

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
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Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, November 12, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Odisha Sun Times: Nikki Haley to visit Punjab Friday

<http://odishasuntimes.com/99369/nikki-haley-visit-punjab-friday/>

US' South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley will arrive in Amritsar Friday (Nov 14), district administration officials said Tuesday. Haley will arrive Chandigarh on Nov 13. Haley, whose father's family used to live in nearly Verka suburb till the early 1960s before migrating to the United States, will offer prayers at the holiest of Sikh shrines, Harmandir Sahib, popularly known as Golden Temple on Saturday (Nov 15).

The State: SC politics: Haley won't head GOP governors group

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/11/3806223/sc-politics-haley-wont-head-gop.html>

Gov. Nikki Haley will not be the next chairwoman of the Republican Governors Association. A new leader will be elected during the RGA's annual conference next week. South Carolina Republican Haley will be on a trade mission to India during the conference in Boca Raton, Fla.

Group says more review needed of I-526 project: An environmental group says a new review is needed of plans to complete Interstate 526 through Charleston's western suburbs because so much time has lapsed since the original studies.

Associated Press: Judge lets SC same-sex marriage lawsuit proceed

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6qma4bqy

Meg Kinnard

A federal judge says the primary challenge to South Carolina's ban on same-sex marriage may proceed, ruling Monday that the plaintiffs have made sufficient arguments and can move forward with their lawsuit against the state's top prosecutor.

Note: Childs also dismissed Gov. Nikki Haley as a defendant in the lawsuit but said the case can continue against Attorney General Alan Wilson. Wilson has argued that this case belongs in state, not federal, court.

Greenville News: Judge: Gay marriage case moves forward

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/11/11/judge-gay-marriage-case-moves-forward/18861431/>

Lyn Riddle

In her first ruling since lifting a stay on a case challenging South Carolina's gay marriage ban, U.S. District Judge J. Michelle Childs signaled she will consider only whether the state must recognize marriages performed in other states.

Note: Childs also ruled that the case brought by Katherine Bradacs and Tracie Goodwin should go forward against the state attorney general, but dismissed Gov. Nikki Haley as a defendant.

WIS: Officials continue to look for way to fund SC road repairs

<http://www.wistv.com/story/27358459/officials-continue-to-look-for-way-to-fund-sc-road-repairs>

Will Whitson

When it comes to repairing South Carolina's state-maintained roads, there has to be more money in the budget. According to the South Carolina Department of Transportation, it will take a billion and a half dollars to repair these roads. Currently, most of the funding for roads come from a gas tax which hasn't changed in 27 years.

Note: Some counties across the state tried to come up with a partial solution on last Tuesday's ballot by proposing a penny sales tax to improve roads within their respective borders. However, the idea didn't pass in Greenville or Lexington counties. Even Governor Nikki Haley says she's not in favor of the idea. "I was not in favor of local sales tax initiatives," Haley said. "I haven't been since the first year when Myrtle Beach tried to pass it."

S.C. Political News:

Sun News: Perry said no decision yet on 2016, but his Horry County audiences felt differently
<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/11/11/4599870/perry-said-no-decision-yet-on.html?sp=/99/134/#storylink=cpy>

Steve Jones

Texas Gov. Rick Perry said Tuesday he'll make a decision whether to seek the 2016 Republican presidential nomination early next summer, but many of those who saw him in Horry County thought he already has.

Note: Perry gave essentially the same speech at PTR as he had at the chamber function. Last summer, the company created a South Carolina edition rifle, and while the one created for Texas is the same caliber, it differs from the one presented to Gov. Nikki Haley, said John McNamara, PTR vice president.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Greenville News: Enforce state's new texting law

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2014/11/11/editorial-enforce-states-new-texting-law/18878443/>

Editorial

If you are on the highways or streets much at all, you see this just about every day: A driver is coming at you, and his or her phone is slightly under the steering wheel. Eyes drop down for a few seconds, then come back to the road. Then the routine is repeated again and again.

Rock Hill Herald: Many voters stay home on Election Day

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/11/11/6517795/many-voters-stay-home-on-election.html?sp=/100/105/>

Editorial
It's ironic, in a way, that so much time, money and energy was spent on legal challenges to South Carolina's voter ID law, which critics claimed would suppress the vote, especially among minority, elderly and young voters. On Election Day, the issue was entirely irrelevant.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley won easily with 56 percent of the vote and a winning margin of 14.5 percentage points. But her overall vote total represented fewer than 3,900 additional votes compared to 2010, when 52 percent of voters cast ballots.

Post and Courier: Continue the ebb of violent crime

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141112/PC1002/141119815>

Editorial

Persistent reports of shootings, rapes and assaults are a painful reminder of the heavy toll of violence in our communities. So it's of particular interest when communities make headway in fighting violent crime. Recently released FBI statistics show that the Charleston metro area is one of those places.

Post and Courier: Cleaning house at the VA

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141112/PC1002/141119814>

Editorial

That makes the task facing Robert McDonald as the new VA secretary an urgent national priority. And the former Procter & Gamble CEO is taking fittingly forceful steps to restore the agency's credibility. For example, he reported Monday that an ongoing, comprehensive VA restructuring has already removed 5,600 employees this year, and that more dismissals will soon follow.

Post and Courier: Don't tie Interstate 26 funding to killing 526 - it's not going to happen

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141112/PC16/141119821/dont-tie-interstate-26-funding-to-killing-526-its-not-going-to-happen>

Brian Hicks

Last week the Southern Environmental Law Center tried to hold up the 526 extension on behalf of the Coastal Conservation League by claiming the project needs a new environmental impact study. That's what years of government inaction will get you.

Island Packet: Ports Authority failing in its mission to sell port

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/11/11/3426370/ports-authority-failing-in-its.html?sp=/99/342/>

Editorial

In 2004, the Port of Port Royal was deemed too expensive to operate, and the S.C. Ports Authority was ordered to sell it. Town leaders and residents started dreaming big, picturing a renaissance for their little town with new restaurants, shops, residences and industry at the 317-acre site.

The State: What road will Lexington County take now that the capital improvement tax failed?

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/11/3805902/bolton-what-road-will-lexington.html#storylink=cpy>

Warren Bolton

WHEN RICHLAND County voters rejected the initial attempt to enact a penny-on-the-dollar sales tax increase in 2010 to pay for bus operations, road improvements and other projects, supporters were disappointed yet optimistic.

The State (Guest Column): Few: America's free-enterprise system reinterpreted

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/12/3805910/few-americas-free-enterprise-system.html>

Sheri Few

For generations, Americans have associated free enterprise with economic opportunity, growth and prosperity. South Carolina's U.S. History and Constitution Standards underscore these positive associations by requiring students to learn about the role of capitalism and entrepreneurs in promoting democracy and a rising standard of living.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Anderson Independent: Graham says 20K troops needed for Iraq, Syria

http://www.independentmail.com/news/graham-says-20k-troops-needed-for-iraq-syria_04574531

Michael Eads

Over 20,000 troops might be needed to defeat the Islamicist army threatening Iraq and dislodge Syrian president Bashar Assad from power, according to South Carolina's senior U.S. senator. Graham was at Pendleton's Veterans Park to help dedicate the town's new memorial to local men and women who served in the U.S. military.

The State: U.S. Sen. Tim Scott announces more veterans job-training workshops

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/11/3804963/us-sen-tim-scott-announces-more.html>

Jamie Self

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott announced additional workshops this and next week as part of his statewide veterans job-training initiative. The workshops aim to help veterans transfer their military skills and certifications to the civilian workforce. Scott will host two workshops Thursday in Florence and St. Matthews, and a workshop on Tuesday in Beaufort and Wednesday in Conway.

Florence Morning News: Sen. Scott to host Florence event for veteran job training

http://www.scnow.com/news/business/article_a2ced500-69e1-11e4-a987-43f1d0d573e2.html

Gavin Jackson

Just days after Veterans Day, U.S. Senator Tim Scott will be in Florence to help veterans capitalize on their military skills and certifications in obtaining civilian employment. The event will take place on Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in room 235 at the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing on the Florence-Darlington Technical College Campus.

Politico: Rep. Jim Clyburn: GOP will try to impeach President Obama

<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/11/rep-jim-clyburn-gop-impeach-obama-112789.html#ixzz3lr8jFwr4>

Kendall Breitman

Democratic Rep. Jim Clyburn is predicting that Republicans will try to impeach Barack Obama so that they can "put an asterisk" next to the name of the first black president. As far as what will spur the call to impeach, Clyburn pointed to the heated debate on immigration reform.

South Carolina News:

McClatchy D.C.: Offshore wind technology energizes SC researchers

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/11/3806238/offshore-wind-technology-energizes.html>

Daniel Salazar

Steady wind patterns from the Atlantic Ocean long have inspired hopes of wind turbines dotting the East

Coast. Now South Carolina and other Eastern states are exploring the idea with task forces and studies. Local universities already are becoming research leaders in the budding regional offshore wind farm industry, common in European waters but foreign to the United States.

The State: SC education board to debate advanced U.S. history course on Wednesday

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/11/3805962/sc-education-board-to-debate-advanced.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

Larry Kobrovsky said his Jewish grandparents escaped lives dependent on “who won the latest war” when they came from Lithuania to the United States through Ellis Island. For them, said the state Board of Education member, the United States was a land of opportunity and freedom.

Associated Press: Group says more review needed of I-526 project

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1zcjWfzb

An environmental group says a new review is needed of plans to complete Interstate 526 through Charleston's western suburbs because so much time has lapsed since the original studies. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports that attorneys representing the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League, which opposes the project, wrote the state's federal highway administrator last week.

Associated Press: Leaders discuss making transportation resilient

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

Bruce Smith

Government officials, including three former U.S. secretaries of transportation, are joining engineers and business leaders in South Carolina to discuss ways to make the nation's transportation systems more resilient in the wake of storms and other disasters.

Post and Courier: Anita Zucker donates \$4 million to The Citadel's education school

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141111/PC16/141119823>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

Billionaire philanthropist Anita Zucker announced Tuesday her family is donating \$4 million to The Citadel's School of Education, a gift that aims to bring scholarly and practical tools to the school along with direct help to area classroom teachers.

Rock Hill Herald: Winthrop trustees take no action after long closed meeting

http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/11/11/6518088_winthrop-trustees-take-no-action.html?rh=1

Anna Douglas

University officials did not say specifically what legal matter the Board of Trustees talked about. The school has not yet held mediation with its former president, Jamie Comstock Williamson. Williamson was fired by the board on June 26 and threatened to sue Winthrop soon after.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Should domestic abusers lose gun rights just like mentally incompetent?

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141111/PC16/141119834>

Doug Pardue

The committee is to begin efforts Wednesday to draft the reforms. Rep. Shannon Erickson, a Beaufort Republican who chairs the panel, said guns could be banned from convicted abusers in a manner similar to the way the state last year restricted guns from those designated mentally incompetent by the courts.

Post and Courier: Colleton School Board members pin hopes on lawmakers after lawsuit dismissed

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141111/PC16/141119830>

Amanda Kerr

Despite the dismissal of a federal lawsuit that sought to overturn controversial legislation shifting two Colleton County school board members out of their districts, local officials still hope lawmakers will move them back next year.

Post and Courier: Charleston's gentrification prompts forum on preserving diversity

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141111/PC16/141119810>

Adam Parker

A public forum encouraging construction of more affordable housing as an answer to gentrification drew

about 75 people to Burke High School Tuesday evening, including Charleston city councilmen Robert Mitchell and James Lewis, Sen. Marlon Kimpson and Rep. Wendell Gilliard.

Local News:

Greenville News: Concrete company plans expansion in Greenville

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2014/11/11/concrete-company-plans-expansion-greenville/18855469/>

Rudolph Bell

Dan Crosby and his partners in Metrocon Inc. have been selling concrete to contractors from their dry batch plant in Six Mile since 2006. They had always planned to open additional locations but never felt the time was right. Until now.

Greenville News: Social Services employee picks up wrong student

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/11/11/social-services-employee-picks-up-wrong-student/18880813/>

Nathaniel Cary

A Department of Social Services employee who went to East North Street Academy on Monday picked up the wrong student and left with that child, the Greenville County School District said Tuesday evening. The DSS caseworker was at the school Monday afternoon to pick up a different student, said school district spokeswoman Susan Clarke.

The State: Suspended Lexington County Sheriff James Metts seeks dismissal of some charges

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/11/3806089/suspended-lexington-county-sheriff.html>

Tim Flach

Lawyers for suspended Lexington County Sheriff James Metts are seeking dismissal of federal charges alleging he failed to notify U.S. customs officials about illegal immigrants at the jail he formerly supervised.

Times and Democrat: Council agrees not to raise tax rate

http://thetandd.com/news/council-agrees-not-to-raise-tax-rate/article_36346e82-6a13-11e4-82aa-a32bc2110288.html

Sherryl M. Peters

Neeses Town Council at its November meeting agreed not to raise the town's tax rate this year, leaving the millage at 33. Council members are still working on the proposed 2014-15 spending plan. Also during the meeting, Council Kenneth Gleaton provided an update on Joe Headden Field, noting the town is awaiting a third cost estimate on changing the fencing at the field.

Post and Courier: Berkeley County School Board accepts Rodney Thompson's resignation

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141111/PC16/141119807>

Brenda Rindge

The Berkeley County School Board voted unanimously Tuesday to accept Superintendent Rodney Thompson's request to resign, but rejected an amendment that would have terminated him immediately if he is indicted.

Florence Morning News: Florence ESAB facility sheds 60 jobs

http://www.scnow.com/news/business/article_1ee51e86-6a07-11e4-9c8e-c3bc95807ecb.html

John D. Russell

ESAB Welding and Cutting Products is making the company's restructuring a reality by downsizing roughly 60 jobs at the Florence facility by late December. ESAB announced this summer that it would restructure its gas apparatus and manual plasma product lines, as a result of the acquisition of Victor Technology.

National News:

New York Times: U.S. and China Reach Climate Accord After Months of Talks

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/12/world/asia/china-us-xi-obama-apec.html?emc=edit_th_20141112&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=69618260&_r=0

Mark Landler

China and the United States made common cause on Wednesday against the threat of climate change, staking out an ambitious joint plan to curb carbon emissions as a way to spur nations around the world to

make their own cuts in greenhouse gases.

New York Times: States Race to Improve Health Insurance Exchanges

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/12/us/obamacare-states-exchanges-for-health-insurance-facing-a-new-enrollment-period-try-to-fix-flaws.html?smid=nytcore-iphone-share&smprod=nytcore-iphone&_r=0

Abby Goodnough

Massachusetts and Minnesota have sharply increased the number of call center workers who will help people enroll in health plans through the states' insurance exchanges. Colorado has created an online avatar named Kyla to guide consumers through the sign-up process. And Maryland has replaced its exchange, which floundered last year, with Connecticut's successful model.

Brian Symmes

Cell: 803-673-9437

Office: 803-734-0304