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Subject: Clips – Sunday, December 7, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Aiken Standard: Winter Weather Awareness week: State agencies join forces with weather experts for preparation campaign

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141206/AIK0101/141209581>

Teddy Kulmala

If a dusting of snow the day after Halloween wasn't warning enough: Winter is coming, and emergency officials around the state last week partnered with the National Weather Service for Winter Weather Awareness Week.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley issued a proclamation for the week, which began Dec. 1 and ended Saturday. This is the first time the state of South Carolina has joined with the National Weather Service to co-sponsor the campaign.

Post and Courier: Ginny Deerin may join Charleston mayor's race

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141207/PC1603/141209688/1031/ginny-deerin-may-join-charleston-mayors-race>

Fresh off her unsuccessful run for secretary of state, Ginny Deerin is kicking around running for mayor of Charleston next year.

Marijuana proponent wants Haley administration job: Former United Citizens Party gubernatorial hopeful Morgan Bruce Reeves has a funny way of trying to impress someone he hopes will be his future employer. Reeves, whose comments about "hemp milk" and partisanship added life to the campaign's two televised debates, spoke with The Post and Courier last week about how he influenced the top race.

Benghazi hearing is this week: Republican U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy of Spartanburg will convene a public hearing of the Select Committee on Benghazi this Wednesday in Washington. Gowdy is the chairman of the special House panel investigating the September 2012 attacks on the U.S. consulate.

Governor's Mansion Christmas Open House: Gov. Nikki Haley, first gentleman Michael Haley and their children are inviting all South Carolinians and their families to join them for a Christmas Open House on Monday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Governor's Mansion.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Be tough on domestic violence

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141207/PC1002/141209615/1021/get-tough-on-domestic-violence>
Editorial

If asked, most people will say criminal domestic violence is an ugly reality that the state needs to address. But South Carolina's lawmakers have been reluctant to do much about it. That might be about to change.

Note: A promising bill is being written in the Senate Judiciary Committee. A House committee is also studying the issue. And Gov. Nikki Haley promised to take a close look at the Senate bill.

The State (Guest Column): Wyoming? Really? Why not South Carolina?

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/07/3855580/knapp-wyoming-really-why-not-south.html>

Frank Knapp Jr.

Wyoming is negotiating with the Obama administration to draw down federal dollars to provide affordable, private health insurance to its low-income citizens who earn too little to qualify for premium assistance under the Affordable Care Act. These uninsured Wyoming citizens fall into that state's coverage gap.

Note: Until now there has been only one word from our Republican Gov. Nikki Haley and our Republican-controlled Legislature about closing our coverage gap with the help of federal dollars — NO.

Note: But State House sources are now saying that the Haley administration is looking at an Alabama model for reforming our state Medicaid program.

Aiken Standard: Immigration continually coiled with bitter politics

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141207/AIK0201/141209639/1018/AIK02>

Editorial

The debate over immigration reform continues to roll out of control. Instead of finding common ground and accomplishing a long-term framework to change our immigration laws, we're now seemingly set to sift through a series of legal battles that does little to fix the problem.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Congratulations, Rita

Allison chosen to lead state House Education Committee at key time

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20141207/OPINION/412071010/1128/opinion?Title=Congratulations-Rita>

Editorial

It says a great deal about the confidence her fellow lawmakers have in state Rep. Rita Allison that she has been chosen to lead the House Education and Public Works Committee this year. The General Assembly faces a state Supreme Court decision requiring changes in the way the state funds education.

The State: At McConnell's College of Charleston, a penny saved is a dollar for scholarships

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/06/3855663/scoppe-at-mcconnells-college-of.html#storylink=cpy>

Cindi Scoppe

GLENN McCONNELL, still not that far removed from being arguably the most powerful person in state government, has dropped by to assure me that he is not building a new empire for himself at the College of Charleston.

Post and Courier: County Council must stand firm on growth boundary

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141207/PC1002/141209612/1021>

Editorial

Rural preservation is a central planning goal of Charleston County, and maintaining the county's urban growth boundary is essential to that mission. So why is County Council looking at a proposal to shift the boundary to accommodate a 520-acre tract on Johns Island? It's a bad idea, and the timing is even worse.

Florence Morning News: Businesses playing big role in early education

http://www.scnow.com/opinion/article_fbdbd3c-7d95-11e4-93c3-1f18c0d615ae.html

Editorial

Tuesday at Alfred Rush Academy in Quinby, Sen. Hugh K. Leatherman, R-Florence, gave and received. He gave Florence School District 1 a check from the state for \$147,500, the last quarterly payment for financing a school readiness program. He received a positive report on how the program has done.

The State: United Way of the Midlands obvious only organization equipped to coordinate homeless regionally

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/07/3855652/editorial-united-way-of-the-midlands.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

COLUMBIA CITY Council's selection of the United Way of the Midlands to coordinate the effort to address homelessness is another positive step in meeting the need of some of our most needy citizens. Columbia officials had sought a group that could not only oversee the city's efforts but coordinate with others aiding the homeless across the region.

S.C. General Assembly News:

The State: New speaker's political savvy springs from small-town roots

http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/06/3857678_new-speakers-political-savvy-springs.html?rh=1

Andrew Shain

While growing up in a small Pee Dee town, Jay Lucas stuttered severely, not exactly a confidence-building experience on his way to becoming one of South Carolina's most powerful politicians. "I had a fear of speaking in public," the newly elected S.C. House speaker said last week. "It threw my timing in life off."

Times and Democrat: 'Too important' to fail: S.C. State needs more than \$12M loan, lawmakers say

http://thetandd.com/news/too-important-to-fail-s-c-state-needs-more-than/article_50019ec2-7dd5-11e4-8b1b-1f77f0efbc42.html

Dale Linder-Altman

South Carolina State University needs more than the \$12 million loan approved Wednesday to get its finances in order, according to local lawmakers. Even so, they say the university will not fail. The state Joint Bond Review Committee on Wednesday approved a \$12 million loan recommended by an advisory committee set up by lawmakers.

Sumter Item: Smith remains on House Ways and Means Committee

<http://www.theitem.com/stories/smith-remains-on-house-ways-and-means-committee,237414>

Jim Hilley

South Carolina Speaker of the House James H. "Jay" Lucas, R-Darlington, announced committee assignments this week, and Rep. Murrell Smith, R-Sumter, said his reappointment to the Ways and Means Committee in the South Carolina House of Representatives will be a benefit to his constituents.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Politics drive stalemate over South Carolina standards for English and math

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141207/PC1603/141209643/1177>

Amanda Kerr, Cynthia Roldan

Hasty efforts to dump Common Core have left South Carolina in a mess, lawmakers say, and teachers unsure what they will be expected to teach their students next year. Given the monumental task of rewriting math and English competency standards under a tight deadline, it came as no surprise to some that the effort came to a sudden halt last week when a panel reviewing a draft ripped the revisions as a disservice to the state's students.

The State: After ruling on schools, 'God is at work in this state'

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/06/3857680/after-ruling-on-schools-god-is.html>

Carolyn Click

Some of the state's most prominent religious leaders see the hand of God in the outcome of the long-awaited Abbeville education equity decision, a defining moment that transcends politics. "I can't describe how hopeful I am," said Bishop Herman R. Yoos III, leader of the S.C. Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Greenville News: Young conservatives want anti-gay words out of platform

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/12/07/young-conservatives-want-anti-gay-words-platform/19948633/>

Tim Smith

For Marco Nunez Jr. of Greenville, the turning point came in 2004, while he was working on the Bush campaign in Oregon. The 39-year-old son of a fundamentalist missionary who was schooled at Bob Jones University, Nunez was struggling with a ballot initiative that year in Oregon that defined marriage as the union between a man and a woman. It was not an issue, he said, he had delved into before.

Associated Press: Indictments of officers in SC buck nationwide trends

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2014/12/06/indictments-officers-sc-buck-nationwide-trends/20000737/>

Jeffrey Collins

As communities around the nation protest decisions not to charge officers who have injured or killed suspects, South Carolina prosecutors have obtained indictments against three white officers for on-duty shootings of unarmed black men in the past four months. It might seem unusual that officers would face charges in a law-and-order state like South Carolina.

The State: THE BUZZ: Concealed weapon permits as voter IDs? Paying USC, Clemson athletes?

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/06/3857675/the-buzz-concealed-weapon-permits.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

The topics addressed in the bills prefiled last week by state senators range from guns for students to shooting animals in self-defense to paying some University of South Carolina and Clemson student-athletes. The senator who prefiled the most bills was Lee Bright, the Spartanburg Republican who filed 27 percent of the 173 prefiled bills.

The State: Ride-sharing app Uber continues to grow popular with users, frustrating Columbia taxi drivers

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/06/3857635/ride-sharing-app-uber-continues.html#storylink=cpy>

Harrison Cahill

Uber has been growing in popularity among many smartphone users in Columbia since its launch in July, but the global ride-sharing platform is under fire from many local taxi companies and drivers as everyone waits to see whether the company will have to adhere to city regulations.

Associated Press: Sweeps operators plead guilty to federal charges

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=um4a2gzx

Mitch Weiss, Michael Biesecker

Federal authorities have broken up a family-run sweepstakes gaming enterprise that prosecutors say serviced more than 600 Internet cafes across the country, raking in proceeds estimated at nearly a quarter billion dollars.

Associated Press: Rock library keep track of what's under SC

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=RXss4fN0

Sammy Fretwell

Like the library in most any community, the one off Broad River Road in Columbia has plenty of information in the rows of shelves lining the building's interior. But there are no books. This library is filled with rocks, dirt and minerals.

Local News:

Rock Hill Herald: Herald exclusive: About 2 dozen accused killers free on bond in Chester, Lancaster

http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/12/06/6598889_herald-exclusive-about-2-dozen.html?rh=1#storylink=cpy

Andrew Dys

Chester County Sheriff Alex Underwood says an understaffed and underfunded court system allows violent offenders, including accused killers, to languish in jail for years without trial. Some, he says, are released on bond for months or years until trial – all the while committing other crimes.

Post and Courier: Dorchester County's preparation leads to industrial growth

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141206/PC05/141209696/1177>

Warren Wise

Whether fiber or forklifts, electrodes or boats, Dorchester County's industrial scene has been on an upswing. In the past few months, more than a thousand new jobs have been announced from a variety of product-makers - hardly touched by the troubles within the region's chief job-recruiting agency and departure of the county's economic development director.

Florence Morning News: Florence City Council combats misinformation over revitalization plan

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_60e2bb2c-7d9e-11e4-a8ca-5318293199c2.html

Gavin Jackson

The Florence City Council will vote whether to adopt its neighborhood revitalization plan Monday at its December meeting, a plan that has been more than seven months in the making and one that caused quite a stir among the rental housing community last week.

National News:

Associated Press: Last of Senate's deep South Democrats defeated

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_SENATE_LOUISIANA?

[SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-12-07-03-28-17](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_SENATE_LOUISIANA?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-12-07-03-28-17)

Melinda Deslatte, Bill Barrow

Republican Rep. Bill Cassidy has denied Democratic Sen. Mary Landrieu of Louisiana a fourth term, calling his Senate victory "the exclamation point" on midterm elections that put Republicans in charge on Capitol Hill for President Barack Obama's last two years in office.

Reuters: Biden sees 'less than even' chance of nuclear deal with Iran

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/06/us-iran-nuclear-usa-biden-idUSKBN0JK0QW20141206>

U.S. Vice President Joe Biden said on Saturday there was a "less than even shot" of a nuclear deal with Iran but that it was still worth pursuing. Biden, speaking at a forum on the Middle East at the Brookings Institution think tank, rejected calls for more sanctions against Tehran over its nuclear program because "this is not the time to risk a breakdown when we still have a chance for a breakthrough."

Washington Post: Obama urges persistence in confronting deep roots of racism

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/obama-urges-persistence-in-confronting-deep-roots-of-racism/2014/12/07/ebb32c96-7cbd-11e4-b821-503cc7efed9e_story.html

David Nakamura, Vanessa Williams

President Obama on Sunday sought to calm tensions in the wake of racially charged protests in New York and Ferguson, Mo., saying the nation has made progress on race relations but emphasizing that the distrust between minority communities and law enforcement “will not be solved overnight.”

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