

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
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Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, September 30, 2015

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Times and Democrat: Orangeburg, Calhoun certified 'Work Ready'

http://thetandd.com/news/orangeburg-calhoun-certified-work-ready/article_4bb12b8d-611a-51dc-94bb-cdc90535b4f5.html

Gene Zaleski

Orangeburg and Calhoun counties are now certified by South Carolina as Work Ready Communities. "This proves we are work ready and trying to enhance our skill sets so we can be more competitive," Orangeburg County Development Commission Executive Director Gregg Robinson said.

Note: "We have a real reason to celebrate with Calhoun, Chester and Orangeburg counties becoming certified as Work Ready Communities," Gov. Nikki Haley said. "This again proves that the Team South Carolina approach is working towards making sure we have the most attractive business environment in the world for companies looking for a place to call home."

Berkeley Independent: Volvo Ground Breaking Ceremony

<http://www.berkeleyind.com/article/20150930/BI01/150939996/1071/BI>

Debbie Merlo

Moments before picking up a shovel to officially break ground with Volvo cars of North America President and CEO Lex Kerssemakers, Gov. Nikki Haley gestured toward the open field to her right calling it 'the most beautiful bit of mud.'

Note: "God is smiling today," Haley said. "We are so excited."

Note: "Team South Carolina at it's finest," Haley said.

Post and Courier: Strong majority in S.C. approves of Confederate flag removal decision

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150930/PC1603/150939974>

Schuyler Kropf

Two-thirds of South Carolina residents say the S.C. Legislature made the right decision this summer to remove the Confederate battle flag from the Statehouse grounds, a new poll out this morning says. The survey, by Winthrop University in Rock Hill, shows that by race, 54 percent of white respondents said it was the right decision, while 93 percent of blacks did.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley, who strongly urged legislators to take down the Confederate battle flag, has a 55 percent approval rating, nearly identical to her overall approval rating in March.

The State: Poll: Majority in SC back Confederate flag's removal

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article37018881.html>

Andrew Shain

Two-thirds of South Carolinians agreed with the General Assembly's decision in removing the Confederate flag from the State House grounds this summer after the Charleston church shootings, a Winthrop University poll released Wednesday found.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley, who has received national praise for calling for the flag's removal, saw her approval rating unchanged from Winthrop's February poll at 55 percent.

Note: Haley received a thumbs up from 68 percent of Republicans in the latest poll, but that was down from 78 percent from February.

Post and Courier: Cleaning up the Statehouse needed but no easy task

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150929/PC16/150929251>

Tony Bartelme

State lawmakers should pass stronger anticorruption laws and allow independent investigations into potential ethical breaches, say campaign donors, Columbia insiders and lawmakers. Their comments follow

“Capitol Gains,” a report Sunday by The Post and Courier and the Center for Public Integrity that found candidates in South Carolina have what amounts to a personal ATM that dispensed nearly \$100 million since 2009.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley supports stronger ethics laws, her press secretary Chaney Adams said. Haley “has fought hard for four years for income disclosure, independent investigations of legislative ethics complaints and transparency for lawyer legislators.”

WSPA: SC DSS Agrees to Changes for Foster Kids

<http://wspa.com/2015/09/29/sc-dss-agrees-to-changes-for-foster-kids/>

Robert Kittle

The South Carolina Department of Social Services and Gov. Nikki Haley have agreed to make changes to how the state treats foster children. The changes are in response to a federal class action lawsuit but the lawsuit will continue.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Associated Press: Legislative leaders buck high court's education timeline

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ATV6bUEu

Seann Adcox

The leaders of South Carolina's House and Senate said Tuesday the Legislature will ignore deadlines set by the state's high court and continue its own path for fixing public schools. A letter delivered to Chief Justice Jean Toal accuses the state Supreme Court of unconstitutionally usurping the legislative process.

The State: S.C. House, Senate leaders reject court-imposed deadlines for schools fix

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article36956184.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

In a joint letter Tuesday to the S.C. Supreme Court, state House Speaker Jay Lucas and Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman said the court overstepped its bounds by setting a Feb. 1 deadline for legislation to improve the state's public schools.

Post and Courier: General Assembly plans to defy Supreme Court order

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150929/PC1603/150929276>

Cynthia Roldan

Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, and House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Hartsville, fired off a letter to the Supreme Court on Tuesday addressed to Chief Justice Jean Toal stating they are “dismayed by the order’s breathtaking disregard for one of the most fundamental constitutional principles upon which our government is based.”

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: Education task force panel to meet

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150930/PC1603/150939973>

Cynthia Roldan

A day after legislative leaders said they will ignore the state's Supreme Court February deadline to produce plans for providing students in impoverished rural districts with a constitutionally mandated adequate education some of the members of the House task force working on those solutions are scheduled to meet.

Post and Courier: Chip Limehouse bringing down the curtain on long legislative career

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150930/PC1603/150939987>

Cynthia Roldan

Veteran Lowcountry lawmaker Rep. Chip Limehouse is the latest legislator to announce he won't be seeking re-election after the end of this term next year. The Charleston Republican — who influenced the construction of many of Mount Pleasant's roads — will leave a void in the House chambers, his peers said, after serving for more than 20 years in the General Assembly.

Note: Most recently, Limehouse was among those who voted for a borrowing plan that Gov. Nikki Haley slammed and ultimately killed that would have brought more than \$100 million to Lowcountry projects, including \$35 million for Trident Technical College's Aeronautical Training Center and \$50 for the Medical University of South Carolina's new women's and children's hospital.

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: Trey Gowdy won't run for GOP majority leader

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2015/09/29/trey-gowdy-eyed-gop-majority-leader/73021100/>

Mary Orndorff Troyan

Rep. Trey Gowdy will not run for a job on the House Republican leadership team despite a daylong flurry of lobbying and recruiting by several of his conservative colleagues. Gowdy, R-Spartanburg, said he will instead focus on his job as chairman of the special House committee investigating the 2012 terrorist attacks in Benghazi, Libya.

Local News:

Sun News: Horry County Board of Education OKs \$244,000 for Socastee High track

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/education/article36882324.html#storylink=cpy>

Claire Byun

The Horry County Board of Education approved a measure to spend an additional \$244,000 on the Socastee High School track in addition to the \$334,861 already spent. The board unanimously approved the funding at their meeting Monday. The district wants to correct the track's length so it's equivalent to all the other S.C. high school tracks, said Joe DeFeo, board chairman.

Brian Symmes

Cell: 803-673-9437

Office: 803-734-0304