

From: Symmes, Brian
To:
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Subject: Morning Clips - Monday, October 7, 2013

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: South's poorest shut out of health care reform

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131006/PC1610/131009656/1009/south-x2019-s-poorest-shut-out-of-health-care-reform&source=RSS>

Melanie Balog

There's been a lot of talk these past few days about the rollout of the Affordable Care Act. A theme has emerged across the country, but particularly in the South, as explained by an Oct. 2 New York Times article and interactive map. There's a large group of people who aren't getting subsidized health care, and not because they can't log on to healthcare.gov; it's because they're too poor. Yes, paradoxically, you can be too poor for a discount on your health insurance, because the Affordable Care Act was designed to work in concert with the expansion of Medicaid.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley has repeatedly called the Affordable Care Act and the accompanying Medicaid expansion "bad policy" and a "public policy disaster." She and other state leaders maintain that there are other, better ways to address health care shortfalls than expanding Medicaid or implementing the Affordable Care Act.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Aiken Standard: School choice policies need strong analysis

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131007/AIK02/131009748/1018/AIK02/editorial-school-choice-policies-need-strong-analysis>

Editorial

The first steps toward a statewide school choice program in South Carolina may already have taken place. Before the legislature ended its session this year, an amendment to the State Budget passed that would provide tax credit-funded scholarships to low-income and special needs students. According to The State newspaper, taxpayers who donate money starting next year to nonprofit groups offering private-school scholarships will be eligible for tax credits on their 2014 tax returns. Currently, the state is testing the program, and thankfully, lawmakers are vetting nationwide policies before moving forward. While the plan might be considered by some to be a slippery slope, it's at least a positive sign that our legislators are carefully examining it for the future.

Post and Courier: Big Brother at work

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131007/PC1002/131009562/1022/the-justice-dept-x2019-s-press-gang>

Editorial

The feds got their man recently, but they broke a lot of rules doing so. That shouldn't be allowed to happen again. In announcing that former FBI agent Donald J. Sachtleben was the illegal source of an Associated Press story on a foiled aircraft bombing plot in Yemen, the Justice Department said he was identified by subpoenaing the telephone records of an AP reporter. But the Justice Department didn't just collect the telephone records of a single reporter. It seized all telephone records for a period of two months for The Associated Press in Washington, D.C., New York City, and Hartford, Conn., and the home phones of reporters, a total of some 20 telephone lines, gathering vast data on AP operations in a wholly unprecedented sweep. It didn't inform the AP before or after doing so.

Florence Morning News: Technology good for education ... mostly

http://www.scnow.com/opinion/editorials/article_763320fa-2d42-11e3-b8d6-0019bb30f31a.html

Editorial

Book pages are still being flipped at Trinity-Byrnes Collegiate School, but they are of the virtual kind these

days. All of the nearly 200 students in grades six through 12 at Trinity-Byrnes have bought their own iPads this school year to use daily in classes and for homework — though with about a quarter of students on a tuition assistance plan the school did work with families on tighter budgets to purchase devices. The benefits of tablets are as clear as their retina-display screens. They are far more portable (and maybe over the long term, cheaper) than a backpack of books and can be updated constantly, allowing new discoveries and developments to be included in areas like science and history. Videos, photo galleries and interactive maps and documents are brought to life on the screen.

South Carolina news:

Associated Press: SC Education Board may lift some class size limits

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

The South Carolina Board of Education is considering getting rid of maximum class sizes in some grades. The board gave initial approval in September to getting rid of requirements that fourth- and fifth-grade English and math teachers have no more than 30 students in their classrooms. It also would eliminate maximum class size rules in pre-kindergarten as well as music and physical education classes and do away with staffing ratios for media specialists, guidance counselors, assistant principals and principals, according to The Post and Courier of Charleston (<http://bit.ly/195jRCI>). It would not change state law on maximum class sizes in other areas, such as allowing no more than 28 students in classes in first through third grade.

Rock Hill Herald: SC Healthy Outcome initiative focuses on frequent ER users

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2013/10/07/5279093/sc-healthy-outcome-initiative.html#storylink=cpy>

Don Worthington

With one in five South Carolinians medically uninsured, the launching of the “Healthy Outcome Plans” by hospitals throughout the state recently appears to be the proverbial drop in the bucket. The plans, done at the request of the state legislature, are designed to help those who rely on emergency rooms for their health care. About 8,500 chronic users of emergency rooms statewide are being asked to participate in pilot program that hopefully will find them a medical home. Participation is voluntary. The chronic users represent 1 percent of the state’s uninsured.

Greenville News: Tropical storm weakens

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131007/NEWS/310070010/Tropical-storm-weakens>

Nathaniel Cary

Tropical Storm Karen dissipated Sunday into nothing more than a whimper and though its effects were still expected to be felt in the Upstate today, it became the latest storm to peter out in what’s turned into a weak Atlantic hurricane season. It’s not so much the lack of storms – there have been ten named storms so far – it’s the lack of force behind the storms that has puzzled meteorologists who had predicted a strong hurricane season. “Certainly the anticipation was that we would have an above-normal hurricane season,” said Bryan McAvoy, meteorologist with the National Weather Service station in Greer. “There were a lot of just unfavorable factors during the course of the year... We never had a period where conditions in the tropics were very favorable to tropical development.”

Post and Courier: Medicaid agency debuts first-ever online application

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131006/PC16/131009567/1006/medicaid-agency-debuts-first-ever-online-application>

Lauren Sausser

BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina, the state’s largest private insurer, started accepting online applications for health insurance in 2000. Thirteen years later, the South Carolina Medicaid agency caught up. “This is the first time that we’ve ever taken online applications,” said S.C. Medicaid Director Tony Keck. “It’s part of our Medicaid eligibility system overhaul. This is phase one.” It’s also part of the federal Affordable Care Act, which mandates that every state upgrade their Medicaid programs. More than 770 South Carolinians submitted an online application for Medicaid last week. Tuesday was the first day the state agency allowed beneficiaries to apply online. The agency averaged hundreds more submissions per day last week than normal, Keck said.

Aiken Standard: Panel seeks residents for DOT Commission

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131007/AIK0101/131009597/1007/AIK0101/panel-seeks-residents-for-dot-commission>

Derrek Asberry

A joint legislative panel is looking to fill three seats on the South Carolina Department of Transportation Commission. Terms are for four years and begin Feb. 15, 2014. The panel is accepting notice from residents living in the state's second, fourth and sixth congressional districts. Aiken falls in the second congressional district. The Joint Transportation Review Committee – or JRTC – will receive notices of intent until Oct. 31 12 at noon. "We make sure that whoever wants to be a commissioner is qualified," said Larry Grooms, chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee. "Inquirers need to notify our office with an intent to run."

Times and Democrat: Claflin planning for higher ed's future, Tisdale says

http://thetandd.com/news/local/claflin-planning-for-higher-ed-s-future-tisdale-says/article_b54603d6-2efd-11e3-88f9-001a4bcf887a.html

Dale Linder-Altman

Higher education is facing shifts academically and economically, and Claflin University will not be left behind, President Dr. Henry Tisdale says. "We can no longer do business as usual," he said. "If we hold on to the status quo, we run the risk of being blown away by the winds of change," he said. This will be a year of visions, decisions and promises, according to Tisdale. Five years ago, the university unveiled a new brand with the tagline, "The world needs visionaries," he said. "This semester we are refreshing our brand campaign," he said. It will include the letter C as a new icon, a virtual yearbook, videos, departmental brochures, new banners and billboards.

Local News:

Associated Press: Work set for \$41M project to improve Santee exit

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

South Carolina transportation officials say work should begin next month on \$41 million worth of improvements to the Interstate 95 and U.S. Highway 301 interchange near Santee. The Times and Democrat of Orangeburg reports (<http://bit.ly/17adN88>) the work will create a full interchange at Exit 97 and extend U.S. 301 to connect with a road just outside of Santee. Orangeburg County Council Chairman Johnnie Wright says the improved roads should help economic development in the area. The exit is used by travelers heading south on I-95 to get to Orangeburg and U.S. 301 connects to Interstate 26. Leaders want to encourage shippers and warehouses to locate in the region.

Island Packet: Budget cutbacks could take toll on downtown Beaufort

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/10/06/2724908/budget-cutbacks-could-take-toll.html#storylink=cpy>

Erin Moody

Eventually, people will notice the differences. In fact, they already noticed when trash bins weren't emptied downtown and when the public restrooms in the Beaufort Downtown Marina got locked at night. But many of the changes and cuts from a reduced budget and smaller landscaping contract won't be noticeable for a while, according to Isiah Smalls, director of the Beaufort Department of Public Works. "Some of these things are going to crop up that we don't immediately feel the impact of ..." he said, "but those things are going to become a challenge for us in the future."

The State: Richland Library Tax — In St. Andrews, teen readers would get dedicated space

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/10/06/3023840/richland-library-tax-in-st-andrews.html#storylink=cpy>

Dawn Hinshaw

Teenaged patrons of the library branch in St. Andrews would get a dedicated gathering space as part of a countywide improvements package before Richland County voters Nov. 5. Now, those younger readers can pull books from wire shelving arranged in one corner. "There's no good space for them to get together," St. Andrews librarian Michelle DuPre said. "Because of the lack of space, we have tables around the building and a lot of times there are adults using the tables." The library's \$59 million funding request would raise the taxes on a \$100,000 home by \$12 to \$14 a year.

Aiken Standard: Aiken Together: Center to highlight impact of Savannah River Site

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131007/AIK0101/131009614/1007/AIK0101/aiken-together-center-to-highlight-impact-of-savannah-river-site>

Derrek Asberry

The third major project in the Aiken Together campaign is a Savannah River Site Heritage Center, which will be housed in downtown Aiken. Chaired by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions CEO Dwayne Wilson, Aiken Together will look to raise funds for the development or completion of the Center for African American

History, Art and Culture; the Aiken Visitors Center and Train Museum; and the Savannah River Site Heritage Center. "SRS has always been a major influence on the community and the nation. It has produced numerous scientific accomplishments and forever changed the lifestyle of the surrounding communities, schools, roadways and employment demographic," said J. Walter Joseph, executive director of the SRS Heritage Foundation.

Associated Press: Columbia mayor holding prayer breakfast

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4oO0QDof

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin is holding an annual prayer breakfast. Benjamin and other community leaders are gathering Monday at The Zone at Williams-Brice Stadium. This is the 26th year the breakfast has taken place. Organizers say Bill Amick of Amick Farms is scheduled to share his life story and talk about his dependency on his religious faith. Amick Farms was established in 1941. It has hatchery and feed mill operations and a state-of-the-art poultry processing facility that produces over 7-million pounds of chicken each week.

Island Packet: Elections board to hold hearings on precinct changes

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/10/07/2725438/elections-board-to-hold-hearings.html#storylink=cpy>

The Beaufort County Board of Voter Registration and Elections will host a series of public hearings this month on proposed changes to voting precincts. State law requires that precincts contain no more than 1,500 registered voters, and the board's proposed changes will realign precincts to comply. The changes would affect about half the precincts in the county, including areas in Beaufort, Burton, Chechessee, Bluffton and Sun City Hilton Head, and on Lady's Island, St. Helena Island and Hilton Head Island.

National News:

TIME: No-Negotiate Obama Enters Second Week of Shutdown Standoff

<http://swampland.time.com/2013/10/07/no-negotiate-obama-enters-second-week-of-shutdown-standoff/#ixzz2h2HgqyKg>

Zeke Miller

On the first weekend of the shutdown, President Obama was nowhere to be seen. There were no calls or meetings at the White House, as surrogates flooded Twitter and television in his stead. Not even the still open Andrews Golf Course enticed him. For seven days the federal government has been closed, and for seven days Obama has refused to negotiate with House Republicans. He's cloistered himself in the White House as the GOP takes a lashing in the press and across the country, emerging only to fan the flames. The no-negotiating position is a dramatic reversal from the White House's tone during the tortured debt-limit fight in 2011 that never truly ended. For weeks, Administration officials and congressional leaders conducted negotiations on multiple tracks — big deals, small deals, grand bargains.

Bloomberg: Obamacare Seen Straining Clinics With Medicaid Expansion

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-10-07/obamacare-seen-straining-clinics-with-medicaid-expansion.html>

Shannon Pettypiece

They start showing up at the St. John's Well Child and Family Center in Los Angeles at 5 a.m. By the time the doors open at 8 a.m., as many as 60 patients are queued up in a line that stretches down the street. In South L.A., where St. John's is one of the few organizations that makes doctors available to the poor, the lines may soon get much longer. More than 5 million additional Americans are expected to enroll over the next two years in Medicaid, the taxpayer-funded insurance for the poor that's expanding Jan. 1 under the Affordable Care Act. Yet 43 percent of doctors in California and a third nationwide won't take new Medicaid patients. Low pay is one of the reasons.

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