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Subject: Clips – Saturday, December 20, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

WIS: Gov. Haley takes stance on hot-button issues, names cabinet members

http://m.wistv.com/wistv/db_330790/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=SYqLUFKW

Will Whitson

DSS: It's been a busy week for Governor Nikki Haley, she's named two new cabinet positions as well as outlined her stances on two of the biggest hot button legislative issues this session. Susan Alford is taking the reins at the Department of Social Services. Alford has spent most of her professional career working in South Carolina government, working with at risk youth.

Ethics Reform: Governor Haley is also laying out her stances on ethics reform and criminal domestic violence. Haley, using the same two charts she used the year before- says South Carolina needs rules on income disclosure, independent investigation, and rules for lawmakers who sue the state in private practice.

Note: "Where's the line of what a normal lawyer could do and what an agency could handle with a lawyer, and where we're having too much of a conflict," Haley said.

Berkeley Independent: SCHP graduates 40 new troopers

<http://www.berkeleyind.com/article/20141220/BI01/141229978/1071/BI>

The South Carolina Highway Patrol announced the graduation of 40 troopers from Highway Patrol Basic Class 95 on Thursday, Dec. 18. Gov. Nikki Haley addressed the graduates, as she has for the past seven Highway Patrol graduation ceremonies.

Note: "Our troopers get this. It is about the people. It is about serving. It is about doing what is right," Haley told the graduates. "Over 900 people applied, and 40 of you made it. Don't waste that. It is too precious. Enjoy this moment. Soak it in; you have earned it."

The Item: New letter heats up debate on road work

<http://theitem.com/stories/1221roadsbridges,238251?>

Jim Hilley

The South Carolina Association of Counties has released a letter to state Gov. Nikki Haley and the General Assembly stating its opposition to legislative efforts to transfer roads from the South Carolina Department of Transportation to local governments.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Facing road funding reality

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141220/PC1002/141229932>

Editorial

South Carolina legislators will get a state road plan next month that cites transportation needs totaling some \$70 billion. It's a fantastic figure, made more so by the lack of funding to pay for even half of it over the next 25 years. It will be up to the Legislature to bring a measure of reality to the funding picture - not by rejecting the state Department of Transportation plan, but by actually addressing the shortfall to the greatest extent possible.

Island Packet: Ban domestic abusers from possessing guns

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/12/20/3498143/ban-domestic-abusers-from-possessing.html?sp=/99/342/1750/>

Editorial

For generations, domestic abuse was a shameful secret kept by families. Today, it's a legislative shame. While South Carolina has long ranked among the nation's worst in violence against women, state lawmakers have done little more than study the issue. The Violence Policy Center in Washington, D.C.,

currently ranks the state as the second most deadly in the nation for women at the hands of men.

Greenville News: Bridges also failing in South Carolina

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2014/12/20/editorial-bridges-also-failing-south-carolina/20666481/>

Editorial

South Carolina's crumbling roads have gotten much attention in recent months, but even more dangerous infrastructure failures are taking place, and often outside of the public eye. Drivers go across many rivers, streams or valleys every day using bridges that are rotting from the inside out.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley has promised her plan to take care of roads in January — two months after she sailed to victory in the 2014 election without sharing her ideas with voters.

Post and Courier: Tips to prevent cybercrime

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141220/PC16/141229954>

Editorial

Never click on links in emails. If you do think the email is legitimate, whether from a third party retailer or primary retailer, go to the site and log on directly. Never open the attachments. Typically, retailers will not send emails with attachments. Do not give out personal information over the phone or in an email unless completely sure.

South Carolina News:

The State: South Carolina sets employment records in November

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/19/3882939/south-carolina-sets-employment.html>

Jeff Wilkinson

Jenny McCullough of Columbia needed a part-time job to help her offset expenses when she starts attending Midlands Technical College in January. The 19-year-old was a bit concerned that finding the right fit would be difficult, given the state of the economy over the past few years. A harsh recession saw the state's unemployment rolls swell in 2008-2010, and the recovery has been slow and rocky.

Aiken Standard: SRS takes hit in funding, may impact jobs

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141220/AIK0101/141219358/1121>

Derrek Asberry

Jobs and ongoing missions at the Savannah River Site could take a hit because of the recent budget rollout, which appropriated \$23 million less in funding than the initial fiscal year 2015 request. Last week's passage of the \$1.1 trillion omnibus bill provided \$1.127 billion for SRS missions. The number sits at \$7 million less than last year's budget and \$23 million less than the \$1.150 billion request.

Post and Courier: Businesses, individuals urged to take precautions against cyberattacks

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141219/PC16/141229967>

David Slade

The devastating cyberattack on Sony Pictures Entertainment was the work of the North Korean government, the FBI said Friday, but as South Carolina residents know, a massive data breach can also be the result of a slip-up by a single employee.

Post and Courier: Arbitrator's ruling has Charleston longshoremen rethinking contract negotiations

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141219/PC05/141219365>

David Wren

An arbitrator's ruling this month has taught Kenneth Riley a lesson: Always negotiate the local contract before signing any multi-state agreement. "It's like negotiating with your hand behind your back," Riley, president of the International Longshoreman's Association Local No. 1422 in Charleston, said of the arbitrator's Dec. 12 decision.

The State: Metts' name slated to disappear from Lexington County sheriff's complex

http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/19/3884026_metts-name-slated-to-disappear.html?rh=1

Tim Flach

The name of ex-Lexington County Sheriff James Metts will be erased soon from the law enforcement complex he once supervised, key County Council members say. "It's definitely certain his name is coming off," said Council Chairman Johnny Jeffcoat of Irmo, who supported the move to name it for Metts in 2007.

Index-Journal: Fowler to join Spearman's transition team

<http://www.indexjournal.com/news/Fowler-to-join-Spearman-s-transition-team>

Kate Hruby

Greenwood County School District 51 administrator Julie Fowler has been named to State Superintendent of Education-elect Molly Spearman's transition team leadership. District 51's assistant superintendent said Wednesday the team was created to ensure a seamless transition in the midst of several major educational changes.

The State: Christmas break coming just in time for SC's flu-filled schools

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/19/3884122/christmas-break-coming-just-in.html#storylink=cpy>

Joey Holleman

Christmas break for schoolchildren this year also could be a reprieve from a rapidly worsening flu outbreak in the Midlands. Richland 2 sent letters home to the parents of children at seven schools this week to warn of high absence levels. Lexington 1 decided to blast a voice message on parents' phones, reminding them to follow flu-prevention precautions and especially to keep children home if they are sick.

Times and Democrat: Pinson attorney, prosecutors at odds over forfeiture

http://thetandd.com/news/local/pinson-attorney-prosecutors-at-odds-over-forfeiture/article_8299c0a0-880f-11e4-9437-6ffdb3751f1a.html

Martha Rose Brown

Federal prosecutors say former South Carolina State University Board Chairman Jonathan Pinson should forfeit more than \$850,000 following his conviction on public corruption charges. But in paperwork filed Friday, Pinson's attorneys say the amount "is grossly excessive and, thus, improper." Instead, they say the maximum he should be subjected to is \$108,600.

Post and Courier: Keep an eye out for right whales along SC coast

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141220/PC16/141229987>

Bo Petersen

The mammoths are back - rare right whales - and their best safeguard off the Lowcountry coast might be the binoculars in your hand. The first mother and calf pair was reported this week off Jekyll Island, Ga., by aerial survey flights.

Local News:

Beaufort Gazette: Lowcountry Economic Alliance votes to dissolve

http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/12/19/3496879_beaufort-county-economic-development.html?sp=/99/100/&rh=1

Zach Murdock

Beaufort County's embattled economic development partner, the Lowcountry Economic Alliance, will dissolve this spring. The group's board of directors voted unanimously Friday to disband the nonprofit organization after months of uncertainty about its ability to secure funding next year and alliance director Kim Statler's decision to take a new job at the S.C. Department of Commerce.

Florence Morning News: SC flu numbers outpace last year, Florence among three top counties in confirmed cases

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_56475e34-87df-11e4-bb0d-cb072113ab24.html

Gavin Jackson

Medical professionals in Florence say the flu is in full swing and the Department of Health and Environmental Control said in a recent report that it found Florence, Richland and Charleston counties leading the state in laboratory-confirmed cases since the start of the season on Sept. 28.

Greenville News: Clemson grads launch yeast biotech and target craft beer industry in Southeast

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/12/19/clemson-grads-launch-yeast-biotech-target-craft-beer-industry-southeast/20651619/>

Liv Osby

When grad student David Thornton was asked to teach a class on the science of beer making at Clemson University, he had no idea that a project he and his students would undertake as part of the course would morph into a biotech start-up supplying specialty yeasts to craft breweries thirsting for new recipes.

National News:

New York Times: North Korea, Angrily Denying Sony Attack, Proposes Joint Investigation With U.S.

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/21/world/asia/north-korea-denying-sony-attack-proposes-joint-investigation-with-us.html?partner=rss&emc=rss&_r=0

Martin Fackler

Warning of “serious consequences” if the United States retaliates against it, North Korea on Saturday insisted that it was not behind a damaging cyberattack on Sony Pictures, and offered to prove its innocence by proposing a joint investigation with Washington to identify the hackers.

New York Times: Obama Defends Actions on Cuba and Promises Some Compromise With Congress

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/20/us/politics/obama-cuba-north-korea-news-conference.html>

Julie Hirschfeld Davis

President Obama on Friday rejected criticism that he should not have reopened American relations with Cuba because of the nation’s human rights record, saying the historic thaw would give the United States more sway over the Cuban government.

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