

From: Symmes, Brian
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Subject: Morning Clips - Monday, September 16, 2013

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Anderson Independent: Savannah River Caucus meets Wednesday

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/sep/15/srb-future-is-wednesays-topic-at-big-oak/>

WHO: Local, state and federal policymakers — including Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan and legislators from both states. WHAT: They will discuss changes to how the Savannah River Basin and its three reservoirs — Hartwell, Russell and Thurmond — are operated by the Corps of Engineers and related state and federal agencies

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Rock Hill Herald: Letting students use lottery money for summer classes would benefit colleges.

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2013/09/16/5211383/aid-for-summer-semesters.html>

Editorial

Institutions of higher education that thrive are likely to be the ones that find creative ways to accommodate the differing needs of their students. And using South Carolina's lottery money to help students pay for college courses in the summer strikes us as an appropriate way to encourage that process. South Carolina college students now receive \$300 million a year in state lottery scholarships to help pay tuition during fall and spring semesters. But Gov. Nikki Haley has sent a formal request to the S.C. Commission on Higher Education asking that students also be allowed to use the money for summer classes.

Note: While Haley acknowledged that this would have a significant temporary impact on lottery funds, "the effects would 'smooth out' over time as students on the accelerated completion track exhaust their eligibility and graduate."

Times and Democrat: Move to halt vote on new penny tax comes as surprise

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/editorial/move-to-halt-vote-on-new-penny-tax-comes-as/article_6b09811e-1d8a-11e3-ab2c-001a4bcf887a.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Capital Project Sales Tax in Florence County; OUR OPINION: Outcome has implications for counties including Orangeburg. What has been a muddled process became even more cluttered when the state Attorney General's Office and the S.C. Department of Revenue filed an injunction to stop the November referendum on renewing the current Capital Project Sales Tax in Florence County. The process to re-impose the penny tax, launched earlier this year, has had the hot breath of political pressure on its neck from nearly the start. Asking voters to tax themselves is ticklish business, and as the 55-45 approval margin at the polls in 2006 suggests, the tax would have faced a tough road to renewal in any case. But events have conspired to make the path bumpier still.

Times and Democrat (Guest Column): Welfare is key issue in immigration reform

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/columns/welfare-is-key-issue-in-immigration-reform/article_c5bfa752-1d88-11e3-846d-001a4bcf887a.html

Dr. Tracy C. Miller

The U.S. House and Senate are considering an immigration reform bill. Critics of the legislation say that it will not do enough to secure our borders and that it grants amnesty to illegal immigrants. The bigger issue, which has been an important part of the debate, is how increased legal immigration will affect the cost of entitlement programs and the government budget. The Border, Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013 includes some steps to make immigrants less of a burden on government budgets, but it could include more. As noted by the Heritage Foundation, America's immigration system has serious flaws that this legislation fails to address. Nevertheless, some of its provisions should be part of any legislation to reform immigration because the requirements make it easier for those willing to

work to enter the U.S. and to make a productive contribution to our economy.

Post and Courier: SLICE begins to dice school data

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130916/PC1002/130919499/1021/slice-begins-to-dice-school-data>
Editorial

School testing data are only as good as their analysis, and in South Carolina that analysis varies widely depending on the school district. A new S.C. Department of Education program will allow districts, schools, teachers and, later this month, the public, to view online data that are presented in a form that makes sense. A principal will be able to compare her school to others. Teachers can see how their classes stack up school-wide or beyond. And parents wanting to make wise choices for their children's education will be able to see how well districts, schools and classroom teachers have done.

Post and Courier: Miscasting Obama's reach

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130916/PC1002/130919501/1021/overrating-obama-x2019-s-superpowers>
Editorial

Spider-Man's credo is, "With great power comes great responsibility." But that doesn't mean that with President Barack Obama's great power comes the responsibility of choosing who will play the Caped Crusader in the next Batman movie, which will also feature Superman. Awareness of that limit on the chief executive's constitutional authority, however, evidently eludes some folks. Thousands of Americans recently signed a petition on We the People, a website created by the Obama administration to encourage public input to the White House.

Post and Courier (Guest Column): Support Charleston's new manufacturing sector

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130916/PC1002/130919505/1021/buy-into-the-charleston-area-x2019-s-new-manufacturing-sector>

Lauren Gellatly

By now, it's a familiar refrain — Americans don't make anything anymore and the glory days of Detroit's auto industry, Pittsburgh's steel mills and Cleveland's paper and machine tools production are behind us. Framed by depressing images of once-proud Rust Belt cities, the rise of globalization and shift of production overseas, politicians and activists have convinced us that our era of craftsman leadership is over. But it's not quite that simple, and it's time we reconsidered some of those assumptions.

Florence Morning News (Guest Column): This country's veterans deserve much better

http://www.scnw.com/opinion/editorials/article_a1db8646-1da4-11e3-b72a-001a4bcf6878.html

Lt. Governor Glenn McConnell

As the chief advocate for seniors and vulnerable adults in our state, I was deeply troubled and saddened that services for a federally funded program designed to keep veterans in their homes instead of nursing homes is being terminated because of lack of support by the Veterans' Administration.

A program that is both cost effective (on average three times less expensive) and will allow our elderly, disabled, or injured heroes the opportunity to live in familiar surroundings with their loved ones has not been given the priority it deserves. The S.C. Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging was asked by the VA to begin this as a pilot program. A database system was created, as required, and several veterans were selected to enter the program in March 2011.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Biden visiting ports in SC and Georgia

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4dYO4CfA

Bruce Smith

Vice President Joe Biden is visiting ports in South Carolina and Georgia to talk about the need to invest in the nation's infrastructure. Biden visits Charleston on Monday morning before flying on to Savannah to visit the Georgia ports. Both Charleston and Savannah, who are in keen competition in the shipping business, are pursuing projects to deepen their harbor shipping channels to handle a new generation of larger container ships. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently announced that all field studies for the Charleston deepening project, expected to cost more than \$300 million, are complete.

Associated Press: Charleston, Savannah ports prepare for visit from Vice President Joe Biden Monday

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130915/PC16/130919512/1006/charleston-savannah-ports->

[prepare-for-visit-from-vice-president-joe-biden](#)

Russ Bynum

The Port of Savannah hopes to add another prominent supporter of deepening its busy shipping channel when Vice President Joe Biden visits its docks Monday. Hours earlier, Biden is scheduled to bring a similar message of growing jobs by investing in U.S. seaports to the Port of Charleston, which has harbor expansion plans of its own. Biden scheduled back-to-back trips to the ports, which are both among East Coast ports scrambling for federal permits and funding to make room for supersized cargo ships expected to begin arriving in 2015 through an expanded Panama Canal. The timing of Biden's visit ensures both Georgia and South Carolina can claim White House support without the Obama administration appearing to favor one over the other.

Note: The feud put Republican Gov. Nikki Haley against legislators from her own party. One of them, Rep. Jim Merrill of Charleston, called the governor "the sole person in the state of South Carolina who is intent on helping Georgia gain an advantage over South Carolina."

Post and Courier: S.C. Health Coordinating Council wants to tackle state's most difficult health problems
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130915/PC16/130919497/1006/>

Lauren Sausser

The South Carolina Health Coordinating Council has no bylaws or any substantial budget to speak of. Members have been meeting every few months for more than two years, yet they haven't leased any office space or launched a website. They've also done nothing to improve any of the state's persistently poor health problems. But there's potential. State health care leaders believe this volunteer council may be South Carolina's best hope to address some of the state's most challenging and costly health concerns — obesity, infant mortality in the broader context of child and maternal wellness, and behavioral health.

Associated Press: SC hopes extra road money will help bridges

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

Jeffrey Collins

South Carolina is setting aside an additional \$1 billion for its roads over the next decade, and officials plan to use part of that money to get some of the state's worst bridges replaced or repaired more quickly. The exact details of the plans haven't been hashed out yet because the new money is just starting to come in, South Carolina Department of Transportation spokesman Pete Poore said. The money isn't exclusively for bridges. Some will go to widening interstates, and some will be spent resurfacing highways. But the extra money - which comes from a combination of borrowing, new revenue from growth, and reallocated sales taxes from vehicles - should be able to make a difference, Poore said.

Island Packet: Interest rising for potential buyers for Port of Port Royal, broker says

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/09/15/2686139/interest-rising-for-potential.html#storylink=cpy>

Erin Moody

A year after the last purchase attempt failed, the Port of Port Royal property continues to sit vacant with no immediate plans for development. But one of the brokers for the property says interest in the \$22.5 million, 317-acre site is picking up. Several interested parties have visited in the past month, most recently on Friday, said Rob Lapin of NAI Avant, which is marketing the property for the owner, the S.C. State Ports Authority. Officials and residents have hoped for a sale and subsequent development that would spur the economy downtown since the property -- which has 52 acres that can be built upon -- was ordered to be sold in 2006.

The State: As School Bells Near, Tax Break Is Here

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=110zyDWi

Roddie Burris

After robust back-to-school spending last year, shoppers are expected to cut back this year. And they will be able to stretch their dollars a little further this weekend during South Carolina's tax-free shopping period. The tax holiday – for items such as electronics, clothing and pens and paper – starts first thing Friday morning and runs through Sunday. Shoppers statewide can save state and local taxes. In Richland County that means an 8 percent savings on back-to-school purchases, and in Lexington County, 7 percent. Many stores also offer additional sales to coincide with the tax holiday, which is the third-busiest shopping time of the year in South Carolina.

Aiken Standard: Redefining the American Dream: Success and upward mobility

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20130916/AIK0101/130919612/1007/AIK0101/redefining-the->

[american-dream-success-and-upward-mobility](#)

Maayan Schechter

The Dream, according to some, may be a lost thought from decades before when, after graduation, many started in low-paying jobs at corporations, working their way up the corporate ladder and retiring by age 60. More than two million college-age students 20 to 24 are currently unemployed, lasting almost 27 weeks, according to the U.S. Department of Labor 2012 data. More than two million 25 to 34-year olds have an average duration of unemployment at 37 weeks. More than one million individuals 55 to 64 have an average duration of almost 52 weeks, the highest duration of any age group. On average, 396,000 individuals 65 years or older are unemployed at an average duration of 46 weeks.

Associated Press: Fed gambling trial starts for S.C. bookie, 2 others

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/viewart/20130916/NEWS10/309160023/Fed-gambling-trial-starts-S-C-bookie-2-others>

Federal prosecutors seek to prove that a South Carolina man already convicted of double murder, his father, and an associate were behind a sports betting ring that moved thousands of dollars. The State of Columbia reports (<http://bit.ly/15vNNao>) the gambling trial of Brett Parker, his father Jack Parker, and Douglas E. Taylor starts Monday in Columbia. Prosecutors say they ran a gambling operation that collected thousands of dollars a day. Government attorneys say also involved was Brett Parker's wife and his betting clerk, but they can't tell jurors Parker killed them and is serving life without parole in a South Carolina prison.

Local News:

The Item: Where is your penny going?

http://www.theitem.com/news/local_news/where-is-your-penny-going/article_d4d8e3ba-1e65-11e3-856f-0019bb2963f4.html?_dc=23356108460.57534

Bristow Marchant

Sumter County voters, if all goes according to plan, next year will be asked to pay a little something extra for a list of new county projects, addressing everything from infrastructure improvements to quality-of-life concerns. This week, Sumter County Council took the first steps toward putting a question on the ballot for November 2014, asking voters to approve by referendum a seven-year extension of the county's capital penny sales tax. An ad hoc committee was named at Tuesday's county council meeting to begin collecting community feedback about the proposal and how different groups would like to see the extended sales tax spent. Council Chairman Larry Blanding will chair the committee, which will also include council members Charles Edens and Vivian Fleming-McGhaney.

Post and Courier: Charleston County looking for companies to manage Mark Clark extension project

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130915/PC16/130919674/1006/charleston-county-looking-for-companies-to-manage-mark-clark-extension-project>

Diane Knich

Charleston County is pushing ahead with a plan to take more control and build the controversial extension of Interstate 526, even though the project's contract remains unsigned and such tasks usually are left to the state Department of Transportation. County Council Chairman Teddie Pryor said the county is working along two tracks to move forward on the \$558 million project, which has made little visible progress since council voted in favor of it in December.

Times and Democrat: Bamberg County extends administrator's contract

http://thetandd.com/news/local/bamberg-county-extends-administrator-s-contract/article_97582fce-1e87-11e3-82e6-001a4bcf887a.html

Dionne Gleaton

Bamberg County Council voted Monday to extend the contract of a consulting company to run the county's day-to-day operations. Anderson, S.C.-based Preston Consulting LLC, which is owned and operated by Joey Preston, will provide administrative services for the county for another year. Preston, the former Anderson County administrator, was hired more than five months after last year's resignation of Rose Dobson-Elliott. Preston's one-year contract totals \$101,870 and includes his base salary of \$70,000. Under the contract, the county will contribute \$3,130 toward the payment of liability insurance.

Times and Democrat: Local schools get \$3,000 via Forestry Commission

http://thetandd.com/business/local-schools-get-via-forestry-commission/article_7fcd0e06-1c9d-11e3-a47a-001a4bcf887a.html

Orangeburg County schools will receive about \$3,000 from the S.C. Forestry Commission as part of the department's annual payout to the county. The county's public schools will receive \$3,332.50 from the South Carolina Forestry Commission. This is money generated by forest product sales and recreation fees on state forest lands. The money is given to counties for education and, in some cases, is given directly to school districts themselves. The SCFC is the only state agency that returns revenue to local education this way.

Times and Democrat: Council to consider zoning, building issues

http://thetandd.com/news/local/council-to-consider-zoning-building-issues/article_9d4b19e8-1e85-11e3-86d5-001a4bcf887a.html

Orangeburg County Council will hold public hearings and take up second reading of two ordinances when it meets in regular session Monday. Council convenes at 5:30 p.m. in the Orangeburg County Administrative Centre on Amelia Street. The first ordinance seeks to amend the zoning map of Orangeburg County to change the designation at 7274 Old Number Six Highway from Forest Agricultural to Rural Community. The second would amend the county Code of Ordinances Chapter 6 on buildings and building regulations. Council will also hear first reading of an ordinance to issue no more than \$84 million in capital projects sales and use tax revenue bonds. The measure seeks to approve appropriation of those revenues for fiscal year 2013-2014, which began July 1.

Anderson Independent: Committee to discuss ASPCA grant Monday

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/sep/15/committee-to-discuss-aspca-grant-monday/>

Nikie Mayo

An animal-welfare organization has agreed to give Anderson County \$5,000 toward the expense of caring for dogs removed from a suspected puppy mill in Starr. A county finance committee will be asked today to approve receiving the grant, the same day that a separate panel will look at updating the county's animal-welfare regulations. The grant is from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and must be used specifically on caring for the 153 dogs seized from a home on Martin Road in early August.

National News:

Washington Post: How GOP stopped the runaway spending train

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130916/PC1002/130919504/1021/gop-stopped-runaway-spending-train>

March A. Thiessen

As congressional Republicans prepare for their seventh budget showdown with President Obama, The Washington Post reports the cumulative result of the six previous showdowns since 2010: The size of government is largely the same. In 2010, the government spent \$3.457 trillion, while this year it is on track to spend \$3.455 trillion. Wait, that's less. Granted, it's not a lot less. But for decades, government spending has been like a runaway train — rising beginning in the 1960s, accelerating during the 2000s under President George W. Bush and then careening to unprecedented levels during the start of the Obama administration.

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