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To:
Date: 1/24/2014 4:47:33 PM
Subject: Afternoon Clips – Friday, January 24, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: SC inland port praised as good for jobs, nature

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=sQa2jOQp

Bruce Smith

Top state and federal leaders say South Carolina's new inland port near Greer is not only good for the economy, it's good for the environment and is saving wear and tear on the state's infrastructure. Gov. Nikki Haley and U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham visited the inland port Friday along with congressmen Jeff Duncan and Trey Gowdy. Wick Moorman, the president and CEO of Norfolk Southern, arrived with officials from the South Carolina Ports Authority on a vintage train with a locomotive and passenger cars dating to the mid-20th century.

Anderson Independent: Baldor Electric expanding Anderson County

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/jan/24/baldor-electric-expanding-anderson-county15-to/?partner=RSS>

Baldor Electric Co., a manufacturer of energy-efficient industrial electric motors and mechanical power transmission products, is expanding its Anderson County facility. The \$15 million investment is expected to generate 45 new jobs for the area over the next five years, according to South Carolina Department of Commerce news release.

Note: Industries already operating in the state "continue to choose to increase their footprint in South Carolina, and that shows the strength of our business-friendly climate and strong workforce," said Gov. Nikki Haley.

S.C. Political News:

Post and Courier: South Carolina GOP keeps its first in the South role in presidential primary

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140124/PC16/140129677/1177/south-carolina-gop-keeps-its-first-in-the-south-role-in-presidential-primary>

Robert Behre

South Carolina Republicans will keep their traditional role as being the first southern voters to choose their party's presidential nominee. The 168-member Republican National Committee voted today to set South Carolina's primary for February 2016, the state GOP announced. Under the party's new rules, only South Carolina, Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada will hold contests in February 2016.

Associated Press: GOP leaders shorten presidential nominating season

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=UnB7CXiH

Steve Peoples

Republican leaders overwhelmingly voted Friday to shorten their presidential selection process in an attempt to minimize damage from GOP candidates attacking each other. "This is a historic day for our party," RNC chairman Reince Preibus declared. Iowa and New Hampshire will retain their coveted spots atop the presidential primary calendar, and South Carolina and Nevada also secured top spots, as they have in the past, as part of a larger plan that could significantly reshape the 2016 presidential election.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

The State: Lindsey Graham headlines list of West Forum events this Spring

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/24/3225087/buzz-lindsey-graham-headlines.html#storylink=cpy>

Adam Beam

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, running for reelection in November, headlines the list of events this Spring

sponsored by the John C. West Forum on Politics and Policy at Winthrop University. Graham is scheduled to discuss education on Feb. 20 at 11 a.m. at Dina's Place in the DiGiorgio Campus Center. The West Forum, named after former S.C. Gov. John C. West, is "dedicated to promoting civic engagement in South Carolina."

Legislative Session News:

Greenville News: House rejects bid to add seat on Pickens school board

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014301240051>

Julie Howle

A bill that would have added a seventh, at-large seat on the Pickens County school board has been defeated in the state House. Reps. B.R. Skelton and Davey Hiott filed two bills in the state House during the 2013 session. Skelton said the bills were the same and would have added a seventh, at-large member to the board of trustees for the School District of Pickens County.

South Carolina News:

WLTX: 1 reported wounded in shooting at S.C. State University; campus on lockdown

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014301240053>

A search for a suspect is underway at S.C. State University after a student was shot at an on-campus dorm at about 1:30 p.m. Police and EMS are on the scene. Police know who the suspect is and now the campus is on lockdown. One person has reportedly been wounded. Students have been urged to take precautions. Sonya Bennett, a Vice-President of Communications and Marketing, said a student was involved. She could not give any additional information.

Associated Press: Former Sen. Ford faces more ethics allegations

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

Seanna Adcox

Former Charleston Sen. Robert Ford faces more allegations that he used campaign donations for personal expenses and misrepresented his spending. The Senate Ethics Committee issued a complaint Thursday after finding probable cause that the 65-year-old Charleston Democrat improperly used campaign money after he resigned last year as a hearing was going on that publicly detailed similar allegations over four years, which included adult-store purchases.

Post and Courier: Robert Ford hit with new ethics complaint

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140124/PC16/140129689/1177/robert-ford-hit-with-new-ethics-complaint>

Robert Behre

The S.C. Senate Ethics Committee has brought a fresh complaint against former Sen. Robert Ford, who resigned eight months ago after he was ensnared in a similar ethics probe. Ford described himself as a "victim" of the committee said the complaint has no merit. He said he used the remaining \$14,000 in his campaign account for nonprofit work.

Sun News: Heather Elvis' family hopes vigil sparks tips about missing daughter

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/23/3224026/socastee-family-hopes-vigil-sparks.html#storylink=cpy>

Amanda Kelley

Debbi Elvis said Thursday night that prayer is the only thing helping her get through each day that passes without any information about her daughter's location. Heather Elvis has been missing more than a month, and Debbi Elvis said it isn't getting easier with time. "It's not getting easier, it's harder," she said. "When a crisis happens, once it's done and it's over you deal with it. You cope with it. You accept it. Time heals. This just keeps getting worse and worse and worse.

Sun News: S.C. Supreme Court justices mull damage claims against AVX in pollution case involving Myrtle Beach property owners

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/01/23/3977280/sc-supreme-court-justices-mull.html#storylink=cpy>

David Wren

The state's Supreme Court justices on Thursday appeared skeptical of Myrtle Beach property owners' plans to sue AVX Corp. over groundwater pollution that is near – but hasn't directly impacted – their land, although a lawyer representing those owners said it is too early in the legal process to dismiss their claims. Surfside

Beach lawyer Gene Connell told the justices that Circuit Court Judge Benjamin Culbertson improperly dismissed the claims because he refused to hear evidence that the owners' property values have decreased and that bank loans have been denied due to the nearby pollution.

The State: Cleveland Sellers to keynote S.C. Education Association Human and Civil Rights Awards luncheon

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/24/3224713/buzz-cleveland-sellers-to-keynote.html#storylink=cpy>

Adam Beam

Cleveland Sellers, president of Voorhees College and a South Carolina civil rights leader, will be the keynote speaker at the S.C. Education Association's Human and Civil Rights Awards luncheon. The luncheon is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Saturday at the S.C. Education Association's headquarters at 421 Zimacrest Drive.

Local News:

Island Packet: Beaufort County schools hope air station's Starbase program remains

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/01/24/2909883/beaufort-county-schools-hope-air.html#storylink=cpy>

Sarah Bowman

A science and math program for Beaufort County fifth-graders survived the federal chopping block once -- and school and Marine officials hope it will be so lucky again this year. Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort is home to Starbase, a federal program that provides laboratory lessons and projects in science, technology, engineering and math to elementary school students at military bases around the country.

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