

From: Symmes, Brian
To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips - Monday, December 2, 2013

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: Haley weighs in on Columbia strong mayor election

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/02/3134839/haley-weighs-in-on-columbia-strong.html>

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina Republican Gov. Nikki Haley is asking voters to give the mayor of the state's capital city more power. Voters in the Democratic stronghold will decide Tuesday whether to move to a strong mayor form of government, transferring most of the authority held by the city manager to the elected mayor. As in most South Carolina municipalities, Columbia's mayoral and council races are officially nonpartisan. Mayor Steve Benjamin ran for state attorney general in 2002 as a Democrat. A spokesman for Haley's campaign says it shows that politics played no role in her decision to get involved in the local issue.

Associated Press: Gov. Haley planning Carolighting at Statehouse

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2013/12/02/3876894/gov-haley-planning-carolighting.html>

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and other officials are planning to kick off the holiday season with an annual tree-lighting ceremony at the Statehouse. The 47th Annual Governor's Carolighting is planned for Monday at 6 p.m. on the north Statehouse steps in Columbia. Haley says she will be joined by her children and Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin. The annual event is sponsored by the City of Columbia, Columbia Breakfast Optimist Club, Columbia Garden Club and Garden Club of South Carolina.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Island Packet: SC should check how judges are selected

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/12/02/2825881/sc-should-check-how-judges-are.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

Gov. Nikki Haley and her likely Democratic opponent, state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, D-Camden, are firing the first shots of the 2014 gubernatorial race, trading jabs over the state's 300 plus magistrates. Haley is accusing Sheheen of "scandalous" behavior for having at least eight court cases pending before magistrates that he recommended for the bench. In South Carolina, the governor appoints magistrates -- county-level judges who preside over cases that carry penalties of up to 30 days in jail and/or a fine not exceeding \$500.

South Carolina News:

The State: Meeting on SC government restructuring disappears from schedule

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/02/3134648/state-house-meeting-on-sc-government.html>

Adam Beam

The S.22 conference committee was slated to meet Tuesday, but the meeting notice appears to have disappeared from the schedule. S.22 is the government restructuring bill that would eliminate the state Budget and Control Board, moving 90 percent of the state's administrative functions to the governor's office. The House and Senate agree the governor should control things such as human resources, information technology, vehicles, buildings and parking lots. But they don't agree on who should control purchasing. Republican Gov. Nikki Haley has been trying for three years to pass this bill, with no success.

Associated Press: Mediation set in Charleston cruise case

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

Bruce Smith

A mediation session is set for next month in a federal lawsuit opposing a passenger cruise terminal in Charleston, one of three challenges to the proposed \$35 million project. Court records show a mediator for the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond plans to meet with attorneys on Jan. 7. Both the South

Carolina State Ports Authority and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are appealing a decision by a federal judge tossing out a Corps' permit for the project. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel, in a lawsuit brought by environmental, preservation and neighborhood groups, ruled in September that the Corps did not adequately review the project's effects on the city's historic district.

Associated Press: Meeting may spur completion of Interstate 526

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=NvNqR212

There may be some progress this week on completing Interstate 526 through the western Charleston suburbs. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports (<http://bit.ly/IAITBa>) the state transportation commission meets Thursday and may take up a revised contract for the \$560 million project to complete the highway also known as the Mark Clark Expressway. Transportation Commission Chairman John Edwards says the commission is leaning toward approving the new contract that will give Charleston County more control over building the highway. An earlier intergovernmental agreement had the transportation department building the project.

Post and Courier: Pop-up Affordable Care Act enrollment center opens near S.C. Aquarium

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131202/PC16/131209902/1177/pop-up-affordable-care-act-enrollment-center-opens-near-sc-aquarium>

Lauren Sausser

A new pop-up health insurance enrollment center near the South Carolina Aquarium was crowded during its first hour of business Monday morning — but not with residents eager to sign up for a policy under the Affordable Care Act. The small storefront, provided by the city of Charleston free of charge, was mainly full of volunteers and paid navigators. They were busy organizing pamphlets, answering cellphones, setting up a Christmas tree — all preparing for the rush of residents they hope will walk in over the next three weeks.

Post and Courier: Judge rules against allowing additional defendants in suit against The Citadel stemming from Reville molestations

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131202/PC16/131209888/1177/judge-rules-against-allowing-additional-defendants-in-suit-against-the-citadel-stemming-from-reville-molestations>

Natalie Caula Hauff

A judge has ruled against allowing the addition of four officials at The Citadel to a negligence lawsuit stemming from serial molester Louis “Skip” Reville’s misconduct at the military college’s now-defunct summer camp. Circuit Judge Kristi Harrington issued a ruling Wednesday, stating that adding parties to this suit would be prejudicial. She denied the motion to amend an ongoing lawsuit filed against the school only by an unidentified mother who is suing the military college over its handling of complaints against Reville, a Citadel graduate and summer-camp counselor who molested at least 23 boys in the region. He currently is serving a 50-year prison term.

Local News:

Island Packet: Hilton Head council to consider rezoning failed development near airport runway

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/12/02/2826303/hilton-head-council-to-consider.html#storylink=cpy>

Tom Barton

Hilton Head Island Town Council will decide Tuesday whether to grant a new plan to rezone a failed, 8.56-acre housing development off Beach City Road near the airport runway. A council committee and the town's Planning Commission have endorsed the request, while town staff, Beaufort County government, the S.C. Aeronautics Commission and Federal Aviation Administration have advised against allowing more homes on the property.

Rock Hill Herald: York County pulls back on plans to overhaul ambulance system

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2013/12/01/5460692/york-county-pulls-back-on-plans.html#storylink=cpy>

Jie Jenny Zou

The York County Council has pulled back on its efforts to overhaul the county’s emergency medical system because of legal concerns. For nearly a year, several York County Council members have negotiated with Piedmont Medical Center, which operates the countywide EMS system, and two volunteer rescue squads in the Lake Wylie and Fort Mill areas to establish new response time standards and to end the practice of ambulances from separate agencies arriving at some emergencies. Instead of basing response time standards on location - for example, giving PMC more time to respond to calls in western York County than in Rock Hill - the plan had called for basing standards on the severity of the emergency.

Associated Press: Ex-SC high school AD sentenced for embezzlement

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=F8OIbHdM

A former athletic director at a Lexington County high school has been sentenced to jail for taking more than \$100,000 from White Knoll High School. The State newspaper reports (<http://bit.ly/1aqP5Bd>) that Bryan Butz was sentenced Monday to serve weekends in jail for one year. Butz pleaded guilty earlier this year to embezzlement. He was arrested in 2010 after officials got an overdrawn notice on a checking account. Authorities said the school's booster club and other groups gave Butz checks totaling more than \$135,000, which he was supposed to turn over to the school for uniforms and other items.

Associated Press: Mayor Benjamin Calls News Conference On "referendum Eve"

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=c27U26qK

Mayor Steve Benjamin has called a news conference on "referendum eve." Benjamin, the face of the "yes" campaign, has summoned neighborhood, business, civic and faith community leaders at noon today. They are to gather at the Cecil A. Tillis Center, 2111 Simpkins Lane. Benjamin is to discuss "a number of major reforms and opportunities" in advance of Tuesday form-of-government referendum, according to a news release.

National News:

Associated Press: Some Dems Keep Distance as Obama Popularity Drops

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/some-dems-keep-distance-obama-popularity-drops>

Charles Babington

Democrats running for re-election in Arkansas, Louisiana and other Republican-leaning states faced enough problems before President Barack Obama's popularity swooned in November. Now they are awkwardly distancing themselves from him a year before the election, seeking the right balance between independence and betrayal. A popular president can help his party's candidates for Congress and governor candidates in mid-term elections. But Democrats increasingly worry they could suffer losses, much as they did in 2010, Obama's first mid-term elections. In a twist few expected, Republicans are still hammering the issue that fueled their successes in 2010: the health care overhaul they call Obamacare. They are making life especially uncomfortable for Democratic senators in states Obama lost.

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