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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, December 9, 2015

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

WIS: Gov. Nikki Haley wants to auction off some state-owned buildings

<http://www.wistv.com/story/30707645/gov-nikki-haley-wants-to-auction-off-some-state-owned-buildings>

Jeremy Turnage

Gov. Nikki Haley and her administration want to get into the real estate business -- sort of. The two-term Republican governor announced the findings Wednesday of a report she commissioned 2013 to take a look at state government's use of buildings and real estate. The conclusion? The state can sell some of its properties and create savings in the process.

Note: "We need to know what we own," Haley said.

Note: Haley also said the state could also begin auctioning off some of its holdings -- such as the Rutledge Building on Bull Street -- to make money because surplus properties cost too much money to maintain and operate. "If we need to auction some properties off, have at it," Haley said.

WOLO: Haley Announces Findings of a Real Estate Assessment

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/news/local/Haley-Announces-Findings-of-a-Real-Estate-Assessment--361292141.html>

Kimberlei Davis

Governor Nikki Haley held a press conference Wednesday afternoon to discuss the findings of a 2013 real estate assessment of the state. During the press conference Haley said, "We (South Carolina) don't need to own that much space, the state will sell some facilities including the Rutledge building." The state owns 2500 parcels of land and 7800 building Haley said.

Note: "Once you know what you own, you can start saving taxpayers money" Haley said. "We've got a lot of money pits in South Carolina and those are money pits taxpayers don't need to be spending money on," Haley said.

WCBD: "Money pits" cost SC tax payers millions

<http://counton2.com/2015/12/09/money-pits-cost-sc-tax-payers-millions/>

Rebecca Collett

Wednesday Governor Nikki Haley revealed South Carolina is wasting millions of your tax dollars on state owned property. The new report found the state owns nearly 8,000 buildings, many of which are crumbling and full of wasted space.

Note: "Everything about this screams for improvement," the Governor said at a press conference to release the assessment findings.

Note: "We just don't need to be in the real estate business," Gov. Haley said.

Note: "We've got a lot of money pits in South Carolina," she explained. "Money pits our tax payers don't need to spend money on."

Associated Press: Gov. Haley: We must reverse cuts to nation's military forces

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ig2kFdjZ

Susanne M. Schafer

America's military forces have been weakened by budget cuts that should be reversed, Gov. Nikki Haley told a group of senior military commanders on Wednesday. The Republican governor made the comment during her annual meeting with 10 officers from the state's major military installations, delayed by the massive flooding that afflicted the state in October.

Note: She called the budget and manpower cuts "terrible." "We have got to reverse course. We have got to strengthen our military. We have to strengthen the equipment and the resources because we don't know what is in the future," Haley said.

Post and Courier: S.C. Guard commander warns defense cuts could curtail disaster response

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151209/PC1603/151209368>

Gavin Jackson

If sequestration, the mandatory ratcheting down of funding approved by Congress, continues it could leave the South Carolina National Guard unable to respond to natural disasters such as the deadly flooding in October that left residents stranded and in need of rescues.

Note: Haley said Congress needs to recognize the threats posed by terrorism and cyberattacks, along with natural disasters. "We've got to strengthen our military, we've got to strengthen the equipment and the resources because we don't know what is in the future, but whatever it is we're not ready," Haley said.

Area Development: Boise Cascade Company Expands Its Chester, South Carolina, Manufacturing Plant

<http://www.areadevelopment.com/newsitems/12-9-2015/boise-cascade-company-expansion-chester-south-carolina456787.shtml>

Boise Cascade Company, one of the largest producers of plywood and engineered wood products in North America and a leading U.S. wholesale distributor of building products, is expanding its existing operations located at 1445 Lancaster Highway in Chester, South Carolina.

Note: "We have so many great corporate citizens, like Boise Cascade, that are the driving force behind our economic development momentum, because they prove to the world that there is no better place to be doing business each time they decide to expand in our state. We look forward to seeing the positive impact that this new \$23.5 million investment, and the 52 new jobs it will create, will have in Chester County," said Governor Nikki Haley.

Island Packet: Trump's Muslim comments 'over the line,' two local GOP leaders say

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/politics-government/election/article48851905.html#storylink=cpy>

Matt McNab

Leaders of two Beaufort County Republican groups said earlier this week they believed GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump's recent comments on Muslim refugees stepped over the line, but both said they don't expect Trump's surging popularity to take an immediate hit from the public outcry over his plan.

Note: Trump's call to block Muslims from entering the country has been criticized by Democrats and Republicans alike since his announcement Monday, including local criticism by S.C. Republican Party chairman Matt Moore and Gov. Nikki Haley.

S.C. Political News:

Associated Press: 4 Democrats to appear on SC's presidential primary ballot

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

The South Carolina Democratic Party has certified four candidates to appear on the ballot for party's presidential primary in February. The party announced on Wednesday that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, Vermont U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders and Chicago businessman Willie Wilson were certified by the state party's executive council this week.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Mary Tinkler to pre-file bill calling for fundraising for Confederate flag display

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151209/PC1603/151209373>

Cynthia Roldan

Rep. Mary Tinkler, D-Charleston, made the call a week after consultants proposed spending \$5.3 million in taxpayer money for a plan that includes expanding the S.C. Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum into a nearly 4,700-square-foot space above the current museum, stairs to the second floor, an extension to the entrance, and renovation of an outdoor courtyard adjacent to the proposed new gallery space.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Boise Cascade investing \$24M, creating 52 jobs in Chester

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

Wood products company Boise Cascade is investing \$24 million to expand its plywood plant in Chester, creating 52 new jobs. The company announced in a news release on Wednesday that it is already expanding the warehouse and adding equipment at Chester Plywood. Boise Cascade acquired the facility two years ago.

Post and Courier: Senate restores education power to states, replacing No Child Left Behind

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151209/PC16/151209369>

Paul Bowers

Seeking to restore authority over education decisions to the states, the U.S. Senate passed a sweeping replacement of the No Child Left Behind Act Wednesday. The new bill, the Every Child Achieves Act, reduces the federal government's authority over state-level standardized testing and expands funding and support for charter schools.

Post and Courier: Record low South Carolina infant mortality still exceeds national average

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151209/PC16/151209393>

Lauren Sausser

The U.S. infant mortality rate dropped to its lowest level ever last year, a new federal report shows. South Carolina's rate also hit a record low in 2014, but babies born in this state are still more likely to die before their first birthday than infants born in other parts of the country. On average, 6.5 infants per 1,000 born in South Carolina died before their first birthday in 2014.

Local News:

Greenville News: Greenville to get AT&T GigaPower Internet

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/2015/12/09/greenville-to-get-att-gigapower-internet/77030872/>

Amanda Coyne

Greenville will become one of "at least 56" metropolitan areas worldwide with access to AT&T's super high-speed GigaPower network, the company announced in a release. The Internet service is among the fastest networks available, according to AT&T, and was first launched in Austin, Texas nearly two years ago.

Post and Courier: Civil suit filed against College of Charleston alleges hostile work environment, racial discrimination

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151209/PC16/151209482>

Christina Elmore

A utilities plant operator at the College of Charleston has filed a federal lawsuit against the school alleging it failed to respond to complaints that his supervisor used the N-word and drew a racially insensitive picture of a black man while on the job.

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