

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 3/7/2014 7:57:22 AM
Subject: Morning Clips – Friday, March 7, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Haley administration announces new obesity initiative

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140306/PC16/140309542/1006/exclusive-haley-administration-announces-new-obesity-initiative>

Lauren Sausser

Gov. Nikki Haley is backing down from a controversial proposal that would have restricted what food stamp recipients can buy, instead shifting her focus on a new strategy to link food stamp eligibility with finding a job.

Note: Pitts said the decision to change course isn't political. "Whether it's the education initiative she just rolled out or whether it's this initiative, she gets stakeholders involved and listens," Pitts said. "(DHEC Director) Catherine Templeton spearheaded a listening tour where she got input from people that are getting benefits and people that aren't getting benefits, and when you see, holistically, the picture at large, the people that are on benefits want to work, they want to be healthier."

The State: SC hospitals ask Supreme Court to force state to regulate them

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/06/3310078/sc-hospitals-ask-supreme-court.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

The S.C. Supreme Court was asked Thursday to decide whether the governor's veto can suspend a state law. The issue is whether a state agency was justified in suspending a program that decides whether hospitals and nursing homes get clearance to build or expand when Gov. Nikki Haley vetoed money to pay for that program.

Note: When Haley vetoed the certificate program last year, she called the application process "an intensely political one through which bureaucratic policymakers deny new health care providers from offering treatment."

Seneca Journal: Forgiveness bill goes to governor

<https://upstatetoday.com/2014/03/forgiveness-bill-goes-to-governor/>

Greg Oliver

Legislation that will allow school boards in South Carolina to forgive up to five days of classes missed due to inclement weather this winter now only awaits final approval by Gov. Nikki Haley. On Wednesday, the House voted 98-0 to agree to changes proposed by the Senate.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Greenville News: New jobs strengthen SC economy

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140307/OPINION01/303070002/New-jobs-strengthen-SC-economy>

Editorial

Adding jobs reduces unemployment. Having more employed residents makes South Carolina's economy stronger. Having a more diverse economy will help the state ride out future economic downturns. Gov. Nikki Haley made two such announcements in the Upstate in recent weeks. One was Toray Industries, a carbon fiber manufacturer that said it will invest \$1 billion in a new Spartanburg County facility. Toray is a supplier to Boeing's North Charleston aircraft manufacturing plant.

The State: Reading level, not race, helps determine a child's future

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/06/3309589/bolton-reading-level-not-race.html#storylink=cpy>

Warren Bolton

One recent evening, my sons and I sat reading prior to heading to bed. While I often end up reading to

them, this was one of those times when each of us took a turn reading to the others. After my 8-year-old had read a chapter, he passed the book to his 5-year-old brother, who is excited about learning to read.

Note: I'm glad that Gov. Nikki Haley, Sen. Harvey Peeler and others are pushing for programs to help our kids learn to read effectively.

Post and Courier: Obama's unhealthy power grab

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140307/PC1002/140309536/1021/obamas-unhealthy-power-grab>
Editorial

Gov. Nikki Haley has rejected the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act's offer of Medicaid expansion. The S.C. Senate is again considering legislation aimed at blocking other elements of that massive federal health care law. But Obamacare's namesake still leads the way in blocking its implementation.

Times and Democrat: S.C. gets more ammo in fight vs. health law

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/editorial/s-c-gets-more-ammo-in-fight-vs-health-law/article_86d204d8-a58a-11e3-84fd-0019bb2963f4.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Affordable Care Act; OUR OPINION: Problems with federal law may be worsened by state rejections, but don't look for S.C. leaders to change course. As South Carolina leaders continue to seek ways to limit the impact of the Affordable Care Act in the Palmetto State, President Barack Obama has taken steps to limit the law's impact on this year's elections.

Aiken Standard: Look for job creation via higher education

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140307/AIK0201/140309590/1018/AIK02/editorial-look-for-job-creation-via-higher-education>

Editorial

A new generation of high-tech manufacturing is undoubtedly emerging, but if South Carolina can't keep pace with that transformation, the state's economy will be left in the dust. That's the unnerving reality that a recent study from the University of South Carolina reveals about our state's future.

Rock Hill Herald: Protect teens from dating violence

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/03/06/5746665/protect-teens-from-dating-violence.html>

Editorial

The father and stepmother of Sierra Landry have suffered a nightmare no parent should have to endure. But, to their credit, they are trying to use their tragedy to help others avoid the same fate. Robert Landry's daughter, Sierra, was only 18 when she was shot and killed last year. Her former boyfriend, Tanner Crolley, 18, has been charged in the shooting.

Legislative Session News:

Associated Press: SC bill allows cannabis oil for epilepsy treatment

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=vJC4T6hh

Seanna Adcox

People suffering from severe epilepsy could legally use oil derived from marijuana under a bill advanced Thursday in the South Carolina House. The bill backed by Republicans decriminalizes cannabidiol, also known as CBD oil, if a patient has a doctor's prescription or is participating in a clinical trial for treating severe forms of epilepsy. It also aims to protect doctors from being arrested or sued for prescribing or providing the oil in limited circumstances.

Post and Courier: Narrow medical marijuana exemption bill passes House panel

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140306/PC1603/140309553/1031/narrow-medical-marijuana-exemption-bill-passes-house-panel>

Jeremy Borden

Lawmakers should carve out an exemption for a type of medical marijuana that helps those with severe forms of epilepsy, a House panel decided Thursday. The subcommittee passed a bill sponsored by Rep. Jenny Horne, R-Summerville, who is seeking an exemption for a type of medical marijuana extract called Cannabidiol oil, which does not include the chemical THC, associated with the "high" effects of marijuana.

S.C. Political News:

The State: It's almost the weekend, S.C. Democrats

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/07/3310734/morning-buzz.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self, Andrew Shain

S.C. Democrats had a rough week. First, on Wednesday, state Rep. Mike Anthony, D-Union, dropped out of the race for state schools chief. Then, yesterday, Democrat Rick Wade -- a former Obama campaigner and administration official and cabinet head under Gov. Jim Hodges -- bowed out of the race to replace Republican U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, the state's first African American in the U.S. Senate.

Times and Democrat: Avant announces bid for House Dist. 90 seat

http://thetandd.com/news/local/avant-announces-bid-for-house-dist-seat/article_f1f59056-a5ab-11e3-be2b-0019bb2963f4.html

Travis Lee Avant of Walterboro has announced he will seek the Republican nomination to represent House District 90 in Columbia. As an Army veteran, twice-elected Colleton County Sheriff, SLED investigator and magistrate, Avant has a long history in the public sector. House District 90 is currently represented by Rep. Bakari Sellers, a Denmark Democrat. Sellers is not running for re-election so he can run for lieutenant governor.

Florence Morning News: Florence County Democrats gear up for 2014

http://www.scnw.com/news/politics/article_6a828246-a5a6-11e3-9111-001a4bcf6878.html

Gavin Jackson

Gloria Bromell Tinubu told Florence County Democrats at their biennial convention Thursday that her first race for Congress in 2012 was just the "dress rehearsal" for the real production this year. State Rep. Bakari Sellers (D-Bamberg) also dropped in and told the crowd of nearly 100 members in the South Florence High School auditorium his plans for his lieutenant governor bid.

South Carolina News:

Aiken Standard: Proposal to freeze MOX 'smells like Yucca Mountain'

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140307/AIK0101/140309594/1004/officials-proposal-to-freeze-mox-smells-like-yucca-mountain>

Derrek Asberry

Aiken County Council member Chuck Smith said news about President Barack Obama's fiscal year 2015 budget proposal to freeze the Savannah River Site's MOX program "smells like Yucca Mountain, part two." The proposal states the MOX facility -- which is designed to turn 34 metric tons of weapons grade plutonium into nuclear fuel -- is too expensive, based on a recent DOE study that estimates the life-cycle cost of the project could rise to \$30 billion.

Anderson Independent: Schools focus on technical skill training to prepare students for jobs

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/mar/06/schools-focus-on-technical-skill-training-to-for/?partner=RSS>

Sarah Freishtat

There is a bigger demand in the Upstate for employees with technical skills and associate's degrees than for employees with four-year college degrees, said Wayne Frady, business and industry coordinator for the School District of Oconee County. Often, those jobs pay just as well or better than those requiring a traditional degree, he said.

Local News:

The State: Roads top list of Lexington County tax projects sought

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/06/3310159/roads-top-list-of-lexington-county.html#storylink=cpy>

Tim Flach

Road improvements by far top the list of projects suggested for a share of a proposed penny-on-the-dollar sales tax in Lexington County, officials said Thursday. Projects to ease traffic congestion and improve safety total 43 percent of the nearly \$772 million in requests submitted to a panel that will develop the package that the tax would finance.

Florence Morning News: Technology allows Florence schools individualized reading lessons

http://www.scnw.com/news/education/article_50c63db8-a586-11e3-ac64-001a4bcf6878.html

Ellen Meder

It's not every day you find every single student in a classroom intensely reading aloud, pausing only to grin and listen to feed-back. But in Julie Shealy's third-grade classroom at Delmae Elementary School, that is exactly what you'll find on Thursdays, when her students plug headphones into iPads to video conference with teaching students at Francis Marion University.

Seneca Journal: Economic impact of fishing tournament could reach \$6 million

<https://upstatetoday.com/2014/03/economic-impact-of-fishing-tournament-could-reach-6-million/>

Norman Cannada

While legendary angler Jimmy Houston and the more than 160 other pros are competing on Lake Hartwell for a \$125,000 first-place prize this weekend in the FLW fishing tournament, one official said Oconee County has already won at the tournament — in economic impact. Ken Sloan, president and chief executive officer for the Mountain Lakes Convention and Visitors Bureau, said the tournament will likely have an economic impact on the county of more than \$6 million.

Aiken Standard: Educators react to upcoming SAT changes

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140306/AIK0101/140309576/1007/AIK0101/educators-react-to-upcoming-sat-changes>

Rob Novit

Major changes in the long-established SAT exam will arrive in 2016 – generating both applause and criticism around the country. The College Board, which administers the Scholastic Aptitude Test, known as the SAT, will revamp the test content to match up with the Common Core academic standards. That curriculum will formally begin testing in 2015.

Post and Courier: Former Lowcountry educators part of Jasper County schools investigation

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140306/PC16/140309546/1389/former-lowcountry-educators-part-of-jasper-county-schools-investigation>

Brenda Rindge

The Internal Revenue Service and the FBI are investigating the operation of the Jasper County School District, which is led by two former Charleston area educators. Investigators were at the district offices in Ridgeland on Wednesday and Thursday. The district had no prior knowledge of the investigation, said spokeswoman Shellie Murdaugh.

Rock Hill Herald: Fort Mill planning for major growth in next 20 years

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/03/06/5746921/fort-mill-planning-for-major-growth.html#storylink=cpy>

John Marks

Fort Mill leaders expect the town could triple its population in the next 20 years. Joe Cronin, Fort Mill's planning director, estimated the town's 2010 U.S. Census population of 10,800 will grow to 30,000 by 2030. That growth would impact engineering, utilities and public works, and fire service and police protection would need to keep up.

National News:

Associated Press: Obama's warnings brushed aside by Russia's Putin

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/obamas-warnings-brushed-aside-russias-putin>

Julie Pace

One by one, President Barack Obama's warnings to Russia are being brushed aside by President Vladimir Putin, who appears to only be speeding up efforts to formally stake his claim to Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula. In the week since Obama first declared there would be "costs" if Putin pressed into Crimea, Russian forces have taken control of the region and a referendum has been scheduled to decide its future.

Associated Press: GOP presidential hopefuls vie for clout with base

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=tGV7M0Le

Ken Thomas, Steve Peoples

Republicans vying for the GOP presidential nomination in 2016 auditioned Thursday before some of the nation's most ardent conservative leaders, calling for the party to unite behind a clear agenda and draw contrasts with Democrats. The contestants ranged from Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, a tea party champion, to New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a favorite of the GOP establishment.

Brian Symmes

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304

Cell: (803) 673-9437