two petitions filed with the S.C. Supreme Court on Tuesday, attorneys representing Haley and lawmakers asked the justices to rehear a landmark school equity lawsuit that rural school districts, including Abbeville, brought against the state more than 20 years ago.

Washington Post: 2014: A reminder of the lasting power of racial politics in America

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2014-a-reminder-of-the-lasting-power-of-racial-politics-in-america/2014/12/31/bd5c6c40-911c-11e4-ba53-a477d66580ed_story.html

Dan Balz

The year 2014 will be remembered politically for many things, among them the Republican Party's impressive victories in the midterm elections. But as much as anything, the year was a reminder of the depth of racial divisions and the continuing existence of racial politics in America.

Note: It's noteworthy that Republicans now have a diverse set of statewide elected officials in the South and elsewhere: an African American senator (Tim Scott of South Carolina); two Indian American governors (Bobby Jindal of Louisiana and Nikki Haley of South Carolina); and two Hispanics (Susana Martinez of New Mexico and Brian Sandoval of Nevada).

South Carolina News:

The State: Veteran newswoman, former BMW executive dies

http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/31/3901947_veteran-newswoman-former-bmw-executive.html?rh=1

Clif LeBlanc

A veteran newswoman and former executive with one of South Carolina's largest manufacturers died Wednesday. Bunny S. Richardson, 63, passed away in her Simpsonville home after a long struggle with

cancer. A tough, steady and fair newspaper reporter and editor, Richardson worked for more than 20 years at the now-closed Columbia Record and The State.

Associated Press: Cotton may not be king, but it's still vital to SC

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=r16yTRo2

Jeffrey Collins

A museum in Bishopville helps people remember when cotton was king in South Carolina. But the museum's director is quick to point out the crop hasn't lost all its clout. South Carolina Cotton Museum Director Janson Cox keeps in an office a framed list of the state's top cash crops from 2012. Cotton lands fourth on the list, just below greenhouse plans, chickens and turkeys.

Associated Press: Amateur SC gold miner dies among toxic chemicals

http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/12/31/6662298_amateur-sc-gold-miner-dies-among.html?rh=1

Authorities say the body of an amateur gold miner was found in a Laurens County home among toxic chemicals that could be explosive. Multiple media outlets report the chemicals found at the scene Tuesday afternoon are used to separate gold from soil. The man's identity has not been released, but officials say he was known to dig for gold in the area.

S.C. Federal Delegation:

Manning Live: Sen. Scott extends best wishes to Mayor Nelson

<http://manninglive.com/2014/12/31/sen-scott-extends-best-wishes-mayor-nelson/>

Joey Perry

When Sen. Tim Scott arrived Tuesday afternoon at the Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce, he first wanted to wish Mayor Julia Nelson a full recovery from her recent kidney transplant surgery in Charleston. "A kidney transplant is a big deal," Scott said. "May the Lord bless her with good health. I'm a very big fan of Matthew 8:17, which says Jesus himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses and through his strength we can be healed."

Post and Courier: Berkeley Sheriff DeWitt to skip county swearing-in ceremony

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141231/PC16/141239916>

Dave Munday, Schuyler Kropf

Berkeley County Sheriff Wayne DeWitt will skip Friday's swearing-in ceremony for newly elected officials, leaving open the question of when he will take the oath needed to remain the county's top law enforcement officer. DeWitt earlier this week pulled out of the announced gathering of November election winners while he faces serious allegations of driving under the influence and hit-and-run.

Local News:

Sun News: Horry County to receive highly scrutinized armored military vehicle

http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/12/31/4699620_horry-county-to-receive-highly.html?sp=/99/209/&rh=1

Jason M. Rodriguez

Horry County Police plan to introduce a Caiman heavily-armored vehicle Monday that's been under fire nationwide, associating police departments' use of the vehicle as being "excessively militarized." Lt. Raul Denis of the Horry County Police Department referred all questions to a press conference Monday the police department will use to unveil Rescue 1, which is what it will be named.

Rock Hill Herald: Winthrop president's notice of termination tops heraldonline list of 2014's most-read stories

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/12/31/6663123/winthrop-presidents-notice-of.html#storylink=cpy>

Winthrop University trustees' decision to issue a notice of termination to President Jamie Comstock Williamson was heraldonline's most-read story of the year. We looked at analytics for all of our stories from 2014. Here's how the Top 10 ranked, according to page views.

Aiken Standard: Guardian ad Litem program seeking volunteers

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141231/AIK0101/141239871/1004>

Dede Biles

The Aiken County office of the Cass Elias McCarter Guardian ad Litem Program is seeking people who care

about children as volunteers. A free 30-hour training program for child advocates will begin at 5 p.m. Monday at 5170 Woodside Executive Court.

Greenville News: Mauldin City Council seat still up for grabs

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/golden-strip/2014/12/31/mauldin-city-council-seat-still-grabs/21091169/>

Scott Keeler

The race to fill Seat 3 on Mauldin's City Council was still not officially decided after the votes were tallied following Tuesday's special election. According to the unofficial totals counted Tuesday night, Beverly Hunter had received the most votes with 37.3 percent (234 votes). Terry Merritt collected 31.6 percent (198) and Derrik Chandler earned 28.9 percent (181).

National News:

Associated Press: Applications for US jobless aid rise, but growth looks solid

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141231/PC05/141239932>

Josh Boak

More Americans sought unemployment benefits last week, but the number of applications continues to be at historically low levels that suggest solid economic growth will continue. The Labor Department said Wednesday that applications for unemployment benefits climbed 17,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 298,000.

New York Times: Firm That Paid Sheldon Silver Is Tied to Landlord With Troubled Past

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/31/nyregion/firm-that-paid-sheldon-silver-is-tied-to-landlord-with-troubled-past.html?ref=politics&_r=0

William K. Rashbaum, Thomas Kaplan

A two-attorney law firm that has made substantial payments to Sheldon Silver, the New York State Assembly speaker, which are the focus of a federal investigation, also counts among its clients a wealthy landlord with a troubled past who has ties to Mr. Silver, records show.

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