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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Friday, December 5, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Area Development: Precision Southeast Expanding Marion County, South Carolina, Manufacturing Facility
<http://www.areadevelopment.com/newsItems/12-5-2014/precision-southeast-operations-expansion-south-carolina564537.shtml>

Precision Southeast, Inc., a manufacturer of injection molded plastic parts, is expanding its operations in eastern South Carolina. The company is investing \$16.6 million to expand its Marion County manufacturing operations, creating an expected 140 new jobs there over the next five years.

Note: "Precision Southeast has been doing business in South Carolina for nearly 35 years and that partnership means a great deal to the local communities they help support and to our state as a whole. The fact that they have expanded in both Horry and Marion Counties over the past year proves their commitment to South Carolina and we look forward to watching them continue to grow for many years to come," Governor Nikki Haley noted.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Lawmakers predict infrastructure and ethics reform to be top priorities
<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20141205/ARTICLES/141209798/1083/ARTICLES?p=1&tc=pg>

Felicia Kitzmiller

A laundry list of issues need to be tackled in the upcoming legislative session, but only a small number are likely to be completed, lawmakers said Friday at the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce's annual legislative overview. Infrastructure and ethics reform are likely to be the top priorities for the S.C. Senate, Sen. Shane Martin told Chamber members.

Note: The discussion is further complicated by Gov. Nikki Haley's vow to veto a gas tax increase, Martin said. Haley said she plans to reveal an infrastructure plan in January, and while little bills might be filed before that, Martin said it is unlikely a comprehensive package will form until then. "Until we hear from the governor, I don't think anything big is going to coalesce, and it's going to have to be big," he said.

Associated Press: SC bill would bar abusers from owning guns

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

Seanna Adcox

It's time for South Carolina lawmakers to get serious about curbing domestic violence in South Carolina and bar abusers from owning guns, the Senate Judiciary chairman said Friday. A weapons ban is a key provision of Larry Martin's bill that seeks to reduce the state's dismal death statistics.

Note: During a gubernatorial debate in October, Gov. Nikki Haley did not directly answer a question on whether the state should make it easier to keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers, drawing criticism from her challengers. Instead, Haley noted she signed a law designed to prevent people declared mentally ill by a court from buying a gun, then said everybody else should be able to protect their homes and businesses. She called domestic violence a cultural and generational issue and said the best chance to combat it is through churches where victims feel safe.

Note: The next day, her spokesman issued a statement saying Haley would "absolutely support" a state law that mirrors federal law to allow enforcement. This week, she told reporters she's thrilled Martin introduced the bill and expects others. "We have said before that if they take guns away from offenders, we are fine with that. That's all about following the law," she said, adding that while she also supports strengthening penalties, new laws won't solve the problem.

The State: Army's Apache swap threatens jobs at McEntire base in SC

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/12/04/6593691/armys-apache-swap-threatens-jobs.html?sp=/100/104/>

Jeff Wilkinson

When the last U.S. troops were leaving Iraq in 2011, a battalion of Apache attack helicopters from the South Carolina National Guard – about 24 "birds" – were covering the withdrawal. It was their second deployment

to Iraq; the first was in 2004.

Note: "As the wife of a South Carolina National Guardsman, Governor Haley knows first hand just how important the guard is to our state and their role protecting our citizens and way of life around the globe," spokesman Doug Mayer said in a statement. "The governor has repeatedly been on record against the manner in which these cuts are being implemented, including face-to-face with President Obama, and she will continue to voice her opposition going forward."

Associated Press: 2nd loan approved for SC State, this time for \$12M

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=RVaz3N4Q

South Carolina State University will receive a second state loan to pay long overdue bills and keep student services running. Area media outlets report the \$12 million loan was approved this week by a legislative committee. The money will go to the historically black Orangeburg school over three years.

Florence Morning News: Precision Southeast announces expansion, 140 jobs in Marion County

http://www.scnow.com/news/business/article_c5f9ae92-7c88-11e4-943f-bf2d808afb3a.html

Naeem McFadden

Marion County officials announced Friday Precision Southeast Inc., a manufacturer of injection molded plastic parts, is expanding its operations in the area, expecting to create 140 new jobs. The company, which has headquarters in Myrtle Beach, is investing \$16.6 million. Precision Southeast CEO Steve Stadtman said it's great to see his home state, which is not only business friendly but also a great place to live, on the cutting edge of creating top manufacturing jobs.

Associated Press: 140 jobs for SC county with highest unemployment

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=sy5y5la0

There is some good economic news for Marion County, which has South Carolina's highest unemployment rate. Precision Southeast, Inc. announced Friday it is investing almost \$17 million to expand its operations in the county. The investment is expected to create 140 new jobs during the next five years.

South Carolina News:

Island Packet: CareCore buys competitor to create \$1.5 billion company

http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/12/05/3471122_carecore-buys-competitor-to-create.html?sp=/99/100/&rh=1

Dan Burley

CareCore National, the largest company in Beaufort County, announced Thursday it has merged with a leading competitor to create a venture worth more than \$1.5 billion in annual revenues. The health care company has purchased Nashville-based MedSolutions, according to a news release. Financial details were not disclosed.

Aiken Standard: University moves forward with plans to build Aiken hospital

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141205/AIK0101/141209657/1083/university-moves-forward-with-plans-to-build-aiken-hospital>

University Health Care System is moving forward with its plans to construct a facility in Aiken. An announcement was released Friday stating its intent to file a State Certificate of Need to build a 50-bed, \$53 million general acute-care hospital in Aiken County. The facility, University Hospital Aiken, would be located at the intersection of Trolley Line Road and Robert Bell Parkway.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Young conservatives pushing GOP to back gay marriage rights

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141205/PC1204/141209702/1177/young-conservatives-pushing-gop-to-back-gay-marriage-rights>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

A group of young conservatives stopped this week in South Carolina, one of the nation's earliest and most conservative primary states, to convince fellow Republicans to change the party platform to support same-sex marriage. They arrived two weeks after the state's first gay couples received marriage licenses in a state whose voters overwhelmingly supported a ban.

Post and Courier: SCRA provides start-up funding to two Charleston companies

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141205/PC05/141209690/1177/scra-provides-start-up-funding-to-two-charleston-companies>

Warren L. Wise

Two Charleston companies have received an initial round of funding from the South Carolina Research Authority. GWIG, or Go Where I Go, and Wave Sciences are now part of the Summerville company's Technology Ventures' SC Launch program. Each received \$200,000.

The State: Prosecutors want to revoke bond of suspect in Dutch Fork High student's killing

http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/05/3854713_prosecutors-want-to-revoke-bond.html?rh=1#storylink=cpy

Tim Flach

Prosecutors want to revoke the bond of a Lexington County murder suspect for going to a nightclub Thanksgiving weekend. The request comes after the victim's brother encountered Kierin Dennis at a Columbia night club Nov. 28, court records say.

Associated Press: Charleston to spend millions on fire stations

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=N62EFRJc

The City of Charleston plans to spend millions of dollars in the next 20 years to upgrade fire stations and build new ones. Area media outlets report one of the new stations will be built next to the memorial at the site of the Sofa Super Store fire where 9 firefighters died in 2007.

National News:

Associated Press: 321,000 jobs added in Nov., most in nearly 3 years

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/05/3854548/us-adds-321000-jobs-jobless-rate.html>

Christopher S. Rugaber

A burst of U.S. hiring in November — the most in nearly three years — added 321,000 jobs and provided the latest evidence that the United States is outperforming other economies throughout the developed world. In addition, the government said Friday that 44,000 more jobs were added in September and October combined than it had previously estimated.

Associated Press: Obama taps Pentagon veteran Carter to lead DOD

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/whitehouse/obama-to-announce-defense-secretary-pick-friday/2014/12/04/245f656c-7c2a-11e4-8241-8cc0a3670239_story.html

Shaking up his Pentagon leadership, President Barack Obama tapped policy wonk Ashton Carter to oversee the sprawling Defense Department Friday, heralding his new nominee as one the nation's "foremost national security leaders." Obama announced Carter's nomination during a ceremony at the White House.

Reuters: Boehner vows to avoid government shutdown with help from Democrats

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/05/us-usa-congress-shutdown-idUSKCN0J12BM20141205>

David Lawder

Overriding objections from some conservative Republicans, U.S. House Speaker John Boehner vowed on Thursday to plow ahead with a spending bill that averts a government shutdown while keeping some budget "leverage" over President Barack Obama's immigration order.

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