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**Subject:** Afternoon Clips - Friday, December 20, 2013

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## Afternoon Clips – Friday, December 20, 2013

### Governor Nikki Haley News:

**USA Today (Video):** Gov. Nikki Haley: I held my breath for a year  
<http://www.usatoday.com/videos/news/nation/2013/12/20/4140289/>

**Associated Press:** SC unemployment drops to 7.1 percent in November  
[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=iPRIOogt](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=iPRIOogt)  
Meg Kinnard

For the second month in a row, South Carolina's jobless rate fell to its lowest spot in more than five years in November, state officials said Friday. Last month, state unemployment was 7.1 percent, according to the Department of Employment and Workforce. That was a significant drop from October, when South Carolina's jobless figure was 7.5 percent.

**Note:** On Friday, Gov. Nikki Haley issued a statement heralding the drop as good news for the state, which had unemployment of 8.6 percent a year ago. "The fact that people and companies want to work and grow in South Carolina is no accident - it's what happens when you combine a dedicated workforce with a strong business environment - and that is a real reason to celebrate," the Republican said.

**The State:** SC unemployment rate drops to 7.1 percent  
[http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/20/3169058/buzz-sc-unemployment-rate-drops.html?utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=twitter&utm\\_destination=buzzatthestate](http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/20/3169058/buzz-sc-unemployment-rate-drops.html?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter&utm_destination=buzzatthestate)  
Adam Beam

South Carolina's unemployment rate dropped again in November, falling to 7.1 percent -- the first time since 2008 that the state's total workforce topped 2 million people.

**Note:** "South Carolina unemployment falls again from 7.5% to 7.1%, the lowest its been since 2008! Over two million South Carolinians are now employed, the highest level its been since July 2008. Congratulations Team SC! We are just getting started...."

### 2014 Campaign Cycle News:

**The State:** SC NAACP president criticizes Vincent Sheheen  
<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/20/3169394/election-2014-sc-naacp-director.html>  
Adam Beam

Lonnie Randolph, the leader of the S.C. chapter of the NAACP, said the likely Democratic nominee for governor "hurt himself" by getting involved in Columbia's strong mayor referendum. State Sen. Vincent Sheheen, D-Kershaw, recorded a "robo call" to voters the night before the Dec. 3 election asking them to vote "yes" and make the Columbia mayor a full-time job instead of part time. The referendum failed by 57 percent to 43 percent.

### South Carolina News:

**The State:** SC jobless rate dropping rapidly  
<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/20/3169047/sc-jobless-rate-dropping-rapidly.html>

South Carolina's jobless rate fell to 7.1 percent in November from 7.5 percent the previous month, the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce reported Friday. The drop comes as the labor force continues to shrink, meaning more people are dropping out of the job hunt. Others found jobs in government and the retail and hospitality industry. The jobless rate has fallen a full percentage point in the past three months and is gaining on the national jobless rate, which declined to 7 percent in November from 7.3 percent the previous month. November was the first time in 11 years South Carolina's jobless rate has been this close to the national rate, the department said.

**The State:** 38 of 46 counties oppose H.3290

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/20/3169232/state-house-38-of-46-counties.html#storylink=cpy>

Adam Beam

Thirty-eight of the state's 46 county councils have passed resolutions opposing H.3290 -- a proposed state law that would ban local governments from restricting solid waste disposal to county-owned landfills. "It is extraordinary for 38 counties to take the time to pass a resolution on a single subject with council agendas as crowded as they are," Joe Branham, president of the South Carolina Association of Counties, said in a news release issued by the Don't Dump on SC coalition. "This level of activity reflects the widespread impact of the flow control legislation and the importance of defeating that bill. These resolutions represent just a fraction of the intensity against flow control legislation."

**Post and Courier:** Graduate medical education group discusses final recommendations

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131220/PC16/131229951/1006/graduate-medical-education-group-discusses-final-recommendations>

Lauren Sausser

The Medical University of South Carolina and other teaching hospitals around the state will need to figure out how to train more medical residents in rural areas without any additional money. The South Carolina Graduate Medical Education advisory group discussed its final recommendations at a meeting at the state Medicaid agency in Columbia today. The group will suggest that 15 percent of the state's \$185 million graduate medical education budget be set aside to encourage hospitals to produce more doctors in underserved parts of the state.

#### **Local News:**

**Post and Courier:** Valley Forge flag maker to add 100 jobs in Williamsburg County

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131220/PC05/131229945/1177/valley-forge-flag-maker-to-add-100-jobs-in-williamsburg-county>

A U.S.-based, family-run flag manufacturer that has been in operation for more than 100 years is expanding its existing operations in Williamsburg County. Valley Forge Flag Co. will invest \$2.5 million in the expansion. "Our company is committed to manufacturing in the United States and keeping jobs in this country," said Scott Liberman, company CEO. Based in Wyomissing, Pa., Valley Forge Flag Co. will expand its current operations into an existing 300,000-square-foot facility near Kingstree.

**Associated Press:** US flag maker to hire 100 workers to expand in SC

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2013/12/20/5523779/us-flag-maker-to-hire-100-workers.html#storylink=cpy>

A Pennsylvania company that makes U.S. flags says it will expand its plant in Williamsburg County and hire an additional 100 workers. Valley Forge Flag Co. said Friday it is making a \$2.5 million investment to expand into a building in Kingstree. The Wyomissing, Pa., company already has 200 workers in South Carolina. The firm says it should begin hiring for the new jobs in January. Valley Forge Flags provides U.S. flags to fly over the Capitol in Washington, D.C., and for astronauts to take into space. The company also makes other custom flags and banners.

**Rock Hill Herald:** Crowders Creek Elementary to open \$5 million addition in January

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2013/12/20/5523721/crowders-creek-elementary-to-open.html#storylink=cpy>

Jennifer Becknell

Crowders Creek Elementary School will open a new \$5 million central office addition designed to make it easier for students, parents and staff when classes resume in January. The school, which serves about 1,050 students in prekindergarten through grade five, will have a single office area for pickup and dropoff during the school day and for administrative offices of both the primary and elementary schools.

#### **National News:**

**Associated Press:** Obama: 2014 can be breakthrough year for America'

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=GiFgnkLj](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=GiFgnkLj)

Julie Pace

Citing strong progress on the economy, President Barack Obama said at his annual year-end news conference Friday that 2014 "can be a breakthrough year for America" after a long season of recession and slow recovery. Yet he suggested that given widespread criticism, he may alter the power of the National

Security Agency to collect information on Americans. And when it came to the universally panned roll out of his health care law, Obama conceded that "we screwed it up," and said, "I'm going to be making appropriate adjustments once we get through this year." It was unclear if he meant to signal high-level personnel changes.