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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Friday, December 11, 2015

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Greenville News: All eyes on the Senate as road-funding debate gets ready to resume
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2015/12/11/all-eyes-senate-road-funding-debate-gets-ready-resume/77041348/>

Rudolph Bell

Chambers of commerce around South Carolina and other groups demanding a fix for the state's crumbling roads will have their eyes trained on the state Senate next month when the Legislature reconvenes in Columbia. The House passed a road-funding plan last year after years of debate over where to get the money.

Note: Turner said he'd vote for a gas tax hike provided it's combined with an income tax cut and reform of the Department of Transportation. That's the position of Gov. Nikki Haley and a majority of Republican senators, he said.

Area Development: Röchling Automotive USA Invests \$5.8 million To Expand Production At Its Duncan, South Carolina, Manufacturing Complex

<http://www.areadevelopment.com/newsItems/12-11-2015/r%C3%B6chling-automotive-usa-duncan-south-carolina786423.shtml>

Germany-based Röchling Automotive USA, a North American subsidiary of Röchling Automotive Group, is expanding its operations to a 150,000 square foot facility in Duncan, South Carolina. The company is investing \$5.8 million in the facility, which serves as its North American headquarters, creating 25 new jobs in Spartanburg County.

Note: "The success of great corporate citizens like Röchling motivates Team South Carolina to keep fighting for tax relief, education reform and workforce training so we can keep our economic development momentum going. Röchling's expansion is a win for Duncan, a win for Spartanburg County and a win for the entire state," said Governor Nikki Haley.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Associated Press: Speaker Lucas proposes dam safety, inspection changes

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=A4WCKRab

The proposal put forth by House Speaker Jay Lucas on Thursday, the last day lawmakers could pre-file bills before the session that starts next month, would put more smaller dams under state oversight as long as their failure would damage highways, railroads, homes, businesses, utility services or other dams downstream, according to The State newspaper (<http://bit.ly/1IB4cFZ>).

S.C. Political News:

Sun News: Carly Fiorina brings presidential campaign to Pawleys Island

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/politics-government/article49226240.html>

Audrey Hudson

Republican presidential contender Carly Fiorina will participate in a town hall meeting at 5 p.m. Dec. 21 at the Applewood House of Pancakes in Pawleys Island. Fiorina, the former CEO of Hewlett Packard, will outline her vision for America and take questions from the audience, said Reese Boyd, Horry County GOP state executive committeeman in a statement.

Aiken Standard: Trump tops South Carolina polls, again

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20151210/AIK0101/151219928>

Maayan Schechter

GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump is continuing his surge in both nationwide and South Carolina polls since declaring his candidacy in June. The latest poll out Thursday by Winthrop University in Rock Hill shows 24 percent of likely Republican voters in South Carolina back Trump, with only 17 percent unsure of who they will support in the Feb. 20 Republican primary.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Rock Hill Herald: New SC home for Confederate flag? We can get this job done a lot cheaper

<http://www.heraldonline.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/james-werrell/article48949975.html#storylink=cpy>
James Werrell

I have an offer for the state of South Carolina: I will build an appropriate display for the Confederate flag recently removed from the grounds of the Statehouse for half the price asked by the designers who have bid on the project. That's right, I'll do it for half price, just \$2.65 million!

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Students suspended as furor grows over KKK-type photos

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

Bruce Smith

Civil rights activists called Friday for the resignation of The Citadel's president after online photos surfaced showing cadets with pillowcases over their heads similar to Ku Klux Klan garb, but the president says he isn't quitting. The South Carolina military college issued a statement saying retired Air Force Lt. Gen. John Rosa has no plans to step down as president and will honor his contract running until 2018.

Post and Courier: Citadel says president will remain, despite activists' call for ouster

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151211/PC16/151219900>

Prentiss Findlay

Retired Lt. Gen. James Rosa should resign as president of The Citadel because of photos that showed a group of cadets wearing costumes resembling Ku Klux Klan hoods, a Civil Rights group said Friday. "Accountability starts at the top," said James Johnson, state coordinator of the National Action Network.

The State: SC cancels secessionist group's State House rally

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article49248780.html>

Andrew Shain

South Carolina authorities said security concerns led them to revoke a permit this week for a group planning to hold a rally commemorating the anniversary of the state seceding from the Union. The decision comes five months after police clashed with some protestors at simultaneous rallies by the Ku Klux Klan and Black Panther Party, held a week after the Confederate battle flag was removed from the State House grounds.

Associated Press: Officers on the beat see changes as tension rises on patrol

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=bNU1c1Uj

Jeffrey Collins

Police feel their job has changed after more than a year of high-profile deadly confrontations between police and unarmed black men in cities from Ferguson, Missouri, to Baltimore. Officers on the beat said there is more tension on the streets.

Post and Courier: Emanuel AME Church pastor sues former members for defamation

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151211/PC16/151219886>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

The interim pastor of Emanuel AME Church is suing 18 of his former parishioners in Columbia for defamation and slander after they raised questions about his handling of large sums of money at their church. The Rev. Norvel Goff filed the lawsuit Dec. 2 in Richland County after members alleged he took out mortgages against Reid Chapel AME Church without required permissions and amassed large tax liens while he was pastor.

Post and Courier: Upset residents say parts of Volvo plant plan diminishes rural way of life

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151211/PC16/151219872>

Brenda Rindge

Residents who live near the planned Volvo plant in rural Berkeley County are upset about possible new

access roads to the plant that has some feeling like victims of a bait-and-switch. "We are a rural farming community and we do want to maintain our way of life," said Shanna Saulisbury, who lives on Lebanon Road.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Associated Press: Carolinas congressmen seek delay in offshore testing

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=NldAZI0S

Bruce Smith

South Carolina U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford, in a letter signed by more than two dozen other House members, is asking the federal government to halt permitting activities for seismic testing for offshore natural gas and oil. The letter, written with Virginia U.S. Rep. Bobby Scott, was sent Thursday to Abigail Ross Hopper, the director of the federal Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management.

Local News:

Island Packet: Beaufort to FEMA: Help us with Waterfront Park, dock repairs

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article48972125.html>

Stephen Fastenau

The city of Beaufort is asking for federal assistance to address issues it says are related to the heavy rains and high tides of the past couple of months. The dock at Pigeon Point Landing suffered \$5,000 in damage due to rain and "king" tides after reopening in mid-October following a more extensive repair, city manager Bill Prokop said.

Aiken Standard: Aiken County could get refugees anyway, despite resolution rejecting refugee funding

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20151210/AIK0101/151219939/aiken-county-could-get-refugees-anyway-despite-resolution-rejecting-refugee-funding>

Dan Brown

Aiken County Council's 7-2 vote rejecting state funding for the resettlement of refugees in Aiken County might not make any difference in regard to blocking the resettlement of refugees here. Aiken County could get refugees anyway, according to Karen Wingo, director of Communications and Legislative Affairs with the S.C. Department of Social Services.

National News:

Associated Press: Ben Carson threatens to leave Republican Party

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/nation-world/national/article49239740.html>

David Lightman

Ben Carson Friday threatened to leave the Republican Party after seeing reports of a high-level meeting of party establishment figures to discuss the road ahead. Carson, a retired neurosurgeon who has been in the top tier of GOP presidential candidates in recent weeks, issued a fiery statement ripping the party.

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