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To:
Date: 12/10/2015 4:03:16 PM
Subject: Afternoon Clips – Thursday, December 10, 2015

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

GSA Business: State study identifies 3 Upstate properties to sell

<http://gsabusiness.com/news/56475-state-study-identifies-3-upstate-properties-to-sell?rss=0>

Matthew Clark

The S.C. Department of Administration released a report compiled by CBRE Group Inc. examining the state's real estate portfolio. What it found was that the state owns more than 500,000 acres of land and approximately 7,800 buildings across the state.

Note: "If you look at these facilities, we are spending so much money to stay in them that it would cost us a lot less, the quality would be a lot better if we went to something more efficient and with something that we were able to work with," said Gov. Nikki Haley, during a press conference at the Statehouse.

Note: "We don't need to own that much space," Haley said. "For a state this small, certainly that is way too much property for us to have."

Post and Courier: South Carolina police shootings surpass record with case in Greenville County

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151210/PC16/151219967>

Tony Bartelme

A deadly exchange of gunfire Thursday morning in Greenville County marked the 47th police shooting this year, a new record that experts and lawmakers say should trigger a hard look at how officers use and misuse deadly force. "We need to look at what's going right and what's going wrong," said Geoffrey P. Alpert, a University of South Carolina criminologist and noted expert on police use of force.

Note: One effort to reexamine police training and tactics is under way. In the wake of the Walter Scott shooting, Gov. Nikki Haley in July issued an executive order to create a 10-person commission to study training, tactics and other policing issues. Haley's order calls for specific recommendations to hire and screen police candidates and recommend possible changes in the state's use-of-force policies. A preliminary report is due at the end of the month.

S.C. Political News:

Greenville News: Trump keeps lead in two new polls of SC Republicans

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2015/12/10/trump-continues-sc-lead-new-poll/77082426/>

Rudolph Bell

The contest for the GOP presidential nomination is taking roughly the same shape in South Carolina as it is nationally, according to two new polls. Donald Trump has a big lead. Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio and Ben Carson round out the top four, though Carson has been moving down.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Citadel investigates photos of cadets pillowcases on heads

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=UIEBREu0

Bruce Smith

South Carolina's military college The Citadel announced Thursday it is investigating after photos surfaced on social media of cadets dressed all in white with pillowcases over their heads, images that evoke the Ku Klux Klan. "A social media posting, which I find offensive and disturbing, was brought to my attention this morning," retired Air Force Lt. Gen. John Rosa, the president of the college, said in a statement.

Post and Courier: Citadel confirms suspensions after cadets photographed in white hoods

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151210/PC16/151219964/possible-suspensions-after-citadel-cadets-photographed-in-white-hoods>

Adam Parker, Deanna Pan

At least eight cadets have been suspended after a photo of them appeared on social media wearing costumes resembling Ku Klux Klan hoods. In a statement to the media, Citadel President Ret. Lt. Gen. John Rosa called the image "offensive and disturbing." It shows an upper-class cadet in front of seven cadets wearing all white and with pillowcases over their heads with eye holes cut out and one corner of the pillowcases drawn up to form a point.

Associated Press: Insurance director concerned people aren't choosing new plan

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

Seanna Adcox

The director of South Carolina's insurance agency said Thursday he's concerned that residents who have health coverage through a soon-to-be defunct company aren't selecting a new plan. Consumers' Choice announced in October it won't exist after Dec. 31. But only about 35 percent of the cooperative's 67,000 customers statewide have signed up for a new plan in 2016, said Insurance Director Ray Farmer.

Post and Courier: After the great flood, Lowcountry salt marshes are less salty

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151210/PC16/151219962>

Tony Bartelme

More than two months after October's downpours, South Carolina salt marshes have yet to regain their normal salinity levels, causing oysters on some inland banks to die and likely pushing other marine species offshore and into predators' mouths. A record 2 feet of rain fell in early October, turning much of the Lowcountry into an oversoaked sponge. More rain followed in November, sending additional runoff to the sea.

Associated Press: South Carolina deputy wounded, man killed in shootout

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1UnBROb9

Jeffrey Collins

A man was killed and a sheriff's deputy suffered a superficial head wound in a shootout early Thursday at an apartment in South Carolina, authorities said. The man was shot after pointing a gun and firing on deputies who broke down the door of the apartment, Greenville County Sheriff Steve Loftis said at a news conference.

Greenville News: Health care costs are out of reach for one in four working adults with private insurance

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2015/12/10/health-care-costs-out-reach-one-four-working-adults-private-insurance/76675734/>

Liv Osby

Health care costs are out of reach for one in four working adults with private insurance and many go without needed medical care as a result, new research shows.

Greenville News: SAGE Automotive Interiors expanding Greenville operations

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/2015/12/10/sage-automotive-interiors-expanding-greenville-operations/77088606/>

Amanda Coyne

SAGE Automotive Interiors is expanding its Greenville County operations with a \$5 million investment in upgrades to its Marietta facility. The company, which manufactures seating materials and headliners, previously announced a \$4 million expansion to its Abbeville County facilities.

Local News:

Associated Press: Infrastructure catching up with booming coastal community

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

In the past 25 years, the Burgess community in Horry County has grown from a sleepy hamlet of less than 4,000 to more than 25,000 people. And now the infrastructure is catching up. The Sun News reports (<http://bit.ly/1NOIXqd>) that Horry County plans a network of 33-miles of paths and walkways for the community near Myrtle Beach.

Greenville News: Transportation study identifies weaknesses, needs

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2015/12/10/transportation-study-identifies-weaknesses-needs/77042572/>

Amy Clarke Burns

A nine-month study of transportation in the Greenville area has revealed some challenges of getting around in the Upstate's car-dependent culture, and though the current bus system is part of the problem, fixing it isn't necessarily the answer.

Post and Courier: Charleston-area home sales race past last year's total transactions

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151210/PC05/151219958>

Warren L. Wise

Charleston-area home sales galloped past last year's total transactions in 11 months this year. Through November, volume is up 14.1 percent to 14,758 sales, compared to 12,933 through November last year, according to preliminary data Thursday from the Charleston Trident Association of Realtors. Last year's total volume was 14,250 transactions.

National News:

Associated Press: Leading Iowa evangelical endorses Ted Cruz for president

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151210/PC1603/151219955>

Catherine Lucey

A prominent Iowa evangelical leader has endorsed Ted Cruz for president, a coup for the Texas senator, who has heavily courted churches and pastors in an effort to win the state's leadoff Republican caucuses. Bob Vander Plaats announced his endorsement Thursday in Des Moines, calling Cruz a "serious leader for serious times."

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