

From: Symmes, Brian
To:
Date: 12/19/2013 7:58:29 AM
Subject: Morning Clips - Thursday, December 19, 2013

Morning Clips – Thursday, December 19, 2013

Gov. Nikki Haley and Capt. Michael Haley discuss homecoming:

Fox News (Video): Happy holiday homecoming for military wife, Gov. Nikki Haley
http://video.foxnews.com/v/2948192944001/happy-holiday-homecoming-for-military-wife-gov-nikki-haley/?playlist_id=2114913880001

Associated Press: Capt. Haley talks about his time in Afghanistan
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=PyYQv6jx
Seanna Adcox

Capt. Michael Haley said Wednesday that improvised explosive devices hit his convoy twice during his deployment to Afghanistan, but thankfully no one on his team was seriously injured. Gov. Nikki Haley and her husband talked to The Associated Press a week after he and about 40 of his fellow South Carolina Army National Guard soldiers returned home. It was the first time Capt. Haley addressed his service in Afghanistan's Helmand province, which he likened to the Wild West.

Note: "Seeing him, I felt like I took my first breath in a year," Gov. Haley said. "I think we will just appreciate this Christmas more because you truly do understand your blessings. When you know you could lose a loved one and to think of that every day, it reminds you truly to be thankful for what you have, and it really helps you understand that a lot of the small things don't matter."

The State: Haleys working on transition after first gentleman's deployment
<http://goo.gl/Lzb1b2>

Andrew Shain

The day after returning from a year-long military deployment in Afghanistan, S.C. first gentleman Michael Haley joined his wife, Gov. Nikki Haley, to watch their 12-year-old son's basketball game and their 15-year-old daughter cheer and eat pizza. But Michael Haley's transition home remains a work in progress, the couple told The State on Wednesday in an extended interview about his deployment.

Note: "You change your lifestyle to get through the days," she said, sitting next to her husband in the mansion. "So when they come back, you have to transition back to either the old way or the new way and work it out together. It's not just the hug that you see when you get home. There's a few weeks of transition."

WLTX (Video): SC's First Family Opens Up About Deployment
<http://www.wltx.com/news/article/259031/2/SCs-First-Family-Opens-Up-About-Deployment>

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley and her husband Michael are opening up about his recent return from a National Guard deployment to Afghanistan. The first couple sat down with News19's Andrea Mock Wednesday for an interview, the first time they've spoken on the subject since he came back to the state December 12th.

Note: "I didn't realize but I had just held my breath for a year, and so when I saw him it was an absolute sense of relief," Gov. Haley said. "The first concern was the kids. I wanted them to just be able to see him and hug him, and they were nervous and excited and ready to see him. But I mean...just hugging him...I just said it's okay it's going to be alright. I mean it was just a huge sense of relief. I think he was probably surprised too but I just I couldn't let go."

WPDE (Video): First Gentleman back with family in time for Christmas
<http://www.carolinalive.com/news/story.aspx?id=985102#.UrLs1PRDuSo>

Tim McGinnis

Governor Nikki Haley's husband, Michael, returned late last week from a nearly year long deployment to Afghanistan with the South Carolina National Guard. In an exclusive interview with WPDE NewsChannel 15, he and Governor Haley talked about their separation and reunion. Governor Haley says there were some tough times over the year.

Note: "They had some dangerous times over there, and I knew of that. So every time their convoys went out, it was 'Is something going to happen? Did something happen? That was difficult.' Then birthdays are difficult, the first day of the kids going back to school was tough, when my mom got sick, all the things you rely on your partner to do, he wasn't there for."

Sun News (Photo Gallery): Capt. Haley talks about his time in Afghanistan

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2013/12/18/3911450/capt-haley-talks-about-his-time.html#storylink=cpy>

Capt. Michael Haley said Wednesday that improvised explosive devices hit his convoy twice during his deployment to Afghanistan, but thankfully no one on his team was seriously injured. Gov. Nikki Haley and her husband talked to The Associated Press a week after he and about 40 of his fellow South Carolina Army National Guard soldiers returned home. It was the first time Capt. Haley addressed his service in Afghanistan's Helmand province, which he likened to the Wild West.

Note: "They're very proud. They are determined," he said of the local farmers. "There's a lot of hindrance and things holding them back, but they definitely want to advance and move ahead. They want a better life for themselves."

Note: "There's a lot lost in translation," he said. "You don't get the emotion, the humor you get in one-on-one communication on the telephone or physically being there." Getting after-the-fact emails about family events, he added, was like "looking back in the rearview mirror at your life over the past year."

Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State (Video): Nikki Haley goes Karate Kid with viral video (update)

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/18/3165869/buzz-nikki-haley-goes-karate-kid.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Just call her G.I. Nikki. This summer, Gov. Nikki Haley showed off her shooting abilities during a tour of a Columbia arms maker. Now her office posted a video of the gov breaking a board and receiving an honorary black belt. "I loved that. It was awesome," the gov said after her open-handed punch. The karate chop video is going viral: **Gawker / USA Today / Politico / Talking Points Memo**

Aiken Standard: Award for small modular reactors not going to SRS

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131219/AIK0101/131219372/1007/AIK0101/award-for-small-modular-reactors-not-going-to-srs>

Derrek Asberry

The Savannah River Site's goal of bringing small modular reactors to South Carolina has taken a significant blow now that a final award to fund the reactors is going toward a project based in Oregon. The Department of Energy announced it was giving the award to NuScale Power LLC in a release dated Dec. 12. Details must still be worked out, but funding will come from the \$452 million Small Modular Reactor Licensing Technical Support program. Small modular reactors – or SMRs – are defined as reactors with electricity outputs of less than 300 megawatts. They are said to allow for less on-site construction and increased containment efficiency.

Note: The announcement came about a week after Gov. Nikki Haley spoke with DOE Secretary Ernest Moniz during a visit to Washington, D.C. The two spoke about bringing the reactors to SRS.

Daniel Island News: Annexation Commission members ready to serve

http://www.thedanielislandnews.com/artman2/publish/Top_Stories_69/Annexation_Commission_members_ready_to_serve.php

Elizabeth Bush

Four members recently appointed by Governor Nikki Haley to serve on the Daniel Island Annexation Commission will gather together for the first time this week. Shirley Hinson of Goose Creek, John West of Moncks Corner, and Michael White and John Tiencken of Daniel Island will meet for an organizational meeting on Thursday, December 19, at 3 pm at Holy Cross Church on Daniel Island. The public is welcome to attend. The commission was formed, as per state law, to evaluate the pros and cons of a potential annexation of Daniel Island from Berkeley County to Charleston County. They are tasked with presenting a report of their findings to the Governor by the end of April 2014.

S.C. Political News:

The State: Meeting about changing SC government closely watched in gov's race

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/19/3167163/the-morning-buzz-closely-watched.html#storylink=cpy>

Adam Beam and Andrew Shain

S.C lawmakers could give Gov. Nikki Haley and state Sen. Vincent Sheheen an early Christmas present Thursday: a government restructuring bill. The question is, who will get the credit? A conference committee meets today at 2 p.m. to work out a compromise on S.22 -- a bill that would abolish the state Budget and Control Board and transfer most of the state's administrative duties to the governor's office. Haley, the first term Republican governor, campaigned on government restructuring and has pushed for the bill's passage every year she has been in the mansion.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: A spirit of compromise stirs

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131219/PC1002/131219371/1022/a-spirit-of-compromise-stirs>

Editorial

The Senate's approval of a budget deal by a 64-36 margin Wednesday will not solve our nation's long-term fiscal problems. But it did avert the short-term threat of another federal shutdown. And while the two-year budget plan, which had passed the House by a 332-94 count last Thursday, has its flaws, it does represent some progress toward meeting in the middle. Yes, the agreement, forged by Budget Committee Chairs Paul Ryan of the House and Patty Murray of the Senate, is limited.

Greenville News: Privacy rights undermined by NSA

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013312190001>

Editorial

At a time when the United States' greatest threat from the outside comes from terrorists who operate in the shadows and communicate surreptitiously using the technology of our age, it is tempting to grant the government broad leeway to monitor that technology to track, hunt and disrupt our enemies. For that reason, many people view the debate over the National Security Agency's systematic collection of Americans' telephone records with a degree of ambivalence. Is our safety worth sacrificing a degree of our freedom? Do we surrender our right to privacy too readily?

Times and Democrat: Farming projects need scrutiny same as others

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/farming-projects-need-scrutiny-same-as-others/article_cfd5977e-6810-11e3-8d0b-0019bb2963f4.html

Editorial

ISSUE: Potato farm's water withdrawal. OUR VIEW: South Edisto River case shows need for lawmakers to act. Long before South Carolina put its best foot forward seeking industries and other businesses, leaders were committed to fostering and protecting the agricultural roots of the state's economy. That has not changed, as the Palmetto State's agribusiness sector, which includes forestry, is at or near the top in economic impact in South Carolina.

Post and Courier: A Mideast turn for the worse

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131219/PC1002/131219372/1021/a-mideast-turn-for-the-worse>

Editorial

On Wednesday the heads of four United Nations aid organizations joined the European Union in calling the Syrian civil war "the greatest humanitarian tragedy of our times." But that tragedy threatens to be just the beginning of a downward spiral throughout the Middle East. The U.N. officials urged both sides in the Syrian conflict to call a humanitarian cease-fire so that aid can be delivered to hundreds of thousands of civilians who have been cut off from food and other necessities, largely by the government of Bashar al-Assad.

The State: Gov Nikki Haley and the stuff of tyrants and dictators

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/19/3166254/scoppe-gov-nikki-haley-and-the.html#storylink=cpy>

Cindi Scoppe

It's not at all surprising that the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals would rule that Gov. Nikki Haley and other state officials can be sued for having Occupy Columbia protesters arrested for violating a law that didn't exist. What should be surprising, and certainly is disturbing, is that our governor stands behind her decision — which suggests that she would do the same thing again if given the opportunity. The issue here isn't whether it ought to be illegal to camp out on the State House grounds.

S. C. Federal Delegation News:

Aiken Standard: Budget bill passes without S.C. senators' support

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131219/AIK0101/131219357/1004/budget-bill-passes-without-sc-senators-support>

Derrek Asberry

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said he knew he was going to lose the fight against passing the proposed federal budget. The budget was passed in the second round of voting on Thursday after both Graham and U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., voted against it. The budget passing is a major step toward getting adequate funding for the Savannah River Site. Next, the bill will be submitted to President Barack Obama. After that, the Appropriations Committee will take the bill and divide the funding.

The State: U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham opposes veterans cuts in budget deal, planning post-vote presser

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/18/3166021/politics-us-sen-lindsey-graham.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

Veterans groups joined Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-Seneca, and others on Tuesday in Washington, D.C., to urge senators not to approve a budget deal that includes about \$6 billion in cuts to retirement benefits for military retirees. Graham will hold another news conference with the veterans' groups after the U.S. Senate is expected to vote on the budget deal today. The cuts, which the senators said in a letter would reduce cost-of-living benefits for "many military retirees under age 62" by one percent, were included in the budget deal passed last week by the U.S. House with bipartisan support, including votes from Assistant Democratic Leader Jim Clyburn, D-Columbia, and U.S. Reps. Joe Wilson, R-Springdale and Tom Rice, R-Myrtle Beach.

Sun News: Rice resolution seeks court order for Obama to obey US laws

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2013/12/18/3911691/rice-resolution-seeks-court-order.html#storylink=cpy>

Steve Jones

U.S. Rep. Tom Rice said Wednesday morning that an impeachment of President Barack Obama would never make it through the U.S. Senate, so he's going for the next best thing. Rice, R-Myrtle Beach, talked more at a town hall meeting in Aynor about the resolution that if approved by the House, would lead to a civil lawsuit to compel Obama to obey the law. "I think what I'm doing is a chance for winning that will inform the public," Rice told a constituent at the meeting.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Wiretap evidence in, racketeering charge stands in public corruption case involving former S.C. State board chairman Jonathan Pinson

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131218/PC16/131219407/1006/wiretap-evidence-in-racketeering-charge-stands-in-public-corruption-case-involving-former-sc-state-board-chairman-jonathan-pinson>

Diane Knich

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin and a former city employee were among the targets in a public corruption probe that also involves South Carolina State University, a defense lawyer stated during a court proceeding Wednesday. Jim Griffin, an attorney who represents the university's former board chairman Jonathan Pinson, said in federal court in Charleston that wiretaps used to investigate alleged financial improprieties at a low-income housing development in Columbia jumped the track and snared Pinson and others for activity at S.C. State.

Times and Democrat: Judge refuses to suppress Pinson wiretap evidence; racketeering charges stand

http://thetandd.com/news/judge-refuses-to-suppress-pinson-wiretap-evidence-racketeering-charges-stand/article_f241bec6-6808-11e3-b771-0019bb2963f4.html

Gene Zaleski

A federal judge decided Wednesday that federal prosecutors can use wiretap evidence in the public corruption trial of former South Carolina State University Board Chairman Jonathan Pinson despite claims the evidence was wrongfully collected in an investigation of Columbia officials. U.S. District Judge David Norton ruled Wednesday FBI wiretaps against Pinson were gathered legally and were conducted in an "objectively reasonable fashion." Norton also denied a motion by Pinson's attorney to have racketeering charges dismissed. In addition, Norton denied a motion by co-defendant Eric Robinson to be tried separately from Pinson.

The State: Four S.C. school districts awarded \$25 million federal grant

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/18/3166129/four-sc-school-districts-awarded.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

A consortium of four S.C. public school districts will receive \$25 million in federal Race to the Top grants -- one of five grant winners receiving about \$120 million. Clarendon 2, Orangeburg Consolidated 5, Richland 2 and Williamsburg are among 31 finalists for the grants from 80 school districts in 21 states. The U.S. Department of Education received more than 200 applications. The winners were chosen because of innovations that "tailor education for all students and provide school leaders and teachers with key tools that support them in meeting students' needs," according to a U.S. Education Department news release.

The State: Midlands Tech president Sonny White retiring

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/18/3165607/midlands-tech-president-retiring.html>

Andrew Shain

Midlands Technical College president Sonny White – who oversaw the addition of two new campuses and a record federal grant – will retire after eight years on the job at the end of 2014. The college's commission plans to launch a nationwide search for a successor to lead the state's third-largest technical college and hopes to have a new president in place before White leaves, the school said. White, 70, said he was retiring next year so the new president could work with the college's chief operating and academic officers before they both retire in a few years.

The State: Bill Chumley has his ethics hearing on Monday

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/18/3166271/state-house-bill-chumley-has-his.html#storylink=cpy>

Adam Beam

The House Ethics Committee will hold a public hearing on Monday about the ethics charges facing state Rep. Bill Chumley. Palmetto Liberty PAC, a Tea Party advocacy group, sent an email blast to supporters on Wednesday calling the hearing a "witch hunt." But Ethics Committee chairman Kenny Bingham, R-Lexington, said it was Chumley, not the committee, that requested the hearing.

Associated Press: Boeing official to provide year-end review

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1Bop8MOu

The top official of Boeing in South Carolina is slated to provide a review of the company's activities in the state during the past year. Jack Jones, a Boeing vice president and general manager of the company's South Carolina operations meets with the media on Thursday. Boeing has a massive plant in North Charleston where it assembles its 787 Dreamliner. It also broke ground this year on a new factory a few miles away to make jet engine air inlets.

The State: Richland elections board member presses for more openness

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/18/3166448/richland-elections-board-member.html#storylink=cpy>

Dawn Hinshaw

A member of Richland County's election board broke with convention Wednesday, speaking up to say he was "devastated" to find the office the board oversees did not count more than 1,000 absentee ballots in the county's November referendum. "The people of this county have a reason and a right to be outraged," said Samuel Selph, the newest member of the five-person election board. "We failed, but we are going to get this done." After a 1 1/2-hour private meeting to discuss "personnel-related matters," Selph and chairman Allen Dowdy said the board is continuing to evaluate the election office's leadership and staff.

The State: Commander assesses state of Fort Jackson

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/18/3166526/commander-assesses-state-of-the.html>

Jeff Wilkinson

Brig. Gen. Bradley Becker's favorite day of the week is Wednesday. Each week on that day, thousands of family members from across the country descend on Fort Jackson in Columbia to spend time with new soldiers before they graduate the following Thursday. Becker, who took command of the nation's largest military training base three months ago, often crosses the street from his headquarters to the base museum to mingle with those families.

Greenville News: Southwest flight cuts at GSP raise concerns

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013312190007>

David Dykes

Southwest Airlines said it is cutting nonstop flights from Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport to Nashville, leaving the carrier with four flights from GSP, or 40 percent fewer than when Southwest started

service to Greenville in 2011. A spokesman for Dallas-based Southwest told The Greenville News the Nashville change is effective June 8. The change will leave Southwest with two flights from GSP to Chicago Midway and one each to Baltimore/Washington and Houston. "All of our decisions are based on customer demand," Dan Landson, the Southwest spokesman, said Wednesday.

Local News:

Florence Morning News: Williamsburg County School District awarded nearly \$13 million federal grant
http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_6648a474-6818-11e3-9b6a-0019bb30f31a.html

Christopher McKagen

The Williamsburg County School District administration celebrated Wednesday morning when it learned it would soon receive almost \$13 million in federal Race to the Top funds from the U.S. Department of Education (DOE). The grant money will go towards the purchase of technology, new employment positions and staff development programs. "It's the best Christmas gift or holiday present we could have," Superintendent Dr. Yvonne Jefferson-Barnes said. "We worked Saturdays. We worked Sundays. We worked during the week to make sure we had everything done."

Greenville News: Comments stir local GOP dispute

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013312190015>

Ron Barnett

A Greenville County Republican Party executive committeeman is taking exception with comments made about him by a former precinct president in her resignation letter sent to other party officials. Brandon Oberle, executive committeeman for the Tanglewood precinct, said his choice of words was "perhaps too strong" when he called Tanglewood precinct president Magda Aguila "insane" in a private message on Facebook, but he says she misquoted and mischaracterized him in her letter in which she resigned from the GOP.

The State: Engineering teams vie for Richland road work

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/18/3166542/engineering-teams-vie-for-richland.html#storylink=cpy>

Dawn Hinshaw

Five engineering teams are still in the running for a multimillion-dollar contract to manage Richland County's massive transportation improvement program. Richland County Council will hear presentations from the five Jan. 6, with a plan to announce its pick the following day. Originally, the council asked staff to narrow the field to three program development teams. But with groups of road-construction experts and subcontractors looking on, the council decided Tuesday to interview all five personally.

Anderson Independent: Anderson County to consider company incentives

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/dec/18/anderson-county-to-consider-company-incentives/>

Nikie Mayo

The Anderson County Council will have a special meeting Friday to consider incentives for four companies that are expanding in, or bringing their operations to, the Upstate. All told, the four companies could bring more than 200 jobs to Anderson County. The largest of the projects is a proposed expansion of Orian Rugs on S.C. 81. If the company goes forward with the expansion, it would bring a \$13 million investment and 125 jobs to Anderson County. The expansion has previously been publicly referred to by the code name, Project Rack.

Aiken Standard: District exploring new virtual education options

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131219/AIK0101/131219359/1007/AIK0101/district-exploring-new-virtual-education-options>

Rob Novit

The S.C. Virtual School Program is providing online opportunities for students in grades 7-12, and now Aiken County School District administrators are exploring a similar approach at the District level. The S.C. Virtual Program provides free, standards-based courses, and "we want our students to get their virtual content with our own Aiken County teachers," said King Laurence, the District's associate superintendent for instruction. "We're in the very early planning stages and will make a presentation to the School Board on Jan. 28."

Aiken Standard: School District to explore administrative 'formulas'

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131218/AIK0101/131219387/1007/AIK0101/school-district-to>

[explore-administrative-formulas](#)

Rob Novit

The Aiken County School District relies on a formula based on enrollment to determine how assistant principals and other non-classroom faculty are allocated within the schools. At a budget workshop in preparation for the 2014-15 fiscal year, School Board members on Tuesday asked District administrators to examine the assistant principal formulas for the middle and high schools. Deputy Superintendent David Caver readily acknowledged that the formula process still in use predates all current District administrators.

National News:

Associated Press: Fed will reduce bond purchases by \$10B in January

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/viewart/20131219/BUSINESS/312190017/Fed-will-reduce-bond-purchases-by-10B-January>

Martin Crtzinger

The Federal Reserve has sent its strongest vote of confidence in the U.S. economy since the Great Recession struck six years ago: It's decided the economy is finally strong enough to withstand a slight pullback in the Fed's stimulus. Yet the Fed also made clear it's hardly withdrawing its support for an economy that remains below full health. Chairman Ben Bernanke stressed at a news conference that the Fed would still work to keep borrowing rates low to try to spur spending and growth and increase very low inflation.

Brian Symmes

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304

Cell: (803) 673-9437