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Subject: Morning Clips – Tuesday, December 9, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: State to dig into emergency cash for S.C. State bailout
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141208/PC1603/141209507/1177>

Cynthia Roldan

Calling it "irresponsible," Gov. Nikki Haley abstained Monday from joining other state officials in approving a \$12 million bailout over the next three years for South Carolina State University. The state Budget and Control Board voted 3-1 to tap into a contingency fund for the second round of aid this year for the state's historically black public college.

Note: "For the record, I disagree that we're doing this," Haley said at the meeting. "I really just think it would be completely irresponsible for us to do this at this time."

Note: "If you ask me, they just gave the money away because they know it can't be paid back, and they did it without knowing anything about the school - where it's going, where it's come from or how they're to go about fixing it," she added after the meeting.

Associated Press: South Carolina State to receive \$12M from reserves
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1CM9HDI

Seanna Adcox

The state's financial oversight board agreed Monday to dip into reserves and give South Carolina State University \$12 million over three years, though questions remain about the school's solvency and whether any of the money must be repaid. The Budget and Control Board voted 3-1 to get the money from tax collections that are coming in above advisers' expectations.

Note: "There were no terms put with it, no accountability put with it, no responsibility," she said after the meeting. "I wiped my hands of it."

Note: "They just gave the money away because they know it can't be paid back," she said. "If they thought it was a Band-Aid, it wasn't even that."

The State: Haley: Lawmakers gave away \$12 million to SC State
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/08/3860800/new-12-million-bailout-for-sc.html>

Andrew Shain

Gov. Nikki Haley is upset after state budget leaders agreed Monday to use extra state tax collections for a \$12 million bailout of S.C. State University. Haley said a small panel of lawmakers handed the cash-strapped school millions without knowing the results of a state-ordered audit.

Note: "They just gave the money away because they know it can't be paid back," Haley said outside her office Monday. "They did it without knowing anything about the school - where it's going, where it's come from and how we're going to fix it. ... You've got leadership at the school that's just wanting to throw money at a situation that is still bad."

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: SC State bailout leaves Gov. Nikki Haley frustrated
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141209/PC1603/141209486/1177/palmetto-sunrise-sc-state-bailout-leaves-gov-nikki-haley-frustrated>

Cynthia Roldan

Gov. Nikki Haley was visibly frustrated when she said she disagreed on giving South Carolina State University a \$12 million bailout on Monday. Haley abstained from voting, while Comptroller General Richard Eckstrom dissented in the 3-1 Budget and Control Board vote that allow for the state to tap into its reserves to cover the bailout.

Note: "If you ask me, they just gave the money away because they know it can't be paid back, and they did it without knowing anything about the school; where it's going, where it's come from or how they're to go about fixing it," Haley said. "I've just never seen anything quite like this, where you go and give money

without even knowing the whole story; give money knowing that the situation is bad and give money where it has been clear in the public and in the press that there's a problem."

WLTX: SC State To Receive \$12M From State Reserves

<http://www.wltx.com/story/money/2014/12/08/sc-state-to-receive-12m-from-state-reserves/20093361/>

Jennifer Bellamy

Loan money approved for South Carolina State University has cleared another hurdle Monday. The State Budget and Control Board identified a source to fund a \$12 million loan approved by the Joint Bond Review Committee last week. The decision did not come without its share of questions and objections from members.

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley names acting director of state labor department

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141208/PC1603/141209508/1177>

Thad Moore

An employment lawyer in her first year at the state Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation will be its acting director, Gov. Nikki Haley said Monday. Richele Taylor, the department's deputy director of administration since March, will follow Holly Pisarik in the top job if she is confirmed by the state Senate. The regulatory agency is one of 16 represented in the governor's Cabinet.

Associated Press: SC licensing and labor agency getting new director

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

Gov. Nikki Haley says South Carolina's labor and licensing agency is getting a new director, though it's unclear why the current director is leaving. Haley announced Monday she chose Richele Taylor to lead the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. The Senate still must confirm her appointment.

The State (Photo Gallery): Good cheer: Christmas at the Governor's Mansion

http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/08/3861996_good-cheer-christmas-at-the-governors.html?sp=/99/132/&rh=1

Gov. Nikki Haley, her husband, Michael, and daughter, Rena, welcomed visitors to the Governor's Mansion on Monday during the annual Christmas Open House.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Texting while driving now brings fines rather than warnings

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20141208/ARTICLES/141209693/0/search>

Daniel J. Gross

Law enforcement officers can now fine motorists for texting while driving in South Carolina. Monday marked the first day drivers can be ticketed if caught texting behind the wheel. Gov. Nikki Haley signed the bill into law June 9, but the statute included a 180-day grace period so that drivers caught texting would only be issued a warning within the first six months.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Times and Democrat: South Carolina cannot wait to fix roads

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/south-carolina-cannot-wait-to-fix-roads/article_e533509c-7f49-11e4-8c7c-e3964ccfd0b2.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Highway repairs. OUR OPINION: Michelin leader's words further impetus for action. When Pete Selleck speaks, South Carolina legislators need to listen. Selleck, the president and chairman of the Greenville-based Michelin North America, recently shared an insightful warning about the danger of our state continuing to ignore its dangerous and inadequate highway system.

Index-Journal: Yes, take guns away from abusive men

<http://www.indexjournal.com/opinion/editorial/Yes--take-guns-away-from-abusive-men>

Editorial

Larry Martin, chairman of the Senate Judiciary, has done that with a bill that should be passed with little discussion. His bill takes aim at abusers, those arrested on domestic violence charges. In a state that sadly can claim the top spot when it comes to women being killed by men, it is high time our lawmakers did something to help curb the acts and reduce the death rate.

Post and Courier: No way to run a government

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141209/PC1002/141209491/1021>

Editorial

Conservative members of the U.S. House are complaining to anyone who will listen that they don't trust the secret deals they fear will be part of a trillion-dollar stopgap spending bill Congress must pass this week. They have a good point. There will be almost no time for members to go over the thousands of details in the bill before they have to vote.

Island Packet: Top priority for district must be student safety

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/12/08/3476451/top-priority-for-district-must.html?sp=/99/342/>

Editorial

It's no surprise a federal investigation of the Beaufort County School District turned up nothing. Staff members from the U.S. Department of Education were looking into possible discrimination against English-language learners, but they came up empty handed.

Rock Hill Herald: Wilson pursues another political ploy

http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/12/08/6604022_wilson-pursues-another-political.html?sp=/100/105/&rh=1

Editorial

Here we go again. It seems that S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson has an unhealthy compulsion to waste taxpayers' money on futile political jousting with the federal government.

Note: Wilson, with the support of Gov. Nikki Haley, recently pursued legal efforts to continue to enforce the state's ban on same-sex marriage even after a federal appeals court had refused to endorse the ban, saying it was unconstitutional.

Aiken Standard: Don't forget less fortunate during the holiday season

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141209/AIK02/141209482/1018/AIK02>

Editorial

Those with a generous heart need to make sure they make the most of their charitable giving this year before the holiday season ends. It's often too easy to get lost in the hustle and bustle of shopping for our friends and family that we forget those who need help the most. Thankfully, as retail sales rise during this time of year, charitable donations do, as well.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Lawmaker will introduce legislation to support advanced nurses

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141208/PC16/141209520/1177>

Lauren Sausser

A Summerville lawmaker will pre-file a bill this week in the state Legislature that would lift restrictions on advanced nurses, despite anticipated push-back from some doctors. Rep. Jenny Horne, R-Summerville, an attorney, said her bill is an attempt to improve health care access in rural areas.

Greenville News: New House Speaker named Wilkins award honoree

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/education/2014/12/08/new-house-speaker-named-wilkins-award-honoree/20112893/>

Nathaniel Cary

Jay Lucas, R-Darlington, who was elected Speaker by his fellow legislators last week after serving as acting speaker since September after former Speaker Bobby Harrell resigned, will be honored by the Riley Institute at Furman University with the David H. Wilkins award recognizing outstanding legislative leadership in the state.

Sumter Item: Sumter chamber hosts legislative breakfast Wednesday

<http://www.theitem.com/stories/sumter-chamber-hosts-legislative-breakfast-wednesday,237511>

Jim Hilley

The majority of the area's state legislative members will be in attendance at the Sumter Chamber of Commerce's Legislative Breakfast presented by Central Carolina Technical College at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Central Carolina Health Science Building, in the Iris Room. The breakfast is free to chamber members and \$5 for non members.

The State: By all means, take the test; just don't expect extra credit

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/08/3861526/scoppe-by-all-means-take-the-test.html#storylink=cpy>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

HOW COOL, I thought when I heard that three of our former governors were pushing a civics initiative to get all high school students to take a very long version of the immigration citizenship test. Not only are they working in support of a vitally important cause, but it's a test. About government. I'll take it and write about it, and that'll be a fun column.

South Carolina News:

The State: Environmental agency backs gold mine

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/08/3862005/environmental-agency-backs-gold.html>

Sammy Fretwell

In a decision hailed by a Canadian mining corporation, South Carolina regulators have rejected a legal appeal that had hampered plans for the largest gold-digging operation in the eastern United States. The S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control board upheld a mining permit approved by agency staff members for Romarco Minerals Inc. to establish the industrial-scale mine on about 2,500 acres in rural Lancaster County, the agency said Monday.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley and many locals back Romarco, saying the company will provide a much-needed economic boost to South Carolina.

Rock Hill Herald: Judge stops Chester County Giti Tire plant bid process

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/12/08/6604220/judge-stops-chester-county-giti.html>

Bristow Marchant

Presiding circuit Judge Brian Gibbons issued an order Dec. 1 enjoining the county from continuing its bidding process under the terms established by its chief procurement officer. A suit brought by Richardson Construction Co. of Columbia claims the company has been unfairly excluded from bidding on one of the county's largest economic development projects in years.

Bloomberg: South Carolina cop's charge shows justice can transcend race

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/12/08/3477712/south-carolina-cops-charge-shows.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1>

Margaret Newkirk

A South Carolina grand jury's indictment last week of a white police chief in the killing of an unarmed black man capped three years during which a tense patience united this town's 300 residents.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Police, advocates in Charleston area see little change with new racial profiling guide

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141208/PC16/141209503/1177>

Andrew Knapp

The federal government on Monday further limited how its law officers can use race in picking out possible criminal suspects, but the expanded ban likely won't influence how local police agencies that already have anti-profiling policies go about their patrols.

Florence Morning News: After 20 public meetings, Florence City Council approves revitalization plan

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_37d0cc10-7f51-11e4-b811-1357b9dbd6c9.html

Gavin Jackson

The city of Florence's new neighborhood revitalization plan attracted state-level attention Monday as several stakeholders voiced their opinion before the council approved the nonbinding document that will help it craft future ordinances to stabilize and revitalize several historically depressed neighborhoods.

Post and Courier: Charleston County schools supporters push for reinstatement of former Superintendent McGinley

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141208/PC16/141209489/1177>

Amanda Kerr

More than a month after her abrupt resignation, momentum is building for the reinstatement of former Charleston County schools Superintendent Nancy McGinley with more than 10 people, including Charleston Mayor Joe Riley, urging the school board Monday to consider bringing back the school district's longest serving leader.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Duncan poised to ban smoking in public places

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20141208/ARTICLES/141209686/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Duncan-poised-to-ban-smoking-in-public-places>

Jason Spencer

The Duncan Town Council is slated to take the second and final vote Tuesday on an ordinance that would ban smoking in public places. The ordinance, modeled after a similar law in Pendleton, would prohibit smoking in all indoor places where people normally work or gather for business or pleasure.

National News:

New York Times: Unrest Over Race Is Testing Obama's Legacy

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/09/us/politics/unrest-over-race-is-testing-obamas-legacy-.html?emc=edit_tnt_20141209&nlid=69618260&ntemail0=y&r=0

Julie Hirschfeld Davis, Michael D. Shear

As crowds of people staged "die-ins" across the country last week to protest the deaths of unarmed black men at the hands of police officers, young African-American activists were in the Oval Office lodging grievances with President Obama. He of all people — the first black president of the United States — was in a position to testify to the sense of injustice that African-Americans feel in dealing with the police every day, the activists told him.

Associated Press: Obama touting immigration measures in Tennessee

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_OBAMA_IMMIGRATION?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-12-09-01-57-40

Nedra Pickler

President Barack Obama is going before an immigrant audience in Tennessee to pitch his executive action on immigration. The president plans to speak and take questions from the audience at an immigrant community center in Nashville called Casa Azafran.

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