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Subject: Clips – Saturday, November 29, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Legislators: Answer to court ruling to take time

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

Seanna Adcox

In ruling that South Carolina's educational system is broken and fails to provide every child the opportunity to succeed in school, the state's Supreme Court provided no instruction for how officials and legislators should correct that. The justices placed blame on both legislators and school officials and told them it was their collective job to fix the system.

Note: Setzler said the 2014-15 budget took a step forward by adding a "weighting" for poverty, translating to an additional \$97 million spent on students who qualify for free meals. The weighting was adopted by GOP Gov. Nikki Haley as a key piece of her education plan, which the Legislature approved. But it kept the underlying formulas intact.

Note: Haley pledges to introduce a second round of education reform proposals in January but has given no indication on what that might include.

Press and Standard: County honored nationally for Work Ready success

http://www.colletontoday.com/news/county-honored-nationally-for-work-ready-success-congrats-colleton-the/article_bcca9b38-74db-11e4-a652-7b52d9497925.html

George Salsberry

Colleton County's participation in a statewide initiative to ensure employers a ready supply of qualified workers was recognized nationally last month. In early October, Lynn Jones, the director of Colleton County School District's Adult Education program, traveled to St. Louis to participate in the ACT Work Ready Communities Best Practices Symposium.

Note: Colleton County was the third South Carolina county to be recognized as Work Ready Certified under an initiative spearheaded by South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley.

Note: Jones said Haley put together the initiative to demonstrate to new potential employers that South Carolina would be ready to provide them the workers they needed. "It is a way to validate your work force," Jones suggested.

Cola Daily: South Carolina to celebrate 48th annual Governor's Carolighting

<http://coladaily.com/2014/11/29/south-carolina-celebrates-48th-annual-governors-carolighting-on-dec-1/>

Kelly Petty

The South Carolina Statehouse will light up once again Monday for the 48th annual Governor's Carolighting. Gov. Nikki Haley and her family, along with Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin and his family, will join together on the north steps of the Statehouse to take part in a musical program followed by the lighting of South Carolina's Christmas tree.

Associated Press: Winter Weather Awareness week starts in SC

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=IXFWnn2r

Gov. Nikki Haley has declared this week Winter Weather Awareness Week in South Carolina. Emergency officials are joining with the National Weather Service to give tips, warnings and advice about how to handle the occasional snow and ice storms that can hit South Carolina.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Greenville News: State can't wait to fix its roads

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2014/11/29/editorial-state-wait-fix-roads/19635735/>
Editorial

When Pete Selleck speaks, South Carolina legislators need to listen. Selleck, the president and chairman of the Greenville-based Michelin North America, recently shared an insightful warning about the danger of our state continuing to ignore its dangerous and inadequate highway system.

Note: Less money is brought in when less gas is sold at the pump. At the same time, even if lawmakers found the courage to raise the gas tax, Gov. Nikki Haley has threatened to veto the bill.

Note: Gov. Haley also has promised to share her plan in January for funding infrastructure improvements. Meanwhile, our roads continue to get worse.

Greenville News (Guest Column): Bobby Harrell case shows need for reform

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/contributors/2014/11/29/bobby-harrell-case-shows-need-reform/19628859/>

Dana Beach

Bobby Harrell's guilty plea and resignation from the South Carolina House of Representatives largely settles the debate over his misuse of campaign funds. It sheds little light, however, on the root of the problem and the reforms necessary to prevent this type of abuse from continuing.

Post and Courier: Disability crunch at the VA

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141129/PC1002/141129435>

Editorial

The Department of Veterans Affairs says it is working hard to restore standards of service at its hospitals. One area that needs attention, though unlikely to receive it, is the costly way the VA classifies service-related disabilities. Congress and the Obama administration share responsibility for relaxing standards in the VA's disability program, where costs have more than doubled since 2002.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Post and Courier: Sen. Tim Scott to survey Summerville small business Saturday

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141128/PC16/141129460>

Robert Behre

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott will visit Coastal Coffee Roasters at 108 E. 3rd North St. in Summerville at 9 a.m. Saturday. His visit is part of Small Business Saturday, a promotional day that American Express created in 2010 to help mom-and-pop retailers get in on the holiday shopping bonanza.

South Carolina News:

McClatchy D.C.: With school funding legal fight over, SC looks to reverse downward trends

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/28/3841723/with-school-funding-legal-fight.html#storylink=cpy>

Daniel Salazar

A group of South Carolina school districts recently won a two-decade legal battle over disparate differences in school funding and quality within the Palmetto State. Yet, while the Abbeville County School District v. the State of South Carolina case bounced around state courtrooms for 21 years, the quality-of-life gap between urban and rural South Carolina counties grew in several ways.

The State: Lottery scholarships cost SC taxpayers \$80 million

http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/28/3841463_lottery-scholarships-cost-sc-taxpayers.html?rh=1

Cassie Cope

South Carolina taxpayers increasingly are paying the tab for scholarships given to the state's college students. Those scholarships were sold to the public as being paid for by profits from the state's lottery. However, the lottery never has paid the full cost of the scholarships, leaving taxpayers to make up the difference.

Island Packet: Some local conservative groups bristle at Obama's immigration order

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/11/28/3457892/some-local-conservative-groups.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1>

Sarah Bowman

President Barack Obama's recent executive order pleased those seeking legitimacy for undocumented immigrants, but it also has ruffled conservative groups that believe his action was unconstitutional. Despite their frustration, no such local groups are planning action of their own in response — at least not yet, according to Beaufort Tea Party director Ann Ubelis.

Local News:

Associated Press: Probe finds no discrimination in Beaufort schools

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=r28Bdz97

A federal investigation has found no discrimination against English-language learners in Beaufort County schools. But the Beaufort Gazette reported (<http://bit.ly/1pvoW2n>) that the U.S. Education Department said the school district's new method of screening potential volunteers could be improved.

Post and Courier: Charleston aerospace firm to move closer to Boeing, airport

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141128/PC05/141129452>

Warren L. Wise

Boxell Aerospace plans to move from West Ashley to a new \$750,000 facility near Charleston International Airport and Boeing Co. by the spring. The newly acquired 2.8-acre vacant site is on Fellowship Road near the edge of Boeing's future expansion site between International Boulevard and Dorchester Road, putting it within a half-mile of the 787 Dreamliner assembly plant in North Charleston.

Post and Courier: East Cooper parents angry children have to move schools next year

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141129/PC16/141139987>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

Six years ago, Jessica Browning asked to transfer her rising kindergartner to Mount Pleasant Academy, a high-performing school in the town's Old Village with empty seats and a sterling reputation. The Constituent District 2 Board, which spans East Cooper, said yes as part of an effort to provide parents' choices and to ease overcrowding in some schools.

Island Packet: Insurance agents selling policies under ACA

http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/11/28/3458615_insurance-agents-selling-policies.html?sp=/99/100/&rh=1

Representatives from BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina will be in Bluffton on Monday to answer questions and sell policies under the Affordable Care Act, according to a news release.

The State: New road, industrial park signal changes for Lower Richland

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/28/3841645/new-road-industrial-park-signal.html>

Dawn Hinshaw

Five years from now, construction crews should be clearing a 6½-mile swath through the woods of Lower Richland to build a new, four-lane corridor where thousands of people will work. If it were the only change coming to Lower Richland, it would be dramatic.

Associated Press: Spartanburg gay couple gets free wedding

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1lI8kYIs

Felicia Kitzmiller

Looking into the eyes of her partner and standing before family and friends, Natasha Hemphill's voice momentarily failed recently when her wedding vows reached "so long as we both shall live." The choked sob was the release of emotions that have been building between Hemphill and her partner, Leslie Mayes, since they met at a summer league basketball game 12 years ago.

National News:

New York Times: Obama Pushed 'Fullest Extent' of His Powers on Immigration Plan

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/29/us/white-house-tested-limits-of-powers-before-action-on-immigration.html?partner=rss&emc=rss&_r=1

Michael D. Shear

Months before President Obama took executive action last week to reshape the nation's immigration system, Jeh C. Johnson, the secretary of Homeland Security, quietly convened a small group of advisers to explore the legal limits of the president's powers.

Washington Post: Republicans closing in on ninth Senate pickup in Louisiana

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-politics/wp/2014/11/28/republicans-closing-in-on-ninth-senate-pickup-in-louisiana/>

Sean Sullivan

The Republican Party stands on the brink of putting an exclamation point on its hugely successful midterm

election with the GOP challenger for U.S. Senate in Louisiana well-positioned to dislodge the Democratic incumbent in a runoff election early next month.

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