

From: Symmes, Brian
To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips - Friday, October 11, 2013

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

SCRN: Haley reports 3-to-1 advantage over Sheheen in campaign cash

<http://www.southcarolinaradionetwork.com/2013/10/10/after-strong-quarter-haley-reports-3-to-1-advantage-over-sheheen-in-campaign-cash/>

Matt Long

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley's campaign reported that it had raised more than \$950,000 over the fundraising quarter that ended September. The Republican's haul easily topped the more than \$565,000 reported by the campaign of her challenger Democratic State Sen. Vincent Sheheen. Haley's campaign also said it had nearly \$3.18 million cash on hand, while Sheheen's campaign reported almost \$1.05 million. "We are tremendously grateful for and overwhelmed by the outpouring of support Governor Haley received from friends, old and new, who see the results she is delivering for the people of South Carolina and who want to see our state's progress continue," said Haley for Governor adviser Tim Pearson said in a statement.

South Carolina News:

The State: Treasurer Curtis Loftis Accused Of Bullying At Investment Committee Meeting

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=mRoFRk0P

Adam Beam

The chairman of the South Carolina Retirement Investment Commission has accused state Treasurer Curtis Loftis of bullying the commission's recently hired chief operating officer. Friday, during a special meeting of the commission, Reynolds Williams said Loftis called Darry Oliver on Sept. 30 and "berated his subordinate with profanity and abusive name calling." Loftis, after first trying to ban the commission from discussing the issue in public, walked out of the meeting after Williams banged his gavel several times to silence his protests. Darry Oliver, the chief operating officer of the S.C. Retirement Investment Commission, has resigned at Friday's meeting. Former state Sen. Greg Ryberg has been named the new COO. He will make \$161,000 annually.

Greenville News: Treasurer Loftis leaves meeting on pension staff bullying claims

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131011/NEWS/310110041/Treasurer-Loftis-leaves-meeting-pension-staff-bullying-claims>

Tim Smith

State Treasurer Curtis Loftis is accusing the chairman of the state's pension fund commission of retaliating against him by publicly airing allegations he bullied staff. Loftis alleged the retaliation was in return for his criticism recently of \$1.4 million in bonuses paid to investment staff. Loftis walked out of a commission meeting earlier this morning as the commission chairman, Reynolds Williams, alleged Loftis used profanity and berated commission staff. Loftis had asked the allegations be discussed in a closed-door session but only one other board member agreed.

Post and Courier: Lowcountry businessman to enter Lt. Gov. race

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131011/PC16/131019885/1006/>

A local developer will formally enter the Republican race for lieutenant governor on Monday. Pat McKinney will challenge for the seat currently held by GOP incumbent Glenn McConnell. McKinney recently retired from Kiawah Partners, where he served as managing partner of the real estate company. His biography lists service on various boards, including the South Carolina State Ports Authority, at Furman University and with faith groups.

Associated Press: SC investment board takes up bullying report

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=O9veNRDu

Jeffrey Collins

The chairman of the board that invests pension money for South Carolina workers says state Treasurer Curtis Loftis is bullying his staff with vulgar language and threats. The Retirement System Investment Commission is meeting Friday to discuss an anti-bullying policy. Board Chairman Reynolds Williams said Chief Operating Officer Darry Oliver reported abuse. Oliver says Loftis' tirade of foul language and names on a Sept. 30 call was so bad he had to pull over to regain his composure.

Post and Courier: DHEC Director Templeton says flu shots for the insured on the way

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131011/PC16/131019884/1006/dhec-chief-templeton-flu-shots-for-insured-on-the-way>

Lauren Sausser

The director of the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control issued a public statement Friday assuring the public that more flu shots are expected to arrive soon at county health clinics. But until the back-ordered vaccine doses arrive, patients covered by private health insurance, Medicare and Medicaid have been asked by DHEC to get vaccinated somewhere else. "It is important for people to understand DHEC is open for business as usual and will continue serving the public this flu season," Templeton said in the prepared statement. "As soon as we receive our shipment of vaccines for adults with insurance, we will begin offering flu shots to these individuals as well."

Associated Press: DHEC: No flu vaccines now for insured patients

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

South Carolinians who have health insurance are not currently eligible to get vaccinated against the flu at county health departments, according to a newspaper report. But officials said Friday that should change when more shipments of the vaccine are received. Flu shots are not currently available at county-level health departments across the state for patients covered by Medicare, Medicaid or private health insurance, Department of Health and Environmental Control spokesman Mark Plowden told the Post and Courier of Charleston (<http://bit.ly/19mLupg>) Thursday.

Greenville News: \$1M grant will expand student opportunities at ICAR, officials say

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131011/NEWS/310110042/-1M-grant-will-expand-student-opportunities-ICAR-officials-say>

Student opportunities at the Clemson University International Center for Automotive Research are increasing after a specialty equipment and performance aftermarket trade association awarded the Upstate campus a \$1 million research grant, Clemson officials said. The Specialty Equipment Market Association is expanding its five-year relationship with CU-ICAR by funding research to ensure vehicle dynamics and emissions compliance while developing high-quality aftermarket performance products. As part of a two-year grant, CU-ICAR will develop a Transient Emissions and Fuel Economy Laboratory and a Vehicle Dynamics Laboratory to provide physical testing, engineering resources and research support for performance product development, testing, analysis and integration.

Sun News: CCU moves forward with request for \$3 million from the state to avoid in-state tuition increase

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2013/10/11/3766217/ccu-moves-forward-with-request.html#storylink=cpy>

Vicki Grooms

Coastal Carolina University will ask the state for \$3 million to avoid raising in-state tuition for 2014-15. CCU's board of trustees approved the request to seek funding at its quarterly meeting Friday. The additional money would allow CCU to keep in-state tuition flat for a third straight year. The university will not find out if it will receive the funding until around June, said Stacie Bowie, vice president and chief financial officer, however, trustees still can expect a request for an in-state tuition increase during the budget process so that financial aid can be calculated based on a worst-case cost scenario.

The State: SC NAACP Chief's Trial Pushed To December

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=pYddy5Ko

Jamie Self

NAACP director Lonnie Randolph's trial for a misdemeanor arrest after an incident at a Five Points dry cleaning business is tentatively set for Dec. 9. Municipal court Judge Steedley Bogan set the court date Friday, further delaying the case that was expected to go to trial next week, said Randolph's attorney, Joe McCulloch. Randolph is charged with disorderly conduct, trespassing and resisting arrest, stemming from the July 12 incident when he was arrested after behaving erratically – behavior that resulted from a diabetic episode, Randolph and McCulloch say.

Greenville News: State gas prices fall to lowest level this year

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131011/NEWS/310110045/State-gas-prices-fall-lowest-level-year>

Angelia Davis

South Carolina motorists are paying the lowest price for gas this month than they've paid all year. That's according to AAA Carolinas, which said the average price for a gallon of regular gasoline across the state this October is 16 cents cheaper than a month ago. The South Carolina average is \$3.09, compared to \$3.25 a month ago and \$3.51 a year ago. The last time gas was cheaper in South Carolina was on Dec. 26, 2012, when prices averaged \$3.08. The price reached a summer high of \$3.34 on July 21 amid concerns over the conflict in Egypt, AAA said.

Local News:

Rock Hill Herald: Ward 5 candidates weigh in on economic development

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2013/10/10/5295036/ward-5-candidates-weigh-in-on.html#storylink=cpy>

The Herald this week is publishing comments from the three candidates for the Ward 5 seat on the Rock Hill City Council about issues facing the city. Competing for the seat in Tuesday's election are Nikita Jackson, a sales representative with Agape Medical Mart; Mildred A. Moore, a retired teacher and English professor; and Ann Williamson-Morrison, a retired flight attendant.

Sun News: Horry County Council to consider forgoing accommodations taxes for five years to pay WestJet

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2013/10/11/3766368/horry-county-council-to-consider.html#storylink=cpy>

Jason M. Rodriguez

The Horry County Administration Committee wants the full County Council to consider forgoing a portion of its accommodations tax – funds typically used to support rural festivals like the Aynor Hoedown and the Loris Bog off – for the next five years in order to make up for the weak performance of the revenue guarantee the county entered in with Canadian airliner WestJet. Though officials said dipping into those funds to make up a projected \$570,000 shortfall in the guarantee will not impact commitments to those festivals and more, Councilman Marion Foxworth does not support the idea because he wants the county to find funds immediately instead of placing the debt on future council members and citizens.

Sun News: Gas prices expected to continue to fall, Myrtle Beach has lowest average price in South Carolina

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2013/10/11/3766241/gas-prices-expected-to-continue.html#storylink=cpy>

Dawn Bryant

Drivers in South Carolina are seeing the lowest gas prices all year, and Myrtle Beach boasts the lowest average price in the state, according to AAA Carolinas. The average in Myrtle Beach is \$3.05 a gallon, down 18 cents from a month ago and 45 cents from this time last year, according to AAA's Fuel Gauge Report. Statewide, the average price is \$3.09 a gallon -- the second lowest average in the country behind Missouri with its \$3.05 average. The national average is \$3.35. Prices have been falling in South Carolina since reaching a summer peak of \$3.34 on July 21, and are expected to continue falling until Thanksgiving, the most heavily traveled four-day holiday when prices usually stabilize or rise slightly, AAA says.

National News:

Associated Press: House GOP, White House Seeking End to Budget Fight

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/house-gop-white-house-seeking-end-budget-fight>

Alan Fram and David Espo

Officials say House Republicans are offering to pass legislation to avert a default and end the partial government shutdown as part of a package that includes cuts in benefit programs. Senior aides to Speaker John Boehner and Majority Leader Eric Cantor outlined the proposal at a late-night White House meeting Thursday with senior administration officials. In addition to ending the shutdown and increasing the debt limit, the proposal includes an easing of the across-the-board spending cuts that began taking effect a year ago, and replacing them with curbs in benefit programs that Obama himself has backed.

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