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To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Thursday, December 4, 2014

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South Carolina News:

Aiken Standard: House authorizes funding for MOX construction

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141204/AIK0101/141209716/1004/house-authorizes-funding-for-mox-construction>

Derrek Asberry

The Savannah River Site's MOX program took a significant step toward gaining funding for construction with the U.S. House's passage of the Defense Authorization Act. The House passed the bill Thursday afternoon in 300-119 fashion. The bill authorizes \$341 million for construction of the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility – \$4 million less than the House's initial request, but \$196 million more than President Barack Obama's budget request in March, which included language to place the program in a cold standby.

Associated Press: White SC Cop Who Shot Unarmed Black Man Charged

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/sc-cop-charged-murder-unarmed-man-shooting-27362718>

Meg Kinnard

A white police chief who fatally shot an unarmed black man in South Carolina in 2011 was charged with murder, and his lawyer accused prosecutors of taking advantage of national outrage toward police to get the indictment. The indictment in South Carolina was released Thursday. It's one of three indictments for white officers in the shootings of black men this year in South Carolina, which has a dark and painful past of civil rights unrest and violence.

Associated Press: Events leading to S. Carolina officer's indictment

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=IAQ05Mbd

A white South Carolina police chief has been charged with murder in the shooting death of an unarmed black man. Here is a timeline of events leading up to his indictment, according to authorities.

Greenville News: Nine in 10 get help paying for ACA insurance

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/12/04/nine-get-help-paying-aca-insurance/19893005/>

Liv Osby

Nearly nine in 10 South Carolinians who bought health insurance under Obamacare this year got help paying for it, a new federal report shows. Fully 88 percent of Palmetto State residents got financial assistance, compared with nearly eight in 10 nationally, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services report revealed Thursday.

Sun News: Compromise achieved, officials begin to work out specifics 23-mile Memorial Day weekend traffic loop

http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/12/03/4647070_compromise-achieved-officials.html?sp=/99/209/&rh=1#storylink=cpy

Maya T. Prabhu

A Bikefest Task Force approved the traffic loop during a meeting Monday and the Coastal Alliance – a group of administrators that represent Horry County and municipalities along the Grand Strand – passed a motion Wednesday supporting the task force's efforts.

Post and Courier: VA Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson will visit Charleston medical center Friday

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141204/PC16/141209750/1177/va-deputy-secretary-sloan-gibson-will-visit-charleston-medical-center-friday>

Lauren Sausser

A top VA official will visit Charleston on Friday to tour the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center's new \$10 million mental health research unit. Sloan Gibson, deputy secretary of Veterans Affairs, will also discuss

"access issues" with hospital leadership.

Associated Press: Erskine makes deep cuts to stabilize finances

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kg9w6CQi

Erskine College is cutting programs, letting professors go and cutting pay for all its employees by 5 percent as it tries to stabilize its finances. School President Paul Kooistra told The Index-Journal of Greenwood (<http://bit.ly/1CJQXsl>) that the cuts are expected to save Erskine College about \$875,000.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Henry Fishburne enters Charleston's mayoral race

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141204/PC1603/141209795/1177/henry-fishburne-enters-charlestons-mayoral-race>

Robert Behre

And then there were four - at least for now. Former Charleston City Councilman Henry Fishburne said Thursday he is entering the race to replace longtime Mayor Joe Riley. Fishburne, a Charleston developer who currently serves on the Charleston County Aviation Authority, is the first Republican to announce to date.

Post and Courier: Charleston County School Board committee weighs cost for new Angel Oak Elementary

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141204/PC16/141209738/1177/charleston-county-school-board-committee-weighs-cost-for-new-angel-oak-elementary>

Amanda Kerr

The Charleston County School Board's Audit and Finance Committee has instructed the school district to research ways to fund a new school for Angel Oak Elementary after district officials this week recommended against using revenue from the district's 1 percent sales tax for school construction.

Anderson Independent: Oconee transit plan draws critics

http://www.independentmail.com/news/oconee-transit-plan-draws-critics_34488262

Ray Chandler

the last two weeks, volunteers have ridden buses on Seneca's existing routes and found that most of the riders were young and used the buses to go to Walmart instead of to work, according to Margaret Thompson, a former member of the Clemson City Council.

National News:

Associated Press: House rebukes Obama on immigration

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/3bce4daa1b6e42fd9206c8620ada4376/house-set-rebuke-obama-immigration>

Erica Werner

Emboldened House Republicans issued a stern but symbolic rebuke to President Barack Obama over immigration Thursday, passing a bill declaring his executive actions to curb deportations "null and void and without legal effect." Outraged Democrats, immigrant advocates and the White House said the GOP was voting to tear families apart and eject parents.

Associated Press: HealthCare.gov average premiums going up in 2015

http://finance.yahoo.com/news/healthcare-gov-average-premiums-going-173056164.html;_ylt=AwrBEiGHnYBUynMA.C_QtDMD

Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar

Many HealthCare.gov customers will face higher costs next year, the Obama administration acknowledged Thursday in a report that shows average premiums rising modestly. However, officials said millions of consumers who are currently enrolled can mitigate the financial consequences if they are willing to shop around for another plan in a marketplace that's becoming more competitive.

Associated Press: Flu vaccine may be less effective this winter

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141204/AIK0107/141209729/1004>

Mike Stobbe

The flu vaccine may not be very effective this winter, according to U.S. health officials who worry this may lead to more serious illnesses and deaths. As flu season begins to ramp up, officials say the vaccine does not protect well against the dominant strain seen most commonly so far this year.

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