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Subject: Clips – Saturday, December 19, 2015

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Secessionist gathering authorized Sunday at SC Statehouse
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=OSyM98qJ
Seanna Adcox

A Statehouse gathering commemorating South Carolina's 1860 secession from the Union will be held Sunday, after state officials reinstated a permit they canceled a week ago. Gov. Nikki Haley said Friday she asked the state Department of Administration to reinstate the Secessionist Party's reservation.

Note: "The governor believes that the Statehouse grounds belong to all people, whether she agrees with their views or not," said Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams. "She also believes that people's constitutional rights mean something, and that certainly includes the rights to free speech and free assembly."

WCIV: Santee Cooper brokers deal with Century Aluminum to keep smelter open
<http://abcnews4.com/news/local/santee-cooper-brokers-deal-with-century-aluminum-to-keep-smelter-open-protects-at-least-3>
Sam Tyson

Santee Cooper officials announced Friday that Century Aluminum agreed to a deal to supply power to its Mount Holly plant in Moncks Corner. The deal would protect at least half of the plant's 600 jobs. The board of directors still has to approve the deal that would supply 100 percent of the plant's electric needs for a three-year period.

Note: "This has been a long process, and I appreciate the interest and involvement by the members of the Berkeley County delegation, Gov. Nikki Haley, and local elected officials," Carter said.

Post and Courier: New deal will keep Mount Holly smelter operating while lawmakers address power issue
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151218/PC05/151219335>
David Wren

Century Aluminum's Mount Holly smelter will continue to operate at 50 percent capacity into the new year while state lawmakers look for a way to let the company buy all of its electricity on the open market. Under terms of an agreement reached Thursday, Moncks Corner-based Santee Cooper will provide enough electricity to Mount Holly to keep it operating at half-capacity.

Note: "This has been a long process, and I appreciate the interest and involvement by the members of the Berkeley County delegation, Gov. Nikki Haley, and local elected officials," Lonnie Carter, Santee Cooper's president and CEO, said in a statement.

S.C. Political News:

Associated Press: Mike Huckabee bringing presidential campaign to Carolinas
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=2jENNVkS

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee is bringing his campaign for the Republican presidential nomination to the Carolinas this weekend. Huckabee and former North Carolina Rep. Charles Taylor visit the Greenville County GOP headquarters in Greenville, South Carolina on Saturday morning. Huckabee then appears later in the day at a rally at Bethel Baptist Church in Shelby, North Carolina.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: To endorse or not to endorse?
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151219/PC1002/151219320>
Editorial

Nikki Haley endorsed Mitt Romney for president on Dec. 16, 2011. And though Mr. Romney finished second

behind Newt Gingrich in the South Carolina Republican primary 6½ weeks later, the former Massachusetts governor went on to win the GOP nomination. OK, so Mr. Romney then lost the general election as President Barack Obama was re-elected.

Post and Courier: Proud Americans live in Islamville, S.C.

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151219/PC1002/151219321>

Jack Bass

Now that he's sullied the honor of the USS Yorktown by using it as a platform to seemingly compare the two radical Muslim extremist shooters in San Bernardino, Calif., to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and to slander Muslims in general, perhaps Donald Trump needs to return to South Carolina and visit Islamville with York County Sheriff Bruce Bryant.

Island Packet: On port, finally, a new chance to make sale work

<http://www.islandpacket.com/opinion/editorials/article50193325.html>

Editorial

The S.C. Ports Authority has failed miserably for nearly a decade to sell the former Port of Port Royal. Now, thanks to legislation sponsored by state Sen. Tom Davis of Beaufort County and enacted in 2014, the Ports Authority's reign over the former port's sale is finally over.

Post and Courier: Can't cope? Take a breath of hope

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151219/PC16/151219354>

Frank Wooten

'Smiling Faces, Beautiful Places' sounds cheesy. "While I Breathe, I Hope" sounds inspiring. So this week's news that the latter message will replace the former on South Carolina license plates sounds welcome. Or, to borrow from Gov. Nikki Haley's also-cheesy catch phrase, "It's a great day in South Carolina" to know that "Smiling Faces, Beautiful Places" is finally being forced into retirement.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Post and Courier: Sanford, Scott oppose spending bill providing flood relief for South Carolina

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151218/PC1603/151219334>

Schuyler Kropf

One of Charleston's congressmen and South Carolina's junior U.S. senator voted against the \$1.1 trillion federal spending package approved Friday that will keep the government operating through next fall and includes hundreds of millions of dollars in flood relief for the state's residents.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Education groups differ on how to start boosting teacher pay

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

Seanna Adcox

State education officials agree South Carolina's public school teachers should be paid more, but they differ on whether to start at the front or back end of teachers' careers. The state Education Department wants to begin by better compensating veteran teachers. Its budget proposal would ensure that all teachers, starting next school year, would receive an annual raise for experience through 23 years in the classroom.

Post and Courier: S.C. jobless rate falls to lowest level in 14 years

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151218/PC05/151219383>

Warren L. Wise

South Carolina's jobless rate dropped to a 14-year low in November, and the state is well-positioned to continue adding jobs in 2016. That's the assessment by a Federal Reserve economist after the state Department of Employment and Workforce reported Friday the unemployment rate in the Palmetto State fell for a sixth straight month to 5.5 percent in November from 5.6 percent the previous month, the lowest level since August 2001.

The State: Job gains continue to push down SC jobless rate

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article50498740.html>

Andrew Shain

South Carolina continues to add jobs, pushing down the state's jobless rate for a sixth consecutive month in

November. The state jobless rate slid to 5.5 percent in November, falling from 6.8 percent in May, the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce reported Friday. The U.S. jobless rate in November was 5 percent.

Sun News: Federal funding identified for Grand Strand beach renourishment in 2016 spending bill

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article50556365.html#storylink=cpy>

Audrey Hudson

Tucked inside the spending bill Congress passed Friday is a pot of new funding for beach restoration projects, which means the money is there for the Myrtle Beach area but local officials will have to compete nationally with other beach communities to win financing for the Grand Strand's damaged dunes and sand swept away by the October storm.

Post and Courier: Black church leaders, others convene to discuss race and reconciliation

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151219/PC1204/151219349>

Stephanie Hunt

Michael Eric Dyson's scholarly mind, prophetic voice and searing, relentless wit all were on full display as he addressed national black church leaders in Charleston on Wednesday. Dyson, a Georgetown University professor, Baptist minister and cultural critic, recited Tupac Shakur lyrics, spouted Kobe Bryant stats and dissected Bill Clinton's racial politics as he got a room full of distinguished preachers shouting "Amen" and "Tell it, Brother!"

The State: Obama reduces prison sentences for 3 SC inmates

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article50524160.html>

Cassie Cope

Obama commuted the sentences of 95 prisoners nationwide and pardoned two more, part of an ongoing effort within the White House to rethink a criminal justice system that critics say has resulted in overly harsh and expensive sentences for thousands of drug offenders.

Local News:

Post and Courier: North Charleston taxpayers to cover most of \$6.5M Walter Scott settlement

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151218/PC16/151219357>

Andrew Knapp

Public funds from North Charleston will cover most of the city's \$6.5 million wrongful-death settlement with Walter Scott's family, court documents filed this week stated. Under the deal, attorneys for Scott's loved ones will get about \$2.4 million of the total. City officials had agreed in October to the payout, one of the largest related to a police shooting that has caught national attention.

National News:

Associated Press: New Mexico gov apologizes for staff's conduct at hotel party

<http://www.thestate.com/news/nation-world/national/article50632680.html>

New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez on Friday apologized for the actions of her staff during her annual holiday party at a downtown Santa Fe hotel and also said she should have handled it differently. "I believe in people accepting responsibility and that is why I'm owning (up to) what happened, and I sincerely apologize," Martinez said in a statement.

Associated Press: Clinton campaign: Data was 'stolen' by Sanders campaign

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151218/PC1603/151219367>

Ken Thomas, Lisa Lerer

The campaign manager for Hillary Clinton says its voter data was "stolen" by the presidential campaign of her Democratic rival, Bernie Sanders. Robby Mook says on a Friday night conference call with reporters that "this was a very egregious breach and our data was stolen."

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