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Subject: Clips - Saturday, June 29, 2013

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Editorial Roundup:

Sun News: Gunmaker's move to Myrtle Beach area a boon to economy

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2013/06/29/3559446/editorial-gunmakers-move-to-myrtle.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

After several years, economic development efforts have attracted an occupant for the shell building in the Cool Springs Business Park near Aynor. The only building in the industrial park will be the home of PRT Industries, a firearms manufacturer that is moving here from Connecticut.

Note: The types of jobs at PRT are one of the very things that make the company's relocation exciting. The gunmaker fits with South Carolina's role as a leader among U.S. states in a manufacturing renaissance.

Greenville News: Thumbs Up: Riegel is awarded Order of the Palmetto

http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130629/OPINION/306290005/Thumbs-Up-Riegel-awarded-Order-Palmetto?nclick_check=1

Editorial

Thumbs Up to Megan Riegel for all the great work she has done for the Greenville community and for the performing arts in her role as president and CEO of the Peace Center. She also was awarded the Order of the Palmetto this week by Gov. Nikki Haley, and the award was presented by state Sen. Larry Martin.

CON News:

The State: DHEC To Suspend Health-care Facilities Approval Program

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

Andy Shain

S.C. health care industry officials said Friday they expect a court fight over the suspension of the state program that reviews requests for new and added work at medical facilities. The state Department of Health and Environmental Control plans to suspend the Certificate of Need program on Monday after failing to get funding for the year in the state budget, agency director Catherine Templeton said in a letter released Friday.

Associated Press: DHEC suspending hospital program

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

Jeff Collins

State health officials told doctors and hospitals across South Carolina they can buy whatever equipment they want and start building whatever they think they need after the agency suspended a program that reviewed those requests. Department of Health and Environmental Control Director Catherine Templeton is telling South Carolina health care providers that her agency will no longer run the Certificate of Need program and won't look at any projects awaiting a review, according to a letter from the agency obtained Friday by The Associated Press.

Post And Courier: Health care industry scrambles to interpret S.C. Certificate of Need suspension

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=VWwPRDdS5

Lauren Sausser

The state health department announced Friday it is temporarily suspending a program that regulates hospital expansion in South Carolina because there's no money in the upcoming state budget to fund it, leaving industry insiders confused about what the announcement actually means for future projects. Catherine Templeton, director of the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, which administers the Certificate of Need program, wrote in a public letter that her agency is suspending it for one

year because the governor and the Legislature decided to cut funding for it. - "DHEC has no independent authority to expend state funds for Certificate of Need, and therefore, the veto completely suspends the program for the upcoming fiscal year," Templeton wrote.

Note: "This is not a novel idea - 14 other states don't have Certificate of Need programs. We have long pushed for the removal of CON and we appreciate members of the House agreeing with us that it is time to change the statute and permanently rid our state of this political obstacle to quality care," Haley said in a prepared statement.

The Item: Law remains despite lack of funding

http://www.theitem.com/news/local_news/law-remains-despite-lack-of-funding/article_d570cc67-e071-51fe-9a3c-4ceef625169e.html?_dc=765176446875.5573

Jade Anderson

What South Carolina's governor sees as a step forward, health officials are seeing as a step in the wrong direction. This week, state lawmakers upheld Gov. Nikki Haley's veto of \$1.7 million to fund the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's Certificate of Need program out of the state's spending plan. This move effectively killed the requirement of a review of new medical facilities or additions of more than \$600,000 to existing ones.

Note: "This is not a novel idea," Haley said in a news release Friday. "Fourteen other states don't have Certificate of Need programs. The Certificate of Need program does three things: restricts access, drives down quality and drives up costs. We have long pushed for the removal of CON, and we appreciate members of the House agreeing with us that it is time to change the statute and permanently rid our state of this political obstacle to quality care."

Aiken Standard: Health care facility application now in limbo

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20130629/AIK0101/130629458/1004/health-care-facility-application-now-in-limbo>

Haley Hughes

A home health care company which has filed an application to provide service here is facing some uncertainty about its future in Aiken County after an announcement from the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control that it would suspend its review of such applications.

Department of Health and Environmental Control Director Catherine Templeton is telling South Carolina health care providers that her agency will no longer run the Certificate of Need program and won't look at any projects awaiting a review, according to a letter from the agency obtained on Friday by The Associated Press.

Rock Hill Herald: Haley veto brings no immediate change in bid to build Fort Mill hospital

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2013/06/28/4986333/haley-veto-brings-no-immediate.html#storylink=cpy>
Don Worthington

The suspension of the state Certificate of Need program is unlikely to immediately affect a proposed Fort Mill hospital, health care experts say. Piedmont Medical Center and Carolinas HealthCare System are being cautious because they are still fighting in court over who should get to build the hospital in one of the fastest-growing areas of the county.

South Carolina News:

The State: Paul Talks Defense Policy At SCGOP Fundraiser

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=gag7gbLY

Amanda Coyne

While playing coy about possible presidential plans, U.S. Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., addressed a group of more than 150 South Carolina Republican Party donors Friday night at the State Farmers Market Friday. Paul said his visit to South Carolina, whose "first in the South" primary chose every eventual Republican presidential nominee from its 1980 inception until the pattern was derailed by former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich in 2012, "could have something to do" with a run for president in 2016. He has previously said, however, that he will not make an official decision until 2014.

The State: LAC: State Arts Commission Not Overstaffed

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=rYMctbn3

John Monk

A state watchdog agency has found that the South Carolina Arts Commission has staffing in line with

staffing of similar commissions in other states. That was a major finding of a report issued Wednesday morning by the Legislative Audit Council, the agency that investigates and audits other state departments and agencies at the request of the General Assembly

Associated Press: SC chief justice facing challenge for top spot

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=FD4eJ0lw

Meg Kinnard

As she nears South Carolina's mandatory judicial retirement age of 72, Supreme Court Chief Justice Jean Toal's years on the high court are limited by simple mathematics. The jurist, who turns 70 this year, is seeking another term in the court's top spot after her current one expires next summer. But in a move that has surprised the state's legal community, a fellow jurist who has served alongside Toal for more than a decade has decided to challenge her bid for re-election.

Post And Courier: S.C. House members cooler - but not stone cold - on immigration reform

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=k3AXDqpT

South Carolina's two U.S. senators were split on the immigration reform bill that passed last week, and the state's congressmen are even less excited about it. Still, there's time for the House to pass its own version of an immigration bill, said Republican U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney, whose 5th District seat covers Rock Hill and the Upstate.

Local News:

Post And Courier: Clemson police make arrest in Howard's Rock vandalism

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130628/PC20/130629332/1177/clemson-police-make-arrest-in-howard-x2019-s-rock-vandalism>

Aaron Brenner

The month of June began with Howard's Rock broken in pieces and a chunk stolen by mysterious late-night visitors. It ends with the apprehension of a teenager whom Clemson University police overwhelmingly hold responsible. Micah Rogers, 18, of Pisgah Forest, N.C., was arrested, arraigned and released Friday after police located his vehicle, with the assistance of tips and leads stemming from surveillance photos and videos released eight days prior.

Post And Courier: Trucking businesses in Charleston fret over new driver restrictions

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=xEZz5ANW

Tyrone Richardson

New trucking regulations kick in Monday, requiring drivers to take more breaks and work fewer hours as a means to lessen fatigue while they operate big rigs. - Lowcountry trucking companies are preparing for the impacts of the changes, with some predicting more trucks on the road, scheduling woes, supply chain disruptions and a drop-off in productivity.

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