

From: Symmes, Brian
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Experian, SC Will Not Renew Contract:

Post and Courier: Experian offers SC residents discount on ID theft protection, but free option may be available

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130916/PC16/130919446/1006/experian-offers-sc-residents-discount>

Doug Pardue

The company the state hired last year to protect your identity for one year at no cost to you is offering to do so for another year for 99 cents a month. But if taxpayers wait another month, they'll likely get the protection for free for another year, courtesy of the state. The state paid \$12 million for the free protection for taxpayers last October after discovering that a hacker had broken into computers at the Department of Revenue and made off with the personal identification information, including Social Security numbers, of some 5.7 million current and former state taxpayers.

Associated Press: Experian decides not to renew deal

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=95sUOivH

Seanna Adcox

The company that received \$12 million to provide South Carolina taxpayers a year of credit monitoring says the state's not offering enough for it to bid on the next contract. Instead, Experian is asking the nearly 1.5 million people who signed up with it over the last year to renew for about \$12 for a year of service. That could bring the company millions of dollars from customers who may not be aware that the state is funding similar services for them through a new contract. Experian made the offer in an email, telling customers they wouldn't be billed until their year of state-funded membership expired but urging them to lock in the rate. Gov. Nikki Haley negotiated Experian's contract last October after a cyber-thief stole the unencrypted personal information of 6.4 million residents and businesses from tax documents filed with the state Department of Revenue. Handled as an emergency situation, that contract was signed without competitive bidding.

Greenville News: Experian won't seek renewal of contract in data breach case

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130917/NEWS/309170016/Experian-won-t-seek-renewal-contract-data-breach-case>

Tim Smith

Experian, whose credit-monitoring service won a \$12 million, no-bid contract with the state last year after a hacker exposed personal information belonging to millions of South Carolina taxpayers, isn't seeking a renewal of its contract but is offering deals for those who extend their memberships. South Carolinians who signed up for Experian as a result of the state Department of Revenue data breach last October are receiving renewal offers of 99 cents per month, Greg Young, an Experian spokesman, told GreenvilleOnline.com. Haley has said her administration chose Experian because of its vast experience. The firm is one of the three credit bureaus whose reports provide credit scores for millions of Americans.

The State: Experian Won't Bid On New SC Credit Monitoring Contract

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Hq783aKF

Andrew Shain

The firm that won a \$12 million, no-bid S.C. government contract to offer credit-report monitoring after a massive data breach last year won't seek a new \$10 million agreement. Experian won a \$12 million, one-year emergency contract 11 months ago after state officials learned hackers stole tax information belonging to 6.4 million consumers and businesses from the S.C. Department of Revenue. The breach is the nation's largest at a state agency. An Experian executive said in December that the company gave Gov. Nikki Haley's office a proposal for a second-year of monitoring for \$10 million. The state chose to open the

bidding after several lawmakers complained about Experian receiving the first agreement with no competition.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

The State: Rethink How We Support Higher Education

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=SOw2tl9u

Editorial

USC officials describe their decision to turn summer school into a full third semester, with much broader course offerings, as a way to help students graduate early, complete a second major or repair their GPA in order to retain their state scholarship and graduate without crushing debt. Since four years long ago was abandoned as the standard for completing an undergraduate degree, and since summer jobs are harder to find and each additional year in college increases the cost, it just makes sense to make it easier for students to get in their coursework more quickly. It also allows the university to better utilize its resources. Gov. Nikki Haley's proposal to let students use state scholarship money to attend summer school makes a lot of sense as well. What matters shouldn't be what time of year students complete courses toward graduation but rather that they do. We hope the Commission on Higher Education will accept that plan.

Greenville News: Angel tax credits finally in place

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130917/OPINION/309170005/Editorial-Angel-tax-credits-finally-place>

Editorial

In another step toward accessing the capital that can fuel high-growth start-up companies, state entrepreneurs can begin registering with the Secretary of State to let their investors claim a 35 percent tax credit on their investments. The credits are part of a bill that was passed earlier at the end of the legislative session, and its goal is to grow the state's knowledge economy. This is an initiative that was debated for several years, and is past due in South Carolina given the importance of start-up businesses in creating a vibrant economy. Other states that have done this have seen significant increases in the investment made in high-growth start-up companies. It is about time that South Carolina taps into the greater sums of money that are sitting on the sidelines in this state.

Times and Democrat: U.S. Constitution: National guide then and now

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/editorial/u-s-constitution-national-guide-then-and-now/article_b2474f4e-1f1e-11e3-84a7-0019bb2963f4.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Constitution Day. OUR VIEW: Day of observance appropriate for appreciation, understanding. The rule of law is the backbone of the American system. Nowhere is the national constitution more important as the very fabric of democracy and our republic. Even now, the president of the United States is deliberating military action against Syria for that country's use of chemical weapons, but Barack Obama has decided to go the route of diplomacy for now. Not least of factors in his reasoning is the constitutional question of how far the commander in chief can go as commander when the Constitution grants exclusively to Congress the power to wage war.

Post and Courier: VA owes vets answers

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130917/PC1002/130919425/1021/va-owes-vets-answers>

Editorial

The mission of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is clear: To fulfill President Lincoln's promise "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan" by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's veterans. So how does it happen that the VA has neglected a pilot program designed to serve some of South Carolina's most vulnerable veterans? S.C. Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell's outrage is justified, and he makes his case persuasively in a column on today's Commentary page.

Post and Courier: Diving into the depths of VP trivia

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130917/PC16/130919441/1006/diving-into-the-depths-of-vp-trivia>

Frank Wooten

"We've got to find the resources for it because it pays multiple dividends for the economy, the people of South Carolina and the country." Vice President Joe Biden spoke those encouraging words Monday about funding to deepen Charleston Harbor. OK, so after delivering his pep talk at the Columbus Street Terminal

he spoke similarly encouraging words at Savannah's port later Monday about the Obama administration's commitment to deepening its harbor. And last week Biden went to Baltimore to hail federal funding of port widening there.

Aiken Standard: NAACP expansion strengthens mission

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20130917/AIK0201/130919569/1018/AIK02/editorial-naacp-expansion-strengthens-mission>

Editorial

The more than 300 members of the Aiken Branch of the NAACP have strengthened their pursuit of fighting for progress by expanding throughout Aiken County. The organization announced the expansion on Sunday as part of the group's 95th anniversary celebration at Wesley United Methodist Church in Aiken. All members in the county will now be under one roof with the organization altering its name to the Aiken County Branch of the NAACP, a move that should help to grow its reach throughout the community. Phillip Howell, president of the local chapter, said at the celebration that the organization's move should help to create a bigger pool of people to draw from in the community.

Post and Courier: 'Streamlining' dubious claims

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130917/PC1002/130919426/1021/don-x2019-t-x2018-streamline-x2019-tribal-claims>

Editorial

The federal Bureau of Indian Affairs has its hands full these days. In addition to administering federal programs for 566 recognized Indian tribes, it faces frequent requests to recognize new tribes, bands and splinter groups seeking the benefits of federal recognition. There are at least 26 such groups in South Carolina alone. In a move to "streamline" the application process for tribes seeking recognition, the Bureau recently proposed to drop a criterion that required tribes to show they had existed as organized communities from the time of "first sustained contact with non-Indians throughout the group's history."

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: SC Ports board meets in Charleston

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

Bruce Smith

The South Carolina State Ports Authority is meeting in the wake of a setback for plans for a new cruise terminal and preparations to open a new inland port. The board meets Tuesday in Charleston. Last week, a federal judge told the Army Corps of Engineers to do a more extensive study on the impact of a planned \$35 million cruise terminal on the Charleston waterfront. The Corps contended the impact was limited to putting five new pilings in the water beneath a warehouse the authority wants to renovate as the terminal. The judge said the Corps must consider the larger impacts on the environment and the city's historic district.

Associated Press: Loftis signs agreement over access to SC documents

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5xa3lkhV

Seanna Adcox

Officials hope an agreement between state Treasurer Curtis Loftis and the board that invests South Carolina's pension money brings an end to the public rancor between them. The agreement allows Loftis' staff to review confidential information on investment deals - access he's demanded for more than a year. As treasurer, Loftis sits on the Retirement System Investment Commission. He's had full access to documents, as have other commissioners and the commission's staff. But he wanted his office's legal and financial professionals to review the documents, saying he can't possibly be expected to review and understand all those documents on his own.

The State: S.C. Education Department Spokesman Leaving For Private Sector

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8YCKBtLh

Jamie Self

Jay Ragley, spokesman for the S.C. Department of Education, is leaving the department for a private-sector job. Ragley, whose last day with the state was Monday, has taken a position with Connections Education, a virtual learning company that includes S.C. Connections Academy, a virtual charter school in the state's Public Charter School District. Ragley will be senior director of state relations, managing legislative teams lobbying in several southeastern states, including South Carolina. Ragley came to the Department of Education after managing Republican Mick Zais' successful campaign for state Superintendent of Education

in 2010.

Post and Courier: More 'no bottom-fishing' preserves proposed for South Carolina, Southeast offshore
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130916/PC16/130919442/1006/more-x2018-no-bottom-fishing-x2019-preserves-proposed-offshore>

Bo Petersen

Federal regulators are looking at further restricting bottom fishing offshore in the Southeast by expanding a series of Marine Protected Areas where the fishing is not allowed. That means putting more snapper and grouper off limits — the popular restaurant plate catches already under a series of restrictions. It's been proposed as a method to protect the speckled hind and Warsaw grouper, two of those fish said to be in serious decline. The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council will decide whether to move ahead with proposals that could increase the MPA areas from 785 square miles to 1,093 square miles. Existing areas would be realigned to protect more prime spawning grounds along the edge of the Continental Shelf. It wouldn't end offshore fishing for those species; anglers could still bottom-fish around those grounds. But the grounds include such marquee spots off South Carolina as the Georgetown Hole and Edisto Banks.

Post and Courier: Biden still a wild card in 2016

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130916/PC16/130919447/1006/>

Schuyler Kropf

Vice President Joe Biden's appearance at the Port of Charleston was designed to hail the bipartisan spirit of making South Carolina globally competitive. But then a dose of 2016 crept in. "I wouldn't have this job if not for the longshoremen," Biden said, giving a shout-out to the labor crowd who attended Monday's harbor-side gathering, taking spots up front. Whether Biden runs for president in 2016 is yet to be determined, but his fact-finding visit to the Palmetto State can easily be viewed as a springboard into what many see as a potential duel with Hillary Clinton in the 2016 Democratic primary.

Post and Courier: St. Stephen hydro-electric plant spills oil into Lake Moultrie redirection canal

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130916/PC16/130919444/1006/st-stephen-hydro-electric-plant-spills-oil-into-lake-moultrie-redirection-canal>

Hydraulic oil spilled into the Lake Moultrie redirection canal Monday from a turbine at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers power plant. The spill has been contained and clean-up plans are underway, an Army Corps spokesman said in a statement, characterizing the spill as relatively minor. The spill occurred during routine maintenance and the cause is under investigation, the spokesman said. The St. Stephen Powerhouse is a hydropower plant, producing electricity from the flow of water out of the lake to the Santee River.

Aiken Standard: American Dream redefined: Homeownership poses challenge for younger generations

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20130917/AIK0101/130919541/1007/AIK0101/american-dream-redefined-homeownership-poses-challenge-for-younger-generations>

Amy Banton

The U.S. Census Bureau shows that between 2007 and 2011, out of approximately 160,000 Aiken County residents, about 72 percent of them, owned a home. Out of the 4.6 million South Carolina residents, 69.8 percent owned homes during that same time period, compared to 65.1 percent nationwide in 2010. At about the same time, home foreclosure rates were also increasing across the country. The housing market is slowly getting back on track. According the Aiken Board of Realtors, 147 closed sales occurred in the county during July in comparison to 118 last year during the same month. But buying a house comes with its own set of challenges.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Lambs Elementary School officials in North Charleston talk about challenges during State Superintendent Mick Zais' visit

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130916/PC16/130919449/1389/lambs-elementary-school-officials-in-north-charleston-talk-about-challenges-during-state-superintendent-mick-zais-x2019-visit>

Diette Courrage Casey

Students are increasingly poorer at Lambs Elementary, but state Superintendent of Education Mick Zais said that's not a justification for the school being among the state's lowest-performing, high-poverty schools. The school has seen a more than 10 percentage point increase in its students' poverty during the past four years, but Zais pointed to a document highlighting schools and districts with similar poverty levels that were outperforming Lambs. The difference isn't parents' income or education, he said. Zais met with Logan, as

well as Charleston County Superintendent Nancy McGinley and Associate Superintendent Jim Winbush, on Monday morning to discuss the North Charleston school's improvement efforts. It earned an 'F' on the federal letter grades last year and this year, but its test scores showed improvement this year.

The State: Mayoral Challengers Clash Over Police Probe, Strong Mayor

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=s2mbckY5

Clif LeBlanc

The two challengers for the Columbia mayor's seat disagreed Monday about whether it's wise to have a federal investigation of police corruption allegations, and they split less clearly on the need for a strong-mayor form of government. Councilman Moe Baddourah and former police officer Larry Sypolt spoke during a 70-minute candidate forum at the Lourie Center next to Maxcy Gregg Park. Mayor Steve Benjamin, who is running for re-election, missed the forum sponsored by the Columbia chapter of the American Association for Retired Persons. He called during the exchange of campaign pledges to let the audience of about 40 people know there had been a scheduling mistake.

Sun news: Horry County school board attempts to move forward on building projects

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2013/09/16/3714066/horry-county-school-board-attempts.html#storylink=cpy>

Vicki Grooms

The latest short-term building plan for Horry County Schools was presented to the school board Monday, then broken down so that board members hopefully could move forward and get at least some projects in motion. Board members voted Monday night to move some items from the revised \$314 million building plan forward to their next meeting for discussion, which should result in a vote. Those projects include the replacement of Socastee Elementary School, Myrtle Beach Intermediate School and the Horry County Education Center; additions to Midland and Seaside elementary schools and North Myrtle Beach Middle School; and the possibility of building additions to St. James and Forestbrook middle schools.

Times and Democrat: Public hearing Tuesday on indoor shooting ranges

http://thetandd.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/public-hearing-tuesday-on-indoor-shooting-ranges/article_f25e8d46-1f31-11e3-914c-0019bb2963f4.html

Orangeburg City Council is scheduled Tuesday afternoon to hold a public hearing and consider second reading to amend the city zoning ordinance to permit indoor shooting ranges. Council will meet at 5:30 p.m. in council chambers on Middleton Street. Also on the agenda is first reading of an ordinance to repeal Sections 13-5.2 and 13-5.4 of the city Code of Ordinances.

Times and Democrat: 'Bringing our children back': District 5 staff, volunteers pound pavement to reach dropouts

http://thetandd.com/news/local/education/bringing-our-children-back-district-staff-volunteers-pound-pavement-to/article_602ade12-1f26-11e3-93b4-0019bb2963f4.html

Kimberlei Davis

Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School welcomed back two former students this week thanks to the third annual Reach Out for Dropouts Walk in Orangeburg Consolidated School District Five on Saturday. During the event kickoff at O-W, 100 volunteers gathered to pound the pavement to encourage students to come back to school. Before hitting the streets, participants enjoyed breakfast and a "pep rally." The volunteers were told that "the only difference between a high school graduate and a dropout is you."

Times and Democrat: Felton charter application turned down

http://thetandd.com/news/local/education/felton-charter-application-turned-down/article_38d9eb02-1f47-11e3-b93a-0019bb2963f4.html

Felton Laboratory School's application to become a charter school has been turned down by the South Carolina Public Charter School District, according to Dr. Franklin Evans, vice president for academic affairs at S.C. State University. The organization said Felton's application was rejected because it didn't demonstrate plans for the charter school are economically sound, Evans said. Additionally, the organization cited a lack of "clear distinction between the university's current and future role with Felton," Evans said.

The Item: Report: Sumter home prices climb

http://www.theitem.com/news/local_news/report-sumter-home-prices-climb/article_911e5c19-477f-5150-9699-2e92dce0f68b.html

Braden Bunch

The price of an average home in Sumter climbed nearly 13 percent in August when compared with prices a year ago, a statewide report announced Monday. According to South Carolina Realtors, the median price of a home sold in Sumter last month was \$145,600, up dramatically from the \$129,000 during the same time a year ago. This comes as housing sales also continued to increase in the Sumter area, climbing about 5 percent in August and up nearly 20 percent when compared to a year ago.

Island Packet: Democratic club to present immigration lecture

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/09/16/2687700/democratic-club-to-present-immigration.html>

The Beaufort County Democratic Club, South of the Broad will present a lecture by George Kanuck, co-chairman of the Lowcountry Coalition on Immigration, at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 24 in the community room of the Hilton Head Public Service District, 21 Oak Park Drive. Kanuck will answer questions about pending immigration legislation.

Post and Courier: FBI reports shows substantial crime drop for Charleston in 2012 while North Charleston saw increases

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130916/PC16/130919466/1006/fbi-reports-shows-substantial-crime-drop-for-charleston-in-2012-while-north-charleston-saw-increases>

Glenn Smith

A push to forge community partnerships and attack lawlessness at its roots helped Charleston buck a national trend and post substantial declines in violent crime and property offenses last year, according to FBI statistics released Monday. Charleston saw a 26 percent drop in violent crime in 2012, despite having one more killing than in the previous year. Driving the decline was noticeably fewer rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults than in 2011, the FBI numbers show. The total number of property crimes such as burglaries and car thefts in the city also dropped, by 10 percent, during the same time period.

Anderson Independent: Anderson County Council to get recommendations on puppy mill ordinance

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/sep/16/anderson-county-council-get-recommendations-puppy/>

Nikie Mayo

An Anderson County committee's first attempt at regulating puppy mills drew mixed reviews, questions and emotional responses Monday night. Breeders would be required to buy a county license under the proposed ordinance, which panel Chairman Tom Allen called "a rough, rough draft." The proposal includes a loophole for some breeders, however, allowing them to get five-year licenses free if they are registered with any "recognized organization which requires and enforces adherence to a code of ethics and standards."

Aiken Standard: County expected to make final decision on Project Jackson

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20130917/AIK0101/130919542/1007/AIK0101/county-expected-to-make-final-decision-on-project-jackson>

Amy Banton

Aiken County Council is expected to make its final decision on Project Jackson tonight. On Sept. 10, an intense and lengthy public hearing was held at Aiken Technical College in which dozens of residents spoke for and against the proposed sports stadium, conference center and parking structures to be constructed on North Augusta's riverfront. Council conducted its second reading and approved an extension in its participation in North Augusta's tax increment financing, often called a TIF. The motion passed six to three – Council members Kathy Rawls, Willar Hightower and Phil Napier opposed.

National News:

Washington Post: Poll: Americans strongly back diplomatic solution on Syria but give Obama low marks

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/poll-americans-strongly-back-diplomatic-solution-on-syria-but-give-obama-low-marks/2013/09/16/b40d68e0-1efb-11e3-94a2-6c66b668ea55_story.html

Dan Balz and Peyton M. Craighill

Americans overwhelmingly support the diplomatic agreement between the United States and Russia to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons, despite having deep doubts about the Syrian regime's compliance and giving low marks overall for how President Obama is handling the situation, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll. The president faced strong public opposition when he initially argued for military strikes against the Syrian regime in retaliation for its alleged use of chemical weapons. That opposition is largely unchanged in the new survey, with 61 percent saying that they are against such strikes.

Washington Post: D.C. Navy Yard gun attack kills 12, wounds 14; alleged shooter dead, ID'd as Aaron Alexis

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-navy-yard-rampage-leaves-14-dead-alleged-shooter-killed-idd-as-aaron-alexis/2013/09/16/d084842e-1ef9-11e3-94a2-6c66b668ea55_story.html

Ashley Halsey, Peter Hermann and Clarence Williams

A gunman killed a dozen people as the workday began at the Washington Navy Yard on Monday, creating an improbable moment of horror at a military facility with armed guards at every gate and leaving investigators seeking clues about what spurred the attack. The FBI identified the shooter as Aaron Alexis, 34, of Fort Worth, who in 2011 received a general discharge from the Navy Reserve, a designation that usually signals a problem in his record. Alexis was arrested but not charged in a gun incident in Seattle in 2004 but still had a security clearance with a military contractor that allowed him access to the Navy Yard, officials said.

Brian Symmes

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304

Cell: (803) 673-9437