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**Subject:** Afternoon Clips – Thursday, December 18, 2014

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## Afternoon Clips – Thursday, December 18, 2014

### Governor Nikki Haley News:

**Associated Press:** Haley announces Dept. of Administration secretary

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ufig4fSJo](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ufig4fSJo)

Gov. Nikki Haley says the director of the agency that handles much of state government's bureaucracy will be South Carolina's first Department of Administration secretary. Haley announced Thursday that Marcia Adams will lead the agency that officially won't exist until July 1. It will be South Carolina's 17th Cabinet agency.

**Note:** But Haley says she wanted to make the announcement early to help with the transition. She called Adams' appointment a "no-brainer."

**The State:** First director named for new SC agency

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/18/3881636/first-director-named-for-new-sc.html>

Andrew Shain

Marcia Adams, head of the soon-to-close agency that oversees S.C. state government operations, was named Thursday to lead its successor that will go under control of Gov. Nikki Haley. Haley appointed Adams as the first director of the Department of Administration.

**Note:** "This is the one position that I am not the slightest bit nervous about," Haley said. "I have seen her in action. I know what she thinks. We're looking at a good finance person that understands this all about making the lives of every agency easier and reducing the dollars of every taxpayers in South Carolina."

**WIS:** Gov. Nikki Haley chooses head of new Dept. of Administration

<http://www.wistv.com/story/27664101/gov-nikki-haley-chooses-head-of-new-dept-of-administration>

Jeremy Turnage

Gov. Nikki Haley has made her choice to head the newest cabinet-level position that oversees large parts of South Carolina's inter-governmental issues. In a 3:45 p.m. news conference, Haley says she's selected Marcia Adams to lead the new South Carolina Department of Administration. The Administration Department was created as a result of a government restructuring bill passed this most recent legislative session.

**WIS:** More than 25 ethics reform bill prefiled for the new year

<http://www.wistv.com/story/27664927/more-than-25-ethics-reform-bill-prefiled-for-the-new-year>

Will Whitson

More than 26 ethics reform bills have already been prefiled by legislators in both the state House of Representatives and the Senate for the upcoming 2015-2016 session. Ethics reform has taken a front and center position at the beginning of each session since 2012- and even with so much talk about changing laws.

**Note:** "We still have an F on the corruption risk report card," Governor Nikki Haley said. "We are still 45th state in the country when it comes to corruption. In my administration time, we have watched a Lt. Governor get indicted, we've watched a speaker get indicted, we've watched a senator get indicted, and I have removed 8 sheriffs."

**Note:** "It means every complaint goes to a second body that has no conflict. That body looks at it, decides what is wrong, and makes the judgement," said Haley.

**Post and Courier:** Gov. Nikki Haley's ex-chief of staff to be CEO of South Carolina Chamber

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141218/PC05/141219447>

John McDermott

Gov. Nikki Haley's former chief of staff has been named to lead to the state's largest pro-business trade group. The S.C. Chamber of Commerce said Ted Pitts, hired as executive vice president in early November,

is being promoted to president and CEO, effective next month.

**SCRN:** Former Haley chief of staff to lead powerful business group

<http://www.southcarolinaradionetwork.com/2014/12/18/former-haley-chief-of-staff-to-lead-powerful-business-group/>

Matt Long

Gov. Nikki Haley's former chief of staff has been named the next president and CEO of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce. Ted Pitts gave up his job in the Governor's Office soon after Haley was reelected last month. At the time, the chamber said it was hiring Pitts as executive vice president. On Thursday, the chamber reported Pitts would replace current President and CEO Otis Rawl.

### **S.C. Agency News:**

**The State:** S.C. middle of the pack among states in protections against infectious diseases

[http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/18/3880877\\_sc-middle-of-the-pack-among-states.html?rh=1#storylink=cpy](http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/18/3880877_sc-middle-of-the-pack-among-states.html?rh=1#storylink=cpy)

Joey Holleman

South Carolina has done a good job of planning but still has some problems in its defense against infectious diseases, according to a report released Thursday by Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. South Carolina ranks in the middle of the pack among states overall, with passing grades for public health funding, preparation for emerging threats and infant HBV vaccination rates.

**Post and Courier:** Despite non-expansion stance, Medicaid in South Carolina keeps growing

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141218/PC16/141219443>

Lauren Sausser

A lot of South Carolinians are signing up for Medicaid, even though the state isn't technically expanding eligibility for the low-income health insurance program under Obamacare. According to new federal data released Thursday, Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) enrollment increased in South Carolina by about 100,000 people - a 12.4 percent jump - between July 2013 and October 2014.

### **S.C. General Assembly News:**

**Associated Press:** Senators: Forgiving loans could net more SC teachers

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=2S5uZLlp](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=2S5uZLlp)

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina could recruit and keep more good teachers by forgiving student loans, paying teacher mentors a stipend and boosting some teachers' salaries, a Senate study panel says. Its leader, Sen. Wes Hayes, said Wednesday the state should focus such initiatives in rural districts where it's particularly hard to fill classrooms with high-quality teachers.

### **S.C. Federal Delegation News:**

**Washington Post:** Graham and Schumer: U.S. must veto any U.N. resolution imposing terms on Israel

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/right-turn/wp/2014/12/18/graham-and-schumer-u-s-must-veto-u-n-resolution-imposing-terms-on-israel/>

Jennifer Rubin

Two senior senators — Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) and Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) — released a letter today expressing concern that the White House would allow a resolution to go forward that would do what every administration (including this one) has vowed to prevent, namely impose a “peace” deal on Israel. They write, in part, to Kerry:

### **South Carolina News:**

**Associated Press:** Duke Energy says it will close SC coal ash pits

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ykMRUcTO](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ykMRUcTO)

Mitch Weiss

Duke Energy said Thursday it's planning to move all of its coal ash from pits at a South Carolina plant that environmentalists say threatens the Saluda River. The company's plan is part of an agreement in principle with the Southern Environmental Law Center, which has been pushing Duke for years to clean up the unlined, leaky ash dumps at the W.S. Lee facility near Greenville.



**Sun News:** S.C. 31 extension work to cause shoulder closure on S.C. 707

[http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/12/18/4676825\\_sc-31-extension-work-to-cause.html?sp=/99/209/&rh=1#storylink=cpy](http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/12/18/4676825_sc-31-extension-work-to-cause.html?sp=/99/209/&rh=1#storylink=cpy)

The \$237 million project to extend S.C. 31 to about S.C. 707 has been a multi-year project funded mostly by State Infrastructure Bank Funds, and in part with American Recovery and Investment Act Funds and local match dollars. The nearly four-mile extension will be a multi-lane highway that includes a bridge over the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. Construction is slated to be completed by the spring of 2017.

**Associated Press:** SC, 6 other states have bans on atheists holding office

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141218/AIK0106/141219428/1004/sc-6-other-states-have-bans-on-atheists-holding-office>

Some freedom-from-religion advocates are pressing Maryland, South Carolina, and five other states to remove provisions from their state constitutions prohibiting people who don't believe in God from holding public office. The Openly Secular coalition, based in Columbus, Ohio, says the other states are Arkansas, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. The New York Times first reported on the campaign.

## **Local News:**

**Associated Press:** SC amphitheater reopening expected to create 300 jobs

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=HOsTHCuP](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=HOsTHCuP)

Officials say they expect the reopening of a Marion County amphitheater to create nearly 300 jobs over five years. Marion County Economic Development Commission executive director Julie Norman says The Hartmann Group, based in Connecticut, is set to close on the 250-acre property this week.

**Rock Hill Herald:** Clover OKs contracts to build new middle, elementary schools

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/12/18/6637484/clover-oks-contracts-to-build.html>

Jennifer Becknell

The Clover school board has awarded \$48.4 million in contracts for the construction of a new elementary school and a new middle school, both to open in 2016. The board approved a \$29.7 million contract for the construction of a middle school on 125 acres on Barrett Road in the Clover area to Beam Construction Co. of Cherryville, N.C.

**Rock Hill Herald:** Election board issues order for new Chester Co. election

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/12/18/6636771/election-board-issues-order-for.html>

Bristow Marchant

The State Election Commission has formally overturned last month's election for Chester County supervisor, another step toward scheduling a new election. Shane Stuart, a petition candidate for county supervisor, filed an appeal after he lost to incumbent Carlisle Roddey by 230 votes.

**Lake Wylie Pilot:** FAA plan could cut air traffic noise over Lake Wylie

[http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/12/18/6637574\\_faa-plan-could-cut-air-traffic.html?rh=1](http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/12/18/6637574_faa-plan-could-cut-air-traffic.html?rh=1)

John Marks

Lake Wylie residents should hear less noise from nearby Charlotte Douglas International Airport, once a new plan to upgrade air traffic control is put in place. The Federal Aviation Administration is taking public comment through Jan. 5 on a modernization plan that should change the way flights take off and land.

**Island Packet:** Lowcountry Economic Alliance to consider its own demise

[http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/12/18/3495413\\_lowcountry-economic-alliance-to.html?sp=/99/100/&rh=1](http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/12/18/3495413_lowcountry-economic-alliance-to.html?sp=/99/100/&rh=1)

Zach Murdock

The Lowcountry Economic Alliance board of directors will discuss whether it should dissolve the organization and contracts for its three staff members Friday morning. The board will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the PET board room of the Hargray Building at the University of South Carolina Beaufort's Hilton Head Island Gateway Campus.

**Post and Courier:** Firearms, ammunition, bomb-making materials seized from Cottageville home

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141218/PC16/141219435>

Melissa Boughton

A Cottageville man could be facing federal charges brought on by the ATF after Colleton County Sheriff's

investigators seized firearms, ammunition and bomb-making materials from his home Dec. 9. A search warrant was executed at 859 Vandyke Road in Cottageville in reference to a complaint that the homeowner was a convicted felon in possession of firearms and ammunition, according to a police report released Thursday.

### **National News:**

**The Hill:** WH: Agencies should factor for climate change in project reviews

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/227589-wh-advises-agencies-to-weigh-climate-impacts-when-considering>

Laura Barron-Lopez

The White House is floating new guidelines for federal agencies on how to weigh climate change impacts when reviewing energy and infrastructure projects. The proposed guidelines from the White House Council on Environmental Quality specifically address National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews by agencies, which require an analysis of the environmental impact by projects that need a federal greenlight.

**Associated Press:** Review: Secret Service needs outsider as leader

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US\\_SECRET\\_SERVICE?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_SECRET_SERVICE?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)

Alicia A. Caldwell

The Secret Service is an "insular" agency that needs a new director hired from the outside, according to former government officials tasked with examining the embattled agency after a man with a knife stormed the White House.

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