

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
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Subject: Clips – Saturday, April 19, 2014

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Unemployment Rate News:

Associated Press: SC unemployment fell to 5.5 percent in March

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

Meg Kinnard

South Carolina's unemployment rate continued a nearly yearlong decline last month, falling for the 10th month in a row, state officials said Friday. The state's jobless rate was 5.5 percent in March, according to the Department of Employment and Workforce. That's down from 5.7 percent in February and is the lowest South Carolina's statewide unemployment has been since March 2008.

Note: "Dropping our unemployment rate a full five points since January 2011 says a lot about our state and the hardworking people who make it their home," Haley said.

Greenville News: More in state find jobs

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2014/04/18/state-jobless-rates-falls-percent/7864127/>

Angelia Davis

South Carolina's jobless rate hit historic lows in March. The unemployment rate fell from February's rate of 5.7 percent to 5.5 percent — the lowest it's been in six years, according to the state Department of Employment Workforce.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley said in a statement that "dropping our unemployment rate a full five points since January 2011 says a lot about our state and the hardworking people who make it their home. With more South Carolinians working than ever before, it's clear we are consistently moving in the right direction and that is another great reason to celebrate."

Post and Courier: South Carolina unemployment rate dropped to 5.5% in March, report says

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140418/PC05/140419337/report-shows-jobless-rates-decrease-to-55>

Tyrone Richardson

The unemployment rate for South Carolina has dropped to its lowest level in six years, officials announced Friday. But the state's jobs picture is not all rosy, at least one economist said.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley lauded the state's jobless rate drop as an indication the state "is moving in the right direction. Dropping our unemployment rate a full five points since January 2011 says a lot about our state and the hardworking people who make it their home," Haley said in a written statement.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: S.C. Employment reaches record level

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140418/ARTICLES/140419666/1083/ARTICLES?Title=SC-employment-reaches-record-level>

Jason Spencer

Employment in South Carolina reached a historic high in March, and the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped for the 10th consecutive month, according to the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce.

Note: "With more South Carolinians working than ever before, it's clear we are consistently moving in the right direction and that is another great reason to celebrate," Republican Gov. Nikki Haley said in a statement.

The State: Rising economic tide lifts SC's jobs

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/18/3396035/rising-economic-tide-lifts-scs.html?sp=/99/205/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Jeff Wilkinson

South Carolina is partying its way to a better economy. Unemployment in the Palmetto State dropped to 5.5 percent in March, its lowest level since March 2008 as the Great Recession was spreading. And the travel, dining and recreation sector is leading the charge in creating new S.C. jobs.

The Item: More jobs wanted means higher jobless rate for Sumter

http://www.theitem.com/news/local_news/more-jobs-wanted-means-higher-jobless-rate-for-sumter/article_75527ee5-8c0e-53fd-9ea7-6a1f28e29e29.html?_dc=978146634297.4454

Braden Bunch

Sumter County's unemployment rate climbed in March as more people returned to the labor force looking for work, the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce reported Friday.

Note: "With more South Carolinians working than ever before, it's clear we are consistently moving in the right direction, and that is another great reason to celebrate," Haley said.

Associated Press: Unemployment rates fall in 21 US states last month

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=r3U05ZMT

Josh Boak

More than two-thirds of the states reported job gains in March, as hiring has improved for much of the country during what has been a sluggish but sustained 4 1/2-year recovery. The Labor Department said Friday that unemployment rates dropped in 21 states, rose in 17 and were unchanged in the remaining 12.

Note: South Carolina has experienced the sharpest rate decline over 12 months to 5.5 percent from 8 percent.

Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Fallin questioned repercussions in custody dispute

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=HG3wwKxW

Kristi Eaton

Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin sought to speak with advisers about repercussions with the Cherokee Nation as she considered intervening in a custody dispute involving a Cherokee girl, according to correspondence released to The Associated Press under an open records request.

Note: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley made a request for extradition on Aug. 12, but Fallin said she wanted to wait until Brown had his day in court.

S.C. Political News:

Greenville News: Super PAC goes to bat for Graham

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/04/19/super-pac-goes-bat-graham/7900309/>

Mary Orndorff Troyan

A political action committee supporting Sen. Lindsey Graham's re-election has significantly increased its budget with a handful of big donations, according to its latest public filing. The West Main Street Values PAC, which can accept checks of any size, raised \$193,000 in the first three months of the year from seven donors. More than half came from a Denver-based homebuilder.

The State: Local Democratic club petitions against guns in bars, restaurants

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/18/3396090/local-democratic-club-petitions.html#storylink=cpy>

Rebecca Lurye

As business owners and law enforcement adjust to a law allowing licensed firearms in restaurants and bars, a local Democratic Club is trying to gather ammunition for its repeal. Friday, the group, which is recognized by but not funded by the S.C. Democratic Party, had 123 of 200 signatures it plans to deliver to the S.C. House of Representatives, S.C. Senate and Gov. Nikki Haley.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: MUSC's leadership leader

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140419/PC1002/140419286/1021/muscs-leadership-leader>

Editorial

Among the advantages Dr. David Cole will bring to his new job as president of the Medical University of South Carolina: He already knows the institution well, having worked there for two decades. And as the current chairman of the school's Department of Surgery and president of MUSC Physicians, he has already

served in high-ranking authority roles there.

Times and Democrat: S.C. makes key progress in getting Web access for all

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/s-c-makes-key-progress-in-getting-web-access-for/article_c2508a72-c77f-11e3-8094-0019bb2963f4.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Broadband connection; OUR OPINION: Governments such as Orangeburg playing role in expanding Internet service that is vital in today's world. Leaders have frequently referenced the importance of bringing broadband Internet services to rural areas if Orangeburg and other rural counties are to realize their potential in development.

Legislative Session News:

Post and Courier: 2014 Legislative session: What's next?

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140418/PC1603/140419280/1031/2014-legislative-session-whats-next>

Cynthia Roldan

State lawmakers are back in their districts in the coming week, as both bodies take a break from this year's session. The House of Representatives' second furlough week begins on Monday; the Senate took off for a break after Wednesday's session.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Uncertainty lingers over South Carolina's withdrawal from Smarter Balanced

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140418/PC1610/140419296/1177/uncertainty-lingers-over-south-carolinas-withdrawal-from-smarter-balanced>

Amanda Kerr

Education officials and advocates are frustrated and confused following a decision by South Carolina's top education administrator to withdraw from the consortium that would test Common Core standards next school year.

The State: Most in SC favor legal abortion but with limits

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/18/3395761/exclusive-most-in-sc-favor-legal.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

While three out of four South Carolinians think abortion should be legal, most would limit it to a few circumstances, according to a new Winthrop Poll. The majority of South Carolinians agree abortion should be legal when the mother's life or health is at risk, or if the pregnancy is the result of incest or rape.

The State: Flaws at SC agency led to Mental Health patient's escape

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/18/3396157/flaws-at-sc-agency-led-to-mental.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

Flaws within the state Department of Mental Health's policies and procedures led to the January escape of a patient hospitalized after being accused of two murders, according to a State Law Enforcement Division investigation obtained Friday by The State newspaper.

Florence Morning News: Unnamed Florence County projects promising 390 jobs in the pipeline

http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article_abfaf60c-c687-11e3-ba0a-0017a43b2370.html

Gavin Jackson

Economic development projects totaling 390 jobs and \$87.5 million in investment for the county appear to be forthcoming as Florence County Council took initial action Thursday to approve two agreements for projects and a grant for an expansion.

Associated Press: Choi leads rain-delayed RBC Heritage

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=D0177sw

Pete Iacobelli

K.J. Choi's early tee time and quick start moved him to the top of the rain-delayed RBC Heritage on Friday. Choi shot a 67 to get to 5-under 137, one stroke ahead of Robert Allenby and two in front of a group led by former world No. 1 Luke Donald as the second round was suspended because of heavy storms.

Local News:

Island Packet: Beaufort County should not have to pay if costs for widening SC 170 increase, officials say
<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/04/18/3067390/beaufort-county-should-not-have.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Zach Murdock

A slight redesign of the S.C. 170 widening project could drive up its cost, but it is not clear if Beaufort County or the contractors doing the work will be on the hook for additional charges, according to county officials. The S.C. Department of Transportation is requiring that the thickness of the asphalt applied to the road be increased to meet state standards, county engineering director Rob McFee said.

Greenville News: Clemson weighs ban on all tobacco

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/04/18/clemson-weighs-ban-tobacco/7899429/>

Ron Barnett

Thomas Green Clemson probably never saw this coming. The institution he founded to help farmers in one of the nation's biggest tobacco-producing states is considering a total ban on products derived from the leaf that made the Carolinas famous. That means not only no smoking, dipping or chewing, but no e-cigarettes, even outside, anywhere.

Greenville News: Bass Pro revives tax break debate

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2014/04/18/bass-pro-revives-tax-break-debate/7899301/>

David Dykes

In announcing the Bass Pro Shops development on Wednesday, County Councilman David Britt said it would "greatly enhance the shopping opportunities not only in Spartanburg, but also the Upstate and adjoining states." He spoke of the "positive impact" the outdoor retail center would have on the region's hospitality and tourism industry.

The State: Columbia turns up no misspending by fired city business recruiter

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/18/3396136/columbia-turns-up-no-misspending.html#storylink=cpy>

Clif LeBlanc

Columbia's analysis of spending by its arrested and fired business recruiter turned up no evidence of misappropriation of public money. The city's finance department examined 70 invoices from all of the Economic Development's Department's five employees and found no problems, said Jan Alonso, Columbia's finance director.

National News:

Associated Press: Health Care Site Flagged in Heartbleed Review

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_HEALTH_OVERHAUL_WEBSITE_HEARTBLEED?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-04-19-01-17-00

Julie Pace

People who have accounts on the enrollment website for President Barack Obama's signature health care law are being told to change their passwords following an administration-wide review of the government's vulnerability to the confounding Heartbleed Internet security flaw.

Associated Press: Delay won't quell 2014 wrangling over Keystone XL

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_KEYSTONE_PIPELINE?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-04-19-03-44-53

Josh Lederman

Democrats sweating this year's elections may be hoping that the Obama administration's latest delay to the proposed Keystone XL pipeline takes a politically fraught issue off the table for the midterms.

Brian Symmes

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304

Cell: (803) 673-9437