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Subject: Morning Clips - Thursday, December 5, 2013

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## Morning Clips – Thursday, December 5, 2013

### Governor Nikki Haley News:

**Spartanburg Herald Journal:** Gov. Nikki Haley touched by Blacksburg Elementary School student's effort to help soldiers

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20131204/ARTICLES/131209848/1051/news01?Title=Gov-Nikki-Haley-touched-by-Blacksburg-Elementary-School-student-8217-s-effort-to-help-soldiers->

Lynne P. Shackleford

Dressed in Army fatigues with her last name stitched across her chest, a composed 9-year-old Karmen McSwain explained to Gov. Nikki Haley Tuesday her dedication to helping troops overseas. Haley, the keynote speaker at the Gaffney Rotary Club lunch meeting, met with Karmen and was so touched by her commitment to sending care packages, phone cards and letters to troops that Haley invited her to the Governor's Mansion. The governor announced her Christmas challenge during a Carolighting Monday evening to encourage random acts of kindness, just like the ones the Blacksburg Elementary School fourth grader performs.

**Note:** "My husband is deployed, and I hear from him how much it means to soldiers who don't have family back home to receive these packages," Haley told Karmen. "It's so special and it reminds them that they aren't forgotten. You're making an impact on people every day, and it shows that even at 9, you can make an extraordinary difference."

**Sun News:** Haley brings call for ethics reform to Myrtle Beach

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2013/12/04/3882324/haley-brings-call-for-ethics-reform.html#storylink=cpy>

Maya T. Prabhu

Gov. Nikki Haley stopped in Myrtle Beach Wednesday where she continued to ask S.C. residents to urge their elected officials to support an ethics reform bill that would require public disclosure of their sources of outside income. The measure, which passed the House last session but did not make it through the Senate, also would remove the current system of lawmakers investigating each other when accused of ethics breaches. There are 47 states that require lawmakers to disclose the sources of their personal income.

**Note:** "There's never been a better time for ethics reform than right now," she said, pointing the state being ranked 45 for corruption risk by the nonprofit Center for Public Integrity. "You need to know who is paying your elected officials."

**WLTX (Video):** Governor Haley Meets with Mayors Across SC

<http://www.wltx.com/news/article/257405/2/Governor-Haley-Meets-with-Mayors-Across-SC->

Tony Santaella

Governor Nikki Haley has met with mayors from across South Carolina. Haley was in Blythewood Wednesday morning to address the winter membership meeting of the association of South Carolina mayors. From that meeting Haley traveled to Hartsville to address a meeting of the Hartsville Rotary Club.

**WBTW:** Gov. Nikki Haley visits the Pee Dee and Grand Strand

<http://www.wbtw.com/story/24136988/gov-nikki-haley-visits-the-pee-dee-and-grand-strand>

Chasity Pendergrass

Governor Nikki Haley spent most of her day in our part of South Carolina Wednesday. Early Wednesday afternoon, she spoke to the Hartsville Rotary Club. She later came to Myrtle Beach where she discussed ethics reform, which has been a prime issue during her administration. She held a news conference on the matter at Myrtle Beach City Hall. Other elected officials attended the conference including Senator Greg Hembree. He explained why transparency for elected officials is vital for the community.

### 2014 Campaign Cycle News:



**The State:** SC Democrat files bill to 'lessen the burden' of Obamacare

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/04/3139284/sc-democrat-files-bill-to-lessen.html#storylink=cpy>

Adam Beam

Like lots of other S.C. lawmakers, state Rep. Bakari Sellers has filed a bill that – if passed – would attempt to negate a portion of Obamacare in the Palmetto State. The difference is Sellers is a Democrat, and he is running for statewide office. Sellers has filed legislation in the state House of Representatives that would offer a state tax credit to offset one of the new taxes associated with the federal Affordable Care Act.

**Note:** But Republican Gov. Nikki Haley's re-election campaign seized on Sellers' bill as an example of Democrats admitting "Obamacare is squeezing South Carolina businesses." The Haley campaign called on state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, the likely Democratic nominee for governor, to admit the same.

**Times and Democrat:** Sellers seeks Obamacare fix for device manufacturers

[http://thetandd.com/business/technology/sellers-seeks-obamacare-fix-for-device-manufacturers/article\\_37e69b4a-5d64-11e3-a049-001a4bcf887a.html](http://thetandd.com/business/technology/sellers-seeks-obamacare-fix-for-device-manufacturers/article_37e69b4a-5d64-11e3-a049-001a4bcf887a.html)

Martha Rose Brown

State Rep. Bakari Sellers has introduced a bill that he says would lessen the impact of Obamacare and make South Carolina more attractive to medical device manufacturers. The Denmark Democrat, who is running for lieutenant governor, says his bill would allow any company which develops or manufactures medical devices in the state to have a state income tax credit equal to the fees it pays to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. "The federal government has created far too many impediments for businesses to grow and prosper. It is time to lessen the regulatory burden on companies, not increase it," Sellers said.

## Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

**The State:** Columbians Must Unite After Strong-mayor Vote

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=mDeNxU12](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=mDeNxU12)

Columbia voters spoke unequivocally Tuesday in rejecting the strong-mayor form of government, 57 percent to 43 percent. Although we believe that our capital city's best chance at reaching its full potential lies with an empowered mayor who has the authority to act rather than an unelected manager who reacts to the wishes of seven elected bosses, ultimately that is a decision for the voters to make. And they have made it. So, council-manager it is. But now what? Frankly, for us it always has been about the "now what?"

**Post and Courier:** Just the facts on I-526

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131205/PC1002/131209705/1021/just-the-facts-on-i-526>

Editorial

As the state highway commission takes up I-526 again today, there are still questions about the costly, controversial project. Certainly, the public has questions and concerns, if not the local politicians who have continued to support it in the face of opposition. Some of the answers could be spelled out in the intergovernmental agreement by which the DOT and Charleston County would assume varying responsibilities for its construction, management and maintenance. As of late yesterday afternoon, however, a DOT spokesman said the document was not complete.

**Aiken Standard:** Sensible utility costs a must for our state

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131204/AIK0201/131209714/1018/AIK02/editorial-sensible-utility-costs-a-must-for-our-state>

Editorial

Extreme cold snaps and heat waves can wreak havoc on a household's budget. While South Carolinians are accustomed to a relatively predictable climate – hot summers and winters that aren't very cold – inclement weather sometimes does pack a punch in the Palmetto State. That fact was part of the reasoning behind a program from energy provider SCE&G designed to protect customers from spikes in their bills because of extreme weather. For the past three years, the utility company raised and lowered customers' rates to account for weather fluctuations, an effort aimed at providing residents with a reasonable bill.

**Rock Hill Herald:** County EMS deal is step forward

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2013/12/04/5472649/county-ems-deal-is-step-forward.html>

Editorial

Members of the York County Council might suffer some frustration for spending nearly a year studying and debating changes in the county's emergency medical system only to arrive back close to where they started.



Nonetheless, they managed to improve the system without wading into questionable legal waters that might have resulted in a lawsuit. For much of the past year, several council members have negotiated with Piedmont Medical Center, which operates the countywide EMS system, and two volunteer rescue squads in the Lake Wylie and Fort Mill areas over the response policies.

## **South Carolina News:**

**Associated Press:** Director: Medicaid spending less than projected

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

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina's Medicaid director said Wednesday his agency is on track to spend about \$250 million less this fiscal year than allotted in the state budget. Director Tony Keck told a Senate budget-writing panel the Department of Health and Human Services is projected to spend \$6.2 billion in state and federal money. But he cautioned that the federal health care law makes estimates uncertain. "It's going to be a tumultuous year in projecting people in the program," Keck said. His initial budget request for 2014-15 is \$6.9 billion, though he stressed his official request will be whatever Gov. Nikki Haley proposes in her executive budget.

**The State:** States scramble for new Boeing 777X jetliner plant

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/04/3139858/states-scramble-for-new-boeing.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Governors of more than a dozen states are rushing to offer incentives such as subsidized training and infrastructure to persuade Boeing Co. to move production of its new 777X jetliner out of Washington, where union members rejected a labor contract that froze pensions. While analysts say North Charleston is a potential site for the plant, a key S.C. lawmaker said he was unaware if the state had sent an incentives proposal to Boeing for the 777X work as of Wednesday. The deadline for proposals is Tuesday. "They know South Carolina has tremendous interest in it," Senate Finance Chairman Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, said Wednesday.

**The State:** SC senators to investigate pension investments

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/04/3139303/sc-senators-to-investigate-pension.html>

Adam Beam

For nearly two years, Republican state Treasurer Curtis Loftis has complained the Legislature has ignored his cries of corruption and wasteful spending at the state Retirement System Investment Commission. Thursday, lawmakers will listen. A bipartisan panel of four state senators will hold the first of several hearings Thursday to investigate Loftis' charges that the commission – which manages the state's \$26.5 billion pension fund for public-sector workers – wastes millions of dollars on fees while some commissioners reap personal financial gain.

**The State:** Texas Gov. Perry parries 2016 talk on SC visit

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/03/3137609/texas-gov-perry-parries-2016-talk.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Texas Gov. Rick Perry talked about his state's economic-development successes Tuesday during the first day of a two-day swing through the Upstate, not the possibility that he will run for president again in 2016. Perry, who is not seeking re-election as governor, said he was more concerned about Republicans winning races nationwide in 2014. Visiting the state where his 2012 presidential campaign ended, Perry kept to his economic-development theme, touring a hospital and pharmaceutical company.

**Post and Courier:** Revised Interstate 526 contract likely will be approved Thursday

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131204/PC16/131209744/1006/revised-i-526-contract-likely-to-be-approved-thursday>

Diane Knich

House Speaker Bobby Harrell on Thursday will push the completion of Interstate 526 across Johns and James islands to the state Department of Transportation Commission. The commission is expected to approve the updated contract, known as an Intergovernmental Agreement, for the \$558 million project at its meeting in Columbia. If the revised contract is approved, it would mark the project's first significant step forward since Charleston County Council voted in favor of building the road in December 2012.

**Post and Courier:** Lawmaker: Make attacks on homeless a hate crime

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131204/PC1610/131209718/1031/lawmaker-make-attacks-on->



## homeless-a-hate-crime

Schuyler Kropf

A Charleston lawmaker has filed a collection of Statehouse bills aimed at protecting and aiding the homeless, including one that would make the act of assaulting the homeless a hate crime. If the measure were to pass — which appears to be a long shot — the homeless would gain a protective status that's so far been denied to other minority groups in South Carolina, because the state does not recognize hate in interpreting criminal motivation.

**The State:** Ted Vick's Five Points DUI trial postponed after jurors discuss case

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/04/3138229/state-house-state-rep-ted-vicks.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

A drunk driving trial of State Rep. Ted Vick was postponed Wednesday when a judge said she should not guarantee the Chesterfield Democrat a fair shake because jurors discussed the case before the afternoon hearing began. Vick was on trial for a 2012 drunken driving arrest in Five Points. He also was arrested from driving under the influence this year in the S.C. State House garage. Chief Columbia Municipal Court Judge Dana Turner asked the jury pool if any of them had heard of Vick's case. Several jurors raised their hands, and Turner spoke to each one privately at her bench.

**Associated Press:** Jury problems delay SC Rep. Vick's DUI trial

[http://www.scnw.com/news/local/article\\_43a4fbe2-5d2e-11e3-82e3-001a4bcf6878.html](http://www.scnw.com/news/local/article_43a4fbe2-5d2e-11e3-82e3-001a4bcf6878.html)

South Carolina state Rep. Ted Vick's trial on a 2012 drunken driving charge has been delayed because of problems with potential jurors. Columbia Municipal Court Judge Dana Turner decided Wednesday to postpone the trial after several potential jurors discussed the case in the jury room. Turner said she worried there wouldn't be enough impartial people to fill out the six-juror panel. Vick wasn't present. His lawyer, state Rep. Todd Rutherford, said the Chesterfield Democrat was at training for the South Carolina Army National Guard. Rutherford said Vick could have made it to court if he wanted to testify.

**The State:** Teach for America corps looking to keep more of its teachers in high-poverty schools

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/04/3139280/teach-for-america-corps-looking.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

Cait Clark found herself at a crossroads when she moved to Marlboro County to teach, trading her life in Philadelphia as a recent college graduate for one nine hours away where she knew no one. "At that point I was like, 'Well, I can either make it miserable, or I can choose my attitude and choose my outlook and make it something great,'" said Clark, a 23-year-old first-grade teacher at Bennettsville Primary School. Clark started an afternoon reading program at the local library and launched the Marlboro Million Words Campaign, challenging the community to read a million words.

## Local News:

**Florence Morning News:** Loved ones remember Florence County's 'model deputy'

[http://www.scnw.com/news/local/article\\_b9a3bc28-5d44-11e3-a32e-001a4bcf6878.html](http://www.scnw.com/news/local/article_b9a3bc28-5d44-11e3-a32e-001a4bcf6878.html)

Traci Bridges

Ask those who knew Florence County Sheriff's Deputy Joseph Antwine best what they'll remember most about him, and chances are you'll hear words like "positive," "compassionate," "giving" and "helpful." Those traits, according to his mother, were at the core of his being from the time he was a young boy. "He was always very welcoming, very helpful. If he saw someone in need, even if it was the last dollar in his pocket, he would give it to them. That's just the person he was," his mother, Maibritt Tunstall, said. "He always wanted to do the right thing, to help people. He loved helping people."

**The State:** Columbia's strong-mayor referendum defeated by high white, low black voter turnout

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/04/3139289/columbias-strong-mayor-referendum.html#storylink=cpy>

Clif LeBlanc, John Monk and Chris Winston

Tuesday's political spanking for advocates of an elected municipal chief executive pivoted on "No" forces turning out their supporters particularly in two, higher-income City Council districts and on African-Americans staying home in large numbers, an analysis of the numbers shows. People voting against a change in the form of government carried nine, large, politically active precincts by more than 100 votes each — in three of which the margin reached 200 or more, vote totals show. Those heavy turnout precincts are in City Council districts 3 and 4.

**Aiken Standard:** Allen West captivates conservative audience

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131205/AIK0101/131209703/1004/allen-west-captivates-conservative-audience>

Amy Banton

Aiken Republican Club President Ken Gordon proudly introduced retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Allen West, who was the speaker for the organization's monthly luncheon, describing him as "a tiger in a cage" who was ready to talk. West, who represented Florida's 22nd District from 2011 to 2013 and is a regular on Fox News, addressed an array of current issues to an audience packed inside the Newberry Hall on Wednesday afternoon. Gordon said he was excited the Club was hosting West because he's a man who takes positions, stands by them and makes no apologies.

**Sun News:** Federal appeals court upholds Horry County's trash ordinance

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2013/12/04/3881470/federal-appeals-court-upholds.html#storylink=cpy>

David Wren

A federal appeals court on Tuesday upheld Horry County's flow control ordinance – which mandates where the county's trash must be disposed – in a unanimous decision that was closely watched by private landfill operators and trash haulers across the country. The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals rejected claims by Sandlands C&D LLC, a private landfill operator in Marion County, and trash hauler Express Disposal Service LLC that the county's flow control ordinance violates the equal protection and commerce clauses of the U.S. Constitution.

**Florence Morning News:** Timmonsville, Florence water deal nears finalization

[http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article\\_1273b6e4-5d51-11e3-8d35-001a4bcf6878.html](http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article_1273b6e4-5d51-11e3-8d35-001a4bcf6878.html)

Gavin Jackson

A federal judge signed the consent decree authorizing the city of Florence to take over the town of Timmonsville's water and sewer system that leaders say could be completely formalized by the end of the year. On Nov. 26, United States District Judge Bryan Harwell of Florence signed the agreement between the Florence, Timmonsville, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

## **National News:**

**Associated Press:** China gives no ground to Biden in air zone dispute

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/biden-urges-chinese-youth-challenge-authority>

Josh Lederman

Giving no ground, Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. Vice President Joe Biden traded strong arguments Wednesday over China's contentious new air defense zone, with little indication of progress toward defusing a situation that is raising anxieties across Asia and beyond. Though Biden made clear the deep concern of the U.S. and other countries during the 5 ½ hours of talks — themselves highly unusual for an American vice president and Chinese president — Xi vigorously made his case, too, for China's declaration of new rules concerning a strip of airspace more than 600 miles long above disputed islands in the East China Sea.

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