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## Clips - Monday, February 4, 2013

### Governor Nikki Haley News

**The State:** McMaster, Medlock: Honest government essential to economic prosperity (Opinion)  
<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/03/v-print/2614729/mcmaster-medlock-honest-government.html>  
Henry McMaster and Travis Medlock

The world has finally discovered South Carolina. Those of us who live here have known it all along: No other place has the beaches, mountains, salt marshes, temperate climate, forests, wildlife and fertile farmlands that we do. When you combine that with strong people, vigorous research universities, top-ranked technical training, right-to-work laws and deep-water port access, you get what we are experiencing today: a state in the spotlight, where world-class business and industry thrive, where knowledge-based innovation, agricultural diversity and tourism flourish, and where people understand that our priceless natural heritage and great economic potential can not only co-exist, but can compliment and strengthen each other.

**Note:** That is why we were proud to co-chair the S.C. Commission on Ethics Reform, appointed by Gov. Nikki Haley. Our 11-member, bipartisan panel — which included former prosecutors, former state ethics commissioners, journalists and former legislators — released its report this past week, recommending much-needed changes to our laws dealing with ethics, campaign finance and the public's access to government records. Here are the highlights:

Also featured in: Post and Courier, Greenville News, The Sun News, Herald-Journal

**Island Packet:** Special panel delivers strong ethics reform  
<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/02/03/2364200/special-panel-delivers-strong.html>  
Editorial

Lawmakers would do well to pore over the recently released report from a panel suggesting fixes to South Carolina's anemic ethics laws. The S.C. Commission on Ethics Reform, created by Gov. Nikki Haley, hit the major marks of substantive reform, including fuller income disclosure, independent oversight of ethics charges against House and Senate members and stronger open records and campaign finance laws.

**Greenville News:** Restructure S.C. government now (Opinion)  
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013302030025>  
Editorial

South Carolina's state government needs to move into the 21st century, but to do that it first must move into the 20th century. That means our state must adopt the sleeker, more accountable form of government that was the model in every other state during the last century.

**Note:** Although Sheheen and Haley ran against each other two years ago and are likely to do that again next year, they both support the restructuring of state government. This effort needs both of these strong leaders working together to make sure this bill passes. A restructuring bill almost passed last year. Weak state senators allowed the governor's nemesis, Jake Knotts, to block the final vote by running out the clock as the last minutes evaporated for the legislative session. Those senators refused to use their power to make Knotts shut up and sit down. He was the only incumbent senator defeated in the 2012 general election.



### **American for Tax Reform:** ATR Applauds Governor Nikki Haley's Proposal for Tax Reform

<http://www.atr.org/atr-applauds-governor-nikki-haleys-proposal-a7446>

In her annual State of the State address, Gov. Haley outlined steps for tax reform that would keep the Palmetto state competitive in the southern region.

**Note:** The rate lowering and eliminating tax reform sweeping states across the nation has not gone unnoticed by South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley.

### **The State:** Lee prison riots fuel a call for more funds

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/03/v-print/2616685/lee-prison-riots-fuel-a-call-for.html>

Adam Beam

As he entered a cell in the most dangerous dorm of the state's most dangerous prison, warden Michael McCall wrinkled his nose.

**Note:** To make Lee and other prisons safer, Gov. Nikki Haley has proposed a state budget that includes an additional \$18 million for the Department of Corrections. Haley's proposed budget includes a 3 percent raise for corrections officers at maximum-security prisons, the first time the Republican governor ever has recommended a salary increase for state workers. And it includes more than \$3 million in maintenance repairs, including sealing the vents at Lee.

### **Post and Courier:** After years of deep cuts, mental health staff feels hope

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130203/PC16/130209781/1165/after-years-of-deep-cuts-mental-health-staff-feels-hope>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

When Harriette Munn stopped abusing drugs, her lingering mental illness and the traumatic memories of childhood sexual abuse flooded her reality. For years, she'd masked her PTSD, depression and anxiety with everything from heroin to pain pills, whatever the numbing demanded and the streets gave forth. Homeless, she stayed with friends, in motels or on the streets. She went in and out of jail.

**Note:** They saw their first budget increase last year when state lawmakers boosted the S.C. Department of Mental Health's funding by \$18.7 million for the budget year that ends in June. And now, the General Assembly is considering a budget proposal from Gov. Nikki Haley that includes \$11.4 million more in mental health funding for next year. "For two years now, we've gotten robust support from the governor and the General Assembly," said Deborah Calcote, executive director of the Berkeley mental health center. "That's encouraging."

### **Greenville News:** Gas tax wrapped in political peril

Lawmakers say there is no appetite as roads crumble

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/interactive/article/20130203/NEWS09/302030017/Gas-tax-wrapped-political-peril>

Tim Smith

By the time the proposal to raise South Carolina's gas tax by seven cents over five years hit the Senate floor in May 2005, Sen. Hugh Leatherman felt confident he had the votes to get it passed. Leatherman, a Florence Republican and arguably the most powerful lawmaker in the Statehouse at the time, held the posts of Senate majority leader and chairman of the Senate Finance Committee.

**Note:** Nonetheless, opposition to increasing the fuel tax is stiff. Gov. Nikki Haley has threatened to veto any increase, meaning it would take a two-thirds vote of legislators in both chambers to survive.

### **The State:** 35 Years Of Meat And Three At Lizard's Thicket

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

Otis R. Taylor Jr.

It was still dark outside when "Jim Bob" Gilpatrick, one of Lizard's Thicket's two do-it-all handymen, climbed a ladder to replace a parking lot lamp bulb. I sat in my car on the rainy morning last month nursing a tall Starbucks Doubleshot can. "Rise and shine," is how Mickey Jarvis, the general manager at the St. Andrews Road location, perkily greeted me when I walked through the door for my first shift at Lizard's Thicket.



**Note:** A person in the class said they had recently served Gov. Nikki Haley at the Elmwood Avenue location, an announcement that spurred talk of picture taking - and using a phone, period - at work. "Back to the picture thing," a woman began, "what if a celebrity comes in, can I go get my phone?"

**The State:** PAC-ing up? Site tied to SC House speaker goes offline (Opinion)

Andrew Shain

The Buzz just bought a milk carton that had a screenshot of the website for the political-action committee associated with House Speaker Bobby Harrell on the side and it said: "Missing." The disappearance of the Palmetto Leadership Council's website was noticed Monday when an ethics-reform commission, created by Gov. Nikki Haley, called for the end of leadership PACs

**Note:** Where's Nikki? and The half-zip's Palmetto Trip

**Washington Post:** Why the GOP's electoral vote gambit won't work

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2013/02/01/why-the-gops-electoral-vote-gambit-wont-work/>

Sean Sullivan

The slate of upcoming 2014 governor's races is a major reason why that happened.

**Note:** South Carolina (R): 2014 could be the year of the rematch across the gubernatorial landscape, and South Carolina could be among the states hosting 2010 sequels, if state Sen. Vincent Sheheen (D) decides to challenge Gov. Nikki Haley (R). After winning narrowly in 2010, Haley's numbers have been subpar, and if you're Sheheen, the opportunity may be too good to pass up.

**Island Packet:** Sen. Tom Davis will not run for U.S. Senate, governor's office

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/02/01/2363808/sen-tom-davis-will-not-run-for.html>

Gina Smith

State Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort, said today he will not run for U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham's seat or any statewide office in 2014, including governor.

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## South Carolina News

**Independent Mail:** Sen. Kevin Bryant calls for regulatory reform in S.C.

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/feb/02/legislative-week-in-review-sen-bryant-calls-for/>

Kirk Brown

State Sen. Kevin Bryant says South Carolina lawmakers should have the authority to approve or reject regulations drawn up by state agencies. "We've got unelected bureaucrats raising taxes," said Bryant, who contends that regulatory fees and fines imposed by South Carolina agencies account for one-third of the state's overall budget. "If they want to pass laws, run for the legislature."

**Island Packet:** State lawmaker's push for USCB funding draws scrutiny

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/02/02/2365377/state-lawmakers-push-for-uscb.html#storylink=cpy>

Gina Smith

Area lawmakers, including Rep. Bill Bowers, D-Hampton, and University of South Carolina leaders are preparing for a Statehouse effort to get more money for the university's Beaufort branch. Bowers has multiple reasons to fight for it. The longtime Lowcountry representative works at the college -- which doesn't sit well with some groups working to increase accountability among state lawmakers.

**Independent Mail:** Oconee delegation sponsors volunteer appreciation bill

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/feb/02/oconee-delegation-sponsors-volunteer-bill/>

Wayne Morton

A proposal that would legitimize gifts of appreciation to emergency service volunteers has been introduced in the state House by Oconee County lawmakers. State Sen. Thomas Alexander, a



Walhalla Republican, said he plans to introduce similar legislation in the state Senate.

**Independent Mail:** Duncan says government should focus on mental health, not guns

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/feb/01/duncan-says-government-should-focus-on-mental/>

Kirk Brown

U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan said Friday that government officials should pay more attention to mental health issues instead of infringing on gun owners' Second Amendment rights. "We have a mental health issue, not a gun issue," said Duncan, who mingled with about 50 people at Grady's Great Outdoors on Clemson Boulevard. He also called on South Carolina officials to build a "first-class mental hospital."

**The State:** Legal opinion sought on SC agency funding highway

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/01/31/2613359/legal-microscope-sought-for-tiny.html#.UQ-cy2fFzdU>

Sammy Fretwell

The state's top lawyer is being asked whether an agency's financial commitment to finish the disputed Mark Clark Expressway in Charleston was legal — and whether other state agencies could use the same methods to spend money. In a letter this week to Attorney General Alan Wilson, Rep. Robert Brown, D-Charleston, asked whether the state Infrastructure Bank could legally commit future bonding capacity for the more than \$500 million project.

**McClatchy:** Special-interest push for South Carolina interstate hits roadblock

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/02/03/2361217/special-interest-push-for-south.html>

Greg Gordon and Curtis Tate

Business leaders in Myrtle Beach, S.C., tried every tactic they could to win \$1.3 billion in funding for Interstate 73, a six-lane gateway to their seaside getaway. They coaxed dozens of members of Congress to tour the area, including five who've chaired key committees, escorting some of them aboard helicopters for aerial views of clogged traffic in one of the country's most popular resort communities.

**Post and Courier:** 1st Dist. hopefuls keep it brief 13 Republicans get 3 minutes each

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130203/PC16/130209769/1165/1st-dist-hopefuls-keep-it-brief-13-republicans-get-3-minutes-each>

Robert Behre

Republican 1st Congressional District hopefuls made their first major joint appearance Saturday since their massive 16-candidate field filled out six days ago. Thirteen of the 16 GOP candidates showed up and spent three minutes each stating their case to a few hundred gathered here in the American Legion Hall. The district primary is March 19.

Note: State Rep. Andy Patrick of Hilton Head Island said he is not a career politician and is running because he shares the same values as Tim Scott, who was appointed to the U.S. Senate by Gov. Nikki Haley to fill the next two years of former Sen. Jim DeMint's term.

**Greenville News:** Duke Energy could face Oconee penalties for delaying fire-safety fix

NRC presses for fire-safety fix, but says plant's safe

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130202/NEWS07/302020018/Duke-Energy-could-face-Oconee-penalties-delaying-fire-safety-fix>

Eric Connor

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering "escalated enforcement action" against Duke Energy following the agency's determination that Oconee Nuclear Station is in apparent violation of its operating license after years of delay in upgrading its fire-protection methods.

**Post and Courier:** Law schools changing with the economy

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130203/PC16/130209784/1005/law-schools-changing-with-the-economy>

Diane Knich

Law schools are changing the way they do business and how they teach because of economic woes over the past few years. Leaders at South Carolina's two law schools — Charleston School of Law and the University of South Carolina School of Law — said the shrinking pool of applicants has forced changes. The schools have had to be more careful with how they spend money, and to ensure that their enrollments don't drop to a level that won't sustain them financially.

**Post and Courier:** Longshoremen reach tentative deal with shipping owners

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130203/PC16/130209787/1005/longshoremen-reach-tentative-deal-with-shipping-owners>

Tyrone Richardson

The International Longshoremen's Association and shipping companies reached a tentative new master contract late Friday evening, averting fears of a dockside strike that would have halted several East Coast ports, including Charleston, officials announced. Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service Director George H. Cohen issued a statement saying the U.S. Maritime Alliance and the International Longshoremen's Association have reached a tentative deal.

**The State:** Top SC cop fired for protesting traffic stop

Chief of internal affairs unit caught on tape arguing with state troopers in January

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/02/2615536/top-sc-cop-fired-for-protesting.html>

Tim Flach

A top state public safety official lost his job after arguing repeatedly with state troopers during a late-night traffic stop in the St. Andrews area of Columbia last month. Bobby Collins, who was chief of the internal affairs investigative unit at the state Department of Public Safety, was fired hours after the Jan. 10 incident. State public safety director Leroy Smith terminated Collins for his behavior during the stop, according to records made public Friday through a Freedom of Information Act request.

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## Hyperlocal News

Independent Mail: Belton and other small towns in Anderson County face big wastewater problems

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/feb/02/belton-and-other-small-towns-anderson-county-face/>

Kirk Brown

Flushing the toilet and bathing in Belton will soon cost more than ever before. City leaders are expected to approve a rate increase this year that will more than double monthly sewer bills for 1,900 customers in this struggling Anderson County community.

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## National News

**McClatchy:** Obama: Women should get free contraception but church groups shouldn't have to pay

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/01/2614970/obama-women-should-get-free-contraception.html>

Anita Kumar and Lesley Clark

After months of criticism and legal challenges, President Barack Obama's administration proposed Friday that religious institutions no longer be required to provide their employees with health insurance coverage for birth control. Nonprofit organizations that had objected to the mandate on moral grounds, including hospitals and universities, would be able to offer plans that don't cover contraceptives, while their employees could enroll in separate insurance policies that would cover free birth control.



**Associated Press:** White House photo shows Obama skeet shooting

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/02/2615881/white-house-releases-photo-of.html>

Darlene Superville

Two days before President Barack Obama's first trip outside Washington to promote his gun-control proposals, the White House tried Saturday to settle a brewing mystery by releasing a photo to back his claim to be a skeet shooter.

**Post and Courier:** Immigration issue splits Republicans on national-local lines

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130203/PC1601/130209798/1031/immigration-issue-splits-republicans-on-national-local-lines>

Charles Babington

The immigration debate is threatening to split the Republican Party, pitting those who focus mainly on presidential elections against those who care mostly about congressional races.

Strategists say that if Republicans are to win presidential elections, which they've been losing lately, partly because of dismal support from Hispanic voters, they must soften their rhetoric about illegal immigrants and embrace some version of immigration reform.

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