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To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Friday, December 18, 2015

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Gov. Haley: Secessionist gathering should be permitted
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=OSyM98qJ
Seanna Adcox

A Statehouse gathering commemorating South Carolina's 1860 secession from the Union will be held Sunday, after state officials reinstated a permit they canceled a week ago.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley said Friday she asked that the Secessionist Party's reservation be reinstated. Haley says the Statehouse grounds belong to the public, whether or not she agrees with those exercising their rights to free speech and assembly.

Note: Haley says law enforcement officials have assured her they can handle any public safety concerns if there are counter-demonstrators.

The State: SC Secessionist Party gets back its permit for State House rally
<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article50453910.html>
Andrew Shain

The S.C. Secessionist Party's reservation to hold a rally Sunday at the State House was reinstated Friday at the request of Gov. Nikki Haley.

Note: "The governor believes that the State House grounds belong to all people, whether she agrees with their views or not," Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams said. "She also believes that people's constitutional rights mean something, and that certainly includes the rights to free speech and free assembly.

Note: "When she was made aware of the reservation cancellation, she met with law enforcement officials, and after being assured that they could handle the public safety concerns that exist, the governor asked that the reservation be reinstated."

Post and Courier: S.C. Secessionist Party's reservation for Sunday rally at Statehouse reinstated
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151218/PC1603/151219376>
Maya T. Prabhu

The S.C. Secessionist Party's reservation to hold a rally on Statehouse grounds Sunday will be reinstated by the state Department of Administration Friday afternoon at the governor's request. James Bessenger, who founded the party earlier this year, said Friday morning his lawyer informed him of the state's plan to reinstate the reservation that had been revoked last week after police expressed public safety concerns.

Note: Chaney Adams, spokeswoman for Gov. Nikki Haley, said the governor believes Statehouse grounds belong to all people, whether she agrees with their views or not, and in free speech and free assembly.

Note: "When (Haley) was made aware of the reservation cancellation, she met with law enforcement officials, and, after being assured that they could handle the public safety concerns that exist, the governor asked that the reservation be reinstated," Adams said.

The State: Syrian refugees resettling in South Carolina despite Gov. Haley's objections
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article50485750.html>
Avery G. Wilks

A family of two Syrian refugees has resettled in Richland County, and more are on the way to South Carolina despite Gov. Nikki Haley's request that Syrians not be relocated to the state because of security concerns. Another, larger family of refugees is expected to resettle soon in South Carolina, with help from Lutheran Services Carolinas.

Note: Haley had asked federal officials not to relocate Syrian refugees to South Carolina. The governor's office said it wasn't told by federal authorities that the refugees were being resettled in South Carolina, learning about it only through a partnership with Social Services and the resettlement agency.

Note: But Social Services and other appropriate agencies, including law enforcement, know where the

individuals are residing for the safety of everyone, including the refugees, said Social Services spokeswoman Karen Wingo said.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Landrum lawmaker files bill to ban selling fetal tissue

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20151217/ARTICLES/151219725/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Landrum-lawmaker-files-bill-to-ban-selling-fetal-tissue>

Chris Lavender

A Landrum lawmaker has pre-filed a bill to prohibit buying or selling fetal tissue. Republican state Rep. Doug Brannon filed the bill on Dec. 10. Brannon said the bill includes criminal penalties for a person who violates the law. The criminal penalties include a misdemeanor upon conviction, a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment of not more than 30 days, or both.

Associated Press: Report: Deal sought to keep SC aluminum plant operating

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

Century Aluminum is working to strike a deal allowing it to keep its Goose Creek plant operating at half capacity while state lawmakers work on legislation to allow large industries to buy power on the open market. Century president and CEO Mike Bless tells The Post and Courier of Charleston (<http://bit.ly/1Qsl3Yp>) he is negotiating with Century's suppliers to reduce power costs so the plant can operate for six months through another legislative session.

S.C. Political News:

Aiken Standard: Ryan, Scott to moderate S.C. presidential forum on poverty, opportunities in January

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20151218/AIK0101/151219447/ryan-scott-to-moderate-sc-presidential-forum-on-poverty-opportunities-in-january>

Maayan Schechter

House Speaker Paul Ryan and Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., will moderate a presidential forum on Jan. 9, featuring, so far, seven Republican candidates for president. The forum, held at the Columbia Metropolitan Center in Columbia, is hosted by The Jack Kemp Foundation, with lead sponsor Opportunity Lives. Additional partners include American Enterprise Institute and Economic Innovation Group.

Greenville News: Rubio campaigns in Spartanburg, Anderson Saturday

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2015/12/18/rubio-campaigns-spartanburg-anderson-saturday/77556344/>

Rudolph Bell

Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio returns to the Upstate Saturday with scheduled stops in Spartanburg and Anderson. Rubio, who campaigned in Greenville last Saturday, stops first in Spartanburg this time. The Florida senator is scheduled to appear at a "meet and greet" at Cribb's Kitchen on Main, 226 West Main Street, at noon.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Greenville News: Welcome Syrians to SC

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2015/12/18/welcome-syrians-who-have-come-sc/77488014/>

Editorial

Word this week a group of Syrian refugees has been resettled in South Carolina and another is on its way makes it clear the federal government is ignoring pleas not to resettle the refugees here. Two Syrians were settled in the Midlands through Lutheran Services of the Carolinas, according to a report by Greenville News reporter Tim Smith. Another family has been approved to come here, as well.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Greenville News: New courthouse downtown will 'soon become reality,' Graham says

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2015/12/17/funding-found-new-federal-courthouse-graham-says/77508584/>

Rudolph Bell

Money to build a new federal courthouse in downtown Greenville has been included in a year-end spending bill that Congress is scheduled to vote on Friday, according to U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham's office. Graham's office said late Thursday that the bill includes about \$92 million for site design and construction of the long-planned courthouse on what is now a parking lot along East North Street next to the Greenville County Courthouse.

South Carolina News:

The State: Job gains continue to push down SC jobless rate

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article50498740.html>

Andrew Shain

S.C. continues to add jobs, pushing down the state's jobless rate for a sixth straight month in November. The state jobless rate slid to 5.5 percent in November, falling from 6.8 percent in May, the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce reported Friday. The U.S. jobless rate in November was 5 percent.

Post and Courier: S.C. jobless rate falls to lowest level in 14 years

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151218/PC05/151219383>

Warren L. Wise

South Carolina's jobless rate dropped to a 14-year low in November and the state is well-positioned to continue adding jobs in 2016. That's the assessment by a Federal Reserve economist after the state Department of Employment and Workforce reported Friday the unemployment rate in the Palmetto State fell for a sixth straight month to 5.5 percent in November from 5.6 percent the previous month, the lowest level since August 2001.

Associated Press: Unemployment in SC down for 6th straight month

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=GE5mhiSQ

The unemployment rate in South Carolina dropped again in November, the sixth straight month the rate has declined. The state Department of Employment and Workforce announced on Friday that unemployment was 5.5 percent last month, down from 5.6 percent in October. The department said the unemployment rate has not been so low since August of 2001.

The State: National groups protest charges against Spring Valley girls

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article50268450.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

Protestors gathered at the Richland County Solicitor's Office on Thursday to ask that charges against two students involved in an Oct. 26 incident at Spring Valley High School be dropped. A 16-year-old student refused to cooperate with school officials during that incident, at which point former Richland County deputy Ben Fields physically removed the girl from her chair and slid her across the floor.

Associated Press: 100th Boeing 787 rolls off South Carolina Assembly line

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=LdCXE9PA

Boeing has reached another milestone at its South Carolina assembly plant. The aeronautics giant announced Thursday that the 100th airplane assembled at its plant in North Charleston rolled out of the factory this week. The 787-8 Dreamliner will now begin system checks and engine runs on the flight line.

National News:

Associated Press: Congress OKs year-end budget deal, sends to Obama

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:b13af0c95d3c40e187c2075d7736385a>

Andrew Taylor

Congress on Friday sent President Barack Obama a bipartisan but deficit draining year-end budget package that boosts federal agency spending and awards tax cuts to both families and a sweeping array of business interests. A 65-33 Senate vote on the measure was the last act that shipped the measure, combining \$1.14 trillion in new spending in 2016 and \$680 billion in tax cuts over the coming decade, to Obama.

Associated Press: Obama says he won't fade away in final year

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:8f7342a71c664001b4fb685c60d5e339>

Julie Pace

Closing out a tumultuous year, President Barack Obama sought to lay the groundwork Friday for his last

year in office by vowing not to fade in the background but instead use his remaining months to push longstanding goals to fruition. "In 2016, I'm going to leave it all out on the field," he said.

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