

METRO

LOCAL/STATE

**Haley releases Boeing anti-union ad**

A new radio ad featuring Gov. Nikki Haley is urging factory workers at South Carolina's Boeing aircraft plant to reject efforts to establish a labor union. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports the spot is scheduled to air on stations in the Charleston region. The International Association of Machinists union has been ramping up efforts to organize the company's North Charleston operations, where Boeing makes the 787 Dreamliner. The union represents thousands of Boeing production workers in Washington state. Boeing South Carolina has pushed back with local radio ads over the holidays asking workers not to join the union and a website making make its case to its South Carolina employees. —AP

**School plans MLK Day celebration Tuesday**

A MLK Day Celebration will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at Legacy Charter School, Parker Campus gymnasium, that will include a reading from "Letter from Birmingham Jail" with musical selections by the Greenville Symphony Orchestra. The event is a collaboration of the Greenville Symphony Orchestra, Legacy Charter School, the Hispanic Alliance and the Leadership Conference Education Fund. The event is open and free to the public. For more information, contact Cynthia Faber Smith at 864-399-3943.

**Work begins on \$4M Colonial Lake project**

Work is beginning on a \$4 million project to renovate Colonial Lake, one of Charleston's most-photographed locations. Crews were to begin work Monday on the yearlong project that will require the park and lake on the western edge of the Charleston peninsula to be closed for a year. As part of the project, new grating facing will be placed along the shore of the lake. New trails and paths will also be created, and new pipes will be installed to improve the water quality in the lake that connects to the Ashley River. —AP

**Teen facing charges in Charleston death**

One teen has been charged in the shooting death of another teen in North Charleston. Police tell local media outlets that 16-year-old Travis Brown died at around 1 a.m. Sunday from a gunshot wound. Officers say they found the teen in the breezeway of an apartment complex, and he was pronounced dead at the scene. A 15-year-old has been charged with murder. —AP

**Union Sheriff's Office probing shootings**

Deputies in Union County are investigating after two people were hurt in a shooting in Jonesville. The Union County Sheriff's Office tells local media outlets that deputies were called to a home at around 9:15 p.m. Friday. Sheriff David Taylor says 33-year-old Walter Spencer had been shot in the abdomen. His grandmother, 82-year-old Iola Jeter, was shot in the hand. Authorities say Spencer has undergone multiple surgeries. Jeter was treated and released. —AP

**Police: Parking dispute leads to shooting**

One person was injured in a shooting that authorities say followed a parking dispute in North Augusta. The Aiken County Sheriff's Office got a call just after 3:15 p.m. Saturday about a shooting. Sgt. Jason Feemster tells local media outlets that one person had been shot in the arm and was taken to the hospital. Authorities said there had been a dispute over parking. Deputies were interviewing witnesses and piecing together their investigation. —AP

**Piedmont pursues cut in rates**

Cost of natural gas would drop another 3% Feb. 1 in SC, NC

By David Dykes  
Staff writer  
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Piedmont Natural Gas plans to further reduce natural gas rates for customers in South Carolina and North Carolina, passing along declines in the company's wholesale natural gas costs. If approved by state utilities

commissions, the new rates would go into effect on Feb. 1 with residential customers seeing a reduction of about 3 percent from January rates and about 8 percent since the start of the winter period, Piedmont officials said.

The average residential customer in North Carolina and South Carolina would save \$10 to \$15 over the remaining winter months of February and March, company officials said.

The company's utilities commission filings mark the second such request in as many months.

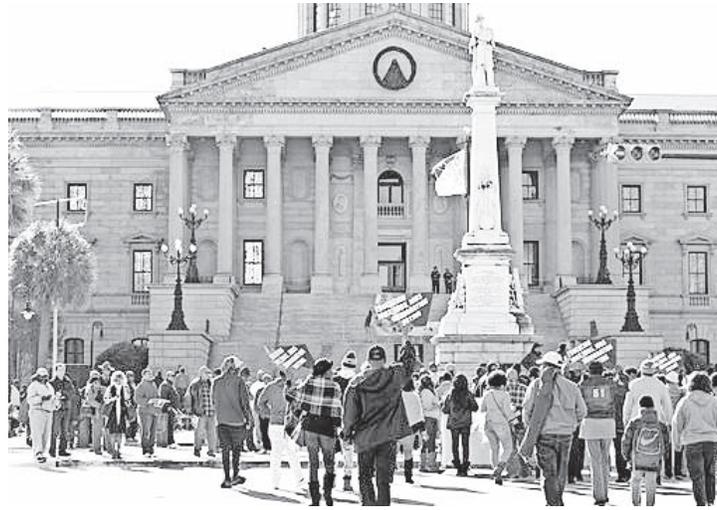
In December, the company requested and received approval to reduce its sales rates for customers in both states effective Jan. 1 as a result of declining wholesale natural gas costs which Piedmont passes through to customers on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

The filings before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina and the North Carolina Utilities Commission reflect additional declines in Piedmont's wholesale natural gas costs, company officials said.

Charlotte-based Piedmont is an energy services company pri-

marily engaged in the distribution of natural gas to more than 1 million residential, commercial, industrial and power generation utility customers in portions of North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee, including customers served by municipalities who are wholesale customers.

Its subsidiaries are invested in joint venture, energy-related businesses, including unregulated retail natural gas marketing, and regulated interstate natural gas transportation and storage, and regulated intrastate natural gas transportation businesses.



Marchers walk on to the South Carolina Statehouse grounds on Monday in Columbia. Speakers at the annual South Carolina NAACP's King Day at the Dome rally asked the crowd to fight the apathy that things are good enough with civil rights in America.

**Leaders at MLK event warn of apathy**

By Jeffery Collins  
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Fifteen years after tens of thousands of people came to the first King Day at the Dome rally at the South Carolina Statehouse and helped push politicians to take the Confederate flag off the capitol dome, civil rights leaders returned again to warn a crowd against accepting society the way it is.

A few thousand people came to Monday's annual King Day at the Dome rally sponsored by the South Carolina NAACP. This year's event didn't have one central theme. But national NAACP President Cornell Williams Brooks told the crowd on the holiday celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. that they had to keep fighting injustice to honor him and all their forefathers and foremothers who ended slavery and segregation.

They fought too hard for voting rights to let voter ID laws stand. They fought too hard for equal education to let the state continue to give rural schools too little. And they fought too hard to get the Confederate flag off the Statehouse dome to accept that it still flies on a pole in front of the capitol by a monument to Confederate soldiers, Brooks said.

"We find ourselves this afternoon situated between progress



North Carolina NAACP President William Barber, center left, and South Carolina NAACP President Lonnie Randolph, center right, march.

and peril. We find ourselves this afternoon situated at a crossroads of chaos and change—between Ferguson, Missouri, and Paris, France," said Brooks, who became president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People last year.

The rally ended with North Carolina NAACP President the Rev. William Barber hammering that point home. He quoted from the book of Amos in the Bible, where the Israelites were warned not to be at ease in Zion, simply because it was the promised land. He told them not to be at ease in America.

"Our forefathers did more with less. With less they beat slavery. With less they beat Jim

Crow. With less they beat the KKK. They did more with less. We must do more with more," Barber said.

At the first King Day at the Dome rally, the crowd spilled off the Statehouse lawn and headed back for blocks up Main Street. This year's crowd, while bigger than 2014, comfortably fit on the grounds.

Vendors walked through the crowd selling T-shirts that read: "I can't breathe. Black lives matter" in reference to last year's death of a New York man after a police officer put him in a chokehold because he was selling loose cigarettes.

Meanwhile, in Myrtle Beach on Monday, the tea party held the final day of its convention,

which attracted many white state leaders.

The theme of this year's King Day rally was "Demanding Justice; Standing for Dignity."

President Barack Obama's administration again sent a speaker. This year, U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas Perez spoke about his earlier job with Obama in the Justice Department where he helped prosecute a hate crimes case and helped sue South Carolina and a number of other states over laws requiring voters to show ID because in-person voter fraud is not a threat to democracy. The law has been upheld in South Carolina.

"We sued states like South Carolina because in our view, these were solutions in search of a problem," Perez said.

South Carolina Poet Laureate Marjory Wentworth read her poem "One River, One Boat" about the state still struggling to come to grips with its racist past even as it moves forward. The poem mentions the Confederate flag that still flies on the Statehouse grounds.

Wentworth wanted to read it at Gov. Nikki Haley's inaugural five-day earlier on the other side of the Statehouse. But inauguration officials told her before she submitted it they didn't have time. Wentworth had read poetry at the previous three inaugurations.

**Holiday Sunshine Fund tally at \$74,130 and counting**

By Angelia Davis  
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Charitable donations raised over the holidays will assist 27 nonprofits in serving Greenville families and individuals in need.

The donations are courtesy of the 2014 Holiday Sunshine Fund, which has been sponsored for 37 consecutive years by The Greenville News. WYFF4 joined the effort 10 years ago. The Asheville Citizen-Times became the campaign's newest sponsor last year.

The Sunshine Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with no administrative costs, meaning that ev-

ery donation goes directly toward assisting local families and individuals.

Community contributions to the 2014 Holiday Sunshine Fund have totaled \$74,130, with additional funds expected.

Money raised in Greenville, \$68,555 thus far, will be distributed to 27 charities in the Greenville area. The \$5,775 raised in Asheville will benefit seven organizations in that area of North Carolina.

Contributions to the 2013 Holiday Sunshine Fund totaled \$82,460.

"The 2014 Holiday Sunshine Fund was a big success," said Dave Neill, president and publisher of The Greenville News

and The Asheville Citizen-Times.

"We expanded the HSF program to better cover our region, and as a result, seven Asheville charities received funding for the first time," Neill said.

"We're fortunate to have a strong and productive partnership with WYFF, and look forward to continuing these efforts during the 2015 holidays."

Holiday Sunshine Fund donations are distributed to agencies that submit funding requests. The requests are reviewed by a board of trustees.

The board has approved funding for these Greenville area agencies: A Child's Haven, Boy Scouts/Blue Ridge Council,

Camp Spearhead, Center for Developmental Services (CDS), Children's Museum of the Upstate, Clement's Kindness, Downtown Outreach, GAIHN, Girl Scout Outreach, Greenville County Disability & Special Needs Board, Greenville Jaycees, Greer Relief, Helping Hands, March of Dimes, Miracle Hill, Operation Shoehorn, Pendleton Place for Children and Families.

Also, SHARE Operation Warmth, Safe Harbor, Salvation Army, SCCC-SC Little Theatre, St. Anthony of Padua, Trime Mercy Center, United Ministries HEAT, Upcountry History Museum, YMCA Open Doors, and YMCA-Camp Greenville.