

From: Symmes, Brian
To:
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Subject: Morning Clips - Thursday, September 12, 2013

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

WCSC: SC may see higher health care rates under Affordable Care Act

<http://www.wistv.com/story/23408318/sc-may-see-higher-health-care-rates-under-affordable-care-act>

Corey Davis

You may have to dig a little deeper into your wallets for individual health insurance under the Affordable Care Act. That's if estimates from the State Department of Insurance are correct. Early estimates show a possible increase in average rates by 50-70% for individuals and 10-20% for some businesses. This applies to anyone who will sign up for health insurance through President Obama's Affordable Care Act. Right now these are only estimates collected from a review of health insurance forms and rates for carriers who are looking to get federal certification.

Note: "What they are is estimates and so I don't think it's farfetched when they say it could be up to 70% increases. It's enough to let everybody know this is something to worry about," Haley said, "What I do know for South Carolina is it's going to be people and families first. It's going to be outcomes for health care so that we know we are doing everything we can to keep people healthy."

Patch: Survey: SC Among Top States for Doing Business

<http://mauldin.patch.com/groups/business-news/p/survey-sc-among-top-states-for-doing-business>

Hal Millard

South Carolina has earned a second place ranking among the top states for key site selection criteria, according to Area Development magazine's recent survey of site consultants. South Carolina tied with Georgia for second overall in meeting key location requirements. Area Development surveyed a select group of site consultants who are hired by corporations to scout locations nationwide that meet a company's investment requirements.

Note: "Once again, South Carolina is being recognized as a great place to do business," said Gov. Nikki Haley. "Our workforce development programs continue to be a huge draw for companies, as is our state's overall business-friendly environment. Numerous world-class companies like BMW, Boeing, Continental, Bridgestone, and Michelin understand that South Carolina knows what companies need in order to do well here."

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Florence Morning News: Remembering the loss good for Americans

http://www.snow.com/opinion/editorials/article_5a58e1ce-1b33-11e3-9c39-001a4bcf6878.html

Editorial

Loss. Most all of us have experienced it. Your heart feels like it is physically being ripped out. Emotions overwhelm you. Strength you never wish you had to tap emerges. That loss never leaves. But as time puts the distance between, those moments between feeling it get longer. Minutes become days, then weeks, months and finally years. It has been 12 years and a day since four hijacked commercial planes crashed and killed nearly 3,000 people on Sept. 11, 2001. In our fast-paced society, that's a lifetime. If you lived through it, it is one of those seminal moments where you remember where you were and what you were doing when you found out. It shook Americans to their core. Never before had a singular attack of this scale been perpetrated on our soil.

Greenville News: Greenville United Way aims high

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130912/OPINION/309120005/Greenville-United-Way-aims-high>

Editorial

Greenville is an extraordinarily generous community, and that giving spirit can be seen every fall when individuals and companies step up to meet the challenge set by the United Way of Greenville. Our United

Way consistently sets ambitious goals and then meets them in large part because people here are kindhearted, civic-minded and determined to help both neighbors in need and strangers they will never meet in person. Coming off several record-breaking years, the Greenville United Way could have opted to take a bit of a breather and set an easily obtainable goal. Volunteers and supporters of the United Way once again decided not to take the easy approach, and they announced they would try to meet a growing need for services in our community by setting a new record for giving for this fall's campaign.

The State: High black-on-black crime rates not a reflection of most black men

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/09/12/2974369/bolton-high-black-on-black-crime.html#storylink=cpy>

Warren Bolton

If you are an African-American living in Richland County who unfortunately becomes a victim of a violent crime, it almost certainly will be at the hands of another black person. Ten black people were killed in Richland County between Jan. 1 and June 29 — each by someone of the same race. In 2012, all 16 African-American homicide victims were killed by other black people. Yes, most crimes against white people are committed by other whites. But in our community it's not nearly at the troubling, disproportionate rate evident among African-Americans. Last year in Richland County, there were seven homicides involving a white victim and perpetrator. Through June 29 of this year, there were none.

Times and Democrat: After making election history, Butler must look to governance

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/editorial/after-making-election-history-butler-must-look-to-governance/article_dec90654-1b25-11e3-93aa-001a4bcf887a.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Orangeburg mayoral election; OUR OPINION: New mayor has new council dynamic but many of same big issues. Michael C. Butler made history Tuesday by winning the race to become the mayor of Orangeburg. Given voting trends and a city that has seen its black majority grow to more than 70 percent even as overall population shrinks, election of the first African-American to the top leadership role in the city came as no surprise. That does not dismiss the relevance of the achievement. Butler ran a well-organized campaign against an incumbent mayor who has served the city well for more than a decade. Both candidates gave the city election a higher profile than it has seen since the incumbent, Paul Miller, was elected to the post in a special election in 2001.

Post and Courier: Good sticker shock at Converse

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130912/PC1002/130919788/1021/good-sticker-shock-at-converse>

Editorial

When college officials intone about the need to restrain the rising cost of higher ed, it's mostly to say that the inevitable increases will only be slightly restrained. It's like listening to federal officials explain that cutting the rate of budget increases is somehow a victory for the taxpayer. Certainly, limited tuition hikes are better than big ones. And among South Carolina colleges there has been a measure of restraint with the recent economic recession. But Converse College in Spartanburg is doing something really commendable about rising college costs. The private women's college will decrease tuition by an astonishing 43 percent, starting next school year.

Post and Courier: Dropping a dime on the NSA

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130912/PC1002/130919789/1021/dropping-a-dime-on-the-nsa>

Editorial

In the controversy over the National Security Agency's sweeping collection of information on the telephone calls and emails of American citizens, President Barack Obama has repeatedly said that Americans' privacy is protected by "a whole range of safeguards." If only that were the case. Chief among those supposed safeguards is oversight by a secret Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC). But the FISC has repeatedly caught the NSA providing misleading information and failing to follow the rules to safeguard privacy, though without bringing it to heel.

South Carolina News:

The State: Columbia Woman Who Survived Holocaust Honored

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4bzc5cxs

Carolyn Click

Bluma Goldberg, who as a young girl survived the horrors of the Nazi death camps, was honored Wednesday with two prestigious awards in recognition of her indomitable spirit in rebuilding a life for herself

and her family in America. Goldberg, 87, believed to be Columbia's last survivor of the Holocaust, received the Americanism award, a national award from the USC chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She also was presented with the Order of the Palmetto, the state's highest civilian honor for her courage and perseverance.

Note: Ted Pitts, chief of staff to Gov. Nikki Haley, presented the Order of the Palmetto to Goldberg, saying "her story should be required reading in South Carolina history books." After learning of her incredible, torturous journey from Poland to America, Pitts said "she is more of an American than I am."

Aiken Standard: NRC still unsure on appealing Yucca

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20130912/AIK0101/130919920/1007/AIK0101/nrc-still-unsure-on-appealing-yucca>

Derrek Asberry

The chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission told a congressional panel that the Commission is still unsure if it will appeal the court ruling to restart the Yucca Mountain project. Chairman Allison Macfarlane testified in front of the U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee on Tuesday. Her testimony included discussions on how to dispose of the nation's nuclear waste, as well as how to spend the \$11.1 million granted to the Commission for project review. Under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, the National Regulatory Commission is required to make a decision on whether Yucca Mountain is an appropriate resting place for the nation's spent fuel.

The State: SC Rural Cooperatives Back Solar Farm

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=i0xJ9UmH

Sammy Fretwell

South Carolina's first large-scale solar farm, to be built in the countryside near Walterboro, gained support Wednesday from a group that has so far been cool to sun power: the state's electrical cooperatives. A day after the state-owned Santee Cooper power company approved plans for the farm, the Central Electric Power Cooperative board agreed to support the 3-megawatt farm in Colleton County. When completed later this year, the solar farm will dwarf any other single project that supplies sun power directly to the utility grid in South Carolina. It also will be larger than SCE&G's 2.6 megawatt rooftop solar system that fuels the Boeing aircraft manufacturing plant in North Charleston.

Post and Courier: College of Charleston faculty want academic leader as new president

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130911/PC16/130919799/1389/college-of-charleston-faculty-want-academic-leader-as-new-president>

Diane Knich

Faculty members at the College of Charleston were alarmed when they heard that local political figures were expressing interest in the soon-to-be vacant president's post. The Faculty Senate took action this week when it unanimously passed a resolution calling for the school's Board of Trustees to conduct a national search for its next president, and to hire someone knowledgeable and experienced in higher education. But while the faculty is pushing for someone with academic experience, the local business community is hoping for someone who understands economic development, and at least one legislator thinks the right local politician could make a great leader.

Associated Press: Hurricane Humberto maintaining its strength

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=EBTT59zY

Hurricane Humberto (oom-BEHR'-toh) is maintaining its strength far out over the Atlantic. The Category 1 hurricane has maximum sustained winds early Thursday near 85 mph (140 kph) with gradual weakening forecast to begin later in the day. Humberto is centered about 440 miles (705 kilometers) northwest of the Cape Verde Islands and is moving north near 14 mph (22 kph).

Greenville News: S.C. taxpayers pay millions in penalties over long-delayed computer system for child support

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130912/NEWS09/309120009/S-C-taxpayers-pay-millions-penalties-over-long-delayed-computer-system-child-support>

Tim Smith

The state's long-plagued, computerized child-support enforcement system, which has already racked up more than \$100 million in federal penalties for delays, is still not running and state officials and the latest vendor are blaming each other. The state has terminated its contract with Hewlett Packard State and Local Enterprise Services, a division of HP, and has asked that the company be barred from future state contracts,

according to documents filed with the state's procurement office, which hears initial contract disputes. HP said in its filings that what the state has done is unlawful and unjustified. HP also has alleged that the state has mismanaged the gigantic project and is responsible for delays.

Anderson Independent: State regulators approve Duke Energy rate increase

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/sep/11/state-regulators-approve-duke-energy-rate-increase/>

Nikie Mayo

State regulators have agreed to let Duke Energy raise Upstate residents' power bills by more than 10 percent in a two-year span. The first rate increase takes effect in less than a week. The Public Service Commission of South Carolina decided Wednesday to approve the increase, the terms of which mirror a settlement announced in July. During earlier negotiations, the power company had sought to raise homeowners' and renters' bills by as much as 16.3 percent. Under the settlement, the monthly bill for a typical residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours a month will go up by \$7.52 in the first year, to \$107.97. The monthly bill will increase by another \$2.79 in the second year of the cycle, for a total monthly bill of \$110.76.

Greenville News: Duke rate hike to add 10 percent to Upstate customers' bills over 2 years

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130912/BUSINESS/309120015/Duke-rate-hike-add-10-percent-Upstate-customers-bills-over-2-years>

Rudolph Bell

Duke Energy probably made a mistake by not increasing prices for nearly 20 years, then hiking rates three times in short order, according to a state lawmaker from the Upstate who plays a key role in utility policy. If Duke executives had done a better job of projecting costs, "Then we would not be caught up in the situation that we're caught up in now," said Rep. Bill Sandifer of Seneca, chairman of the House Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee, which has jurisdiction over utility matters. Duke's three rate hikes since 2010 "should have and could have been spread over a much longer period of time rather than occurring as rapidly as they have," Sandifer said Wednesday just before state regulators approved the latest price hike for about 540,000 South Carolina customers.

Associated Press: SC cruise lawsuit being heard in federal court

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=uZo3eUJZ

Bruce Smith

A lawsuit challenging a \$35 million South Carolina cruise terminal is going before a federal judge. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel is scheduled to hear arguments Thursday from both sides on why he should rule in their favor without a trial. He has set November for a full trial on the matter if needed. Environmental and neighborhood groups have sued over the planned Charleston terminal. They say the Army Corps of Engineers should have more extensively studied the impact on the environment and the city before issuing a permit allowing additional pilings under a wharf for the terminal. Attorneys for the Corps says the permit isn't for a terminal, only for installing five clusters of pilings beneath a building already utilized for maritime uses.

Local News:

The State: In About-face, Columbia City Council Votes To Put Strong Mayor Question On Ballot

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ewXgRY8X

Clif LeBlanc

Columbia residents likely will get to vote in November on whether the city should have a strong mayor with executive authority to run the city's day-to-day affairs. Council reversed itself after two negatives votes in the past 15 months, voting 4-3 to put a strong-mayor referendum question on the Nov. 5 City Council ballot. City Council considered the issue during a special-called meeting Wednesday night. Council's longest-serving member, Councilman Sam Davis, was the deciding vote. He previously had opposed efforts by City Council to put the question on a ballot.

Greenville News: Greenville County school district keeps highest credit ratings in S.C.

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130912/NEWS/309120008/Greenville-County-school-district-keeps-highest-credit-ratings-S-C->

Greenville County Schools has maintained the highest credit ratings for South Carolina school districts based on statements recently released by Standard and Poor's and Moody's rating agencies, school district officials said. Greenville County Schools is the only school district in South Carolina with an AA+ credit rating from Standard and Poor's, they said. The rating was initially awarded in 2008 and has been

maintained each year. The Greenville school district is one of two South Carolina districts to receive an Aa1 rating from Moody's, district officials said.

Times and Democrat: Orangeburg City Council prepared to work with new mayor to address jobs, downtown, crime

http://thetandd.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/elections/orangeburg-city-council-prepared-to-work-with-new-mayor-to/article_ac8cafe4-1b50-11e3-8d13-001a4bcf887a.html

Dionne Gleaton

Members of Orangeburg City Council say they stand poised to work with the city's new mayor on issues that are critical to Orangeburg's growth, including continued crime reduction and downtown development. Orangeburg voters elected Michael C. Butler on Tuesday, making him the city's first African-American mayor. He will replace Paul A. Miller, who has been mayor since 2001. District 2 Councilman Charlie Jernigan said while he was disappointed with the low voter turnout for Tuesday's election, he respects the result and looks forward to working with the new mayor. Only 14.5 percent of the city's voters cast ballots in the mayoral race.

Seneca Journal: Sales tax proposal could generate \$40 million

<https://upstatetoday.com/2013/09/sales-tax-proposal-could-generate-40-million/>

Norman Cannada

A proposed 1 percent sales tax referendum could generate around \$40 million over eight years for capital projects in Oconee County, according to state estimates. Frank Rainwater, chief economist for the state's Division of Research and Statistics, estimated the proposed sales tax would likely generate more than \$4.3 million in the first year and up to nearly \$5.6 million in the additional consecutive seven years. Rainwater made his estimate in a letter last month to Mark Pullium, Oconee County finance director. The estimates would reach a total of between \$39.6 million and \$43.4 million if the tax is collected for eight years, the maximum allowed by state law.

Aiken Standard: Schools getting new safety systems

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20130912/AIK0101/130919882/1007/AIK0101/schools-getting-new-safety-systems>

Rob Novit

Aiken County School District administrators have looked at school safety issues for many years, and in the past year, they have explored another layer of safety, Deputy Superintendent David Caver said on Wednesday. District staffers have introduced a buzzer/camera system at some schools, and Caver is optimistic that all County schools will have that equipment by the Christmas holiday. "Our places have done things where they could see the outside," he said. "With the camera and buzzer, this will standardize it. The folks in the offices can stay at their desks or move (the equipment) desk to desk." Aiken High School began using the new system on Tuesday. Principal Garen Cofer said he was concerned that the parents who arrived at the entrance would consider it inconvenient.

The State: Remembering When USC Opened Its Doors To All

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=W6zLhaSB

Carolyn Click

The iconic black-and-white photograph of three African-American students integrating the University of South Carolina gave way Wednesday to a modern portrait of progress, as hundreds of people of all races and backgrounds gathered to commemorate the 50-year anniversary of desegregation. The memories were rooted in the past, but as Henrie Monteith Treadwell and James L. Solomon Jr. turned over spades of dirt for a USC garden commemorating the year, 1963, that they integrated the state's flagship university, they had their eyes on the future. Fifty years is a long time, Solomon said, and the landscape is vastly altered from the days of his Jim Crow youth and the moment he stepped onto the USC campus as a 33-year-old graduate mathematics student, but "the past must also be used as a measure of where we can be."

Florence Morning News: Leatherman called out in Florence County's response to penny tax suit

http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article_d70fbcd0-1b40-11e3-9c9f-001a4bcf6878.html

Gavin Jackson

A Florence County lawyer said the state's lawsuit against the county's Capital Project Sales Tax referendum doesn't center on legal issues, but on whether State Sen. Hugh K. Leatherman can "control the expenditures of the funds generated by the tax." In the 17-page response and request that the court deny the Attorney General's motion for an injunction, lawyer John C. Moylan III illustrates a situation that has

been essentially threatened by Leatherman and not because of the statute's wording or intended use.

Florence Morning News: Several downtown Florence projects line up

http://www.scnov.com/news/local/article_3b114b26-1b47-11e3-804c-001a4bcf6878.html

Gavin Jackson

The city's downtown's development leader said Wednesday that projects are in the works to keep downtown's revitalization momentum going. Ray Reich, Florence's downtown development manager, told members of the Florence Design Review Board during its monthly meeting that several plans are nearing fruition. One is at one of downtown's most notable intersections. Reich said negotiations began last week and a contract will be forthcoming for the 8,300-square-foot building that has a combined building and land market assessment of \$324,900.

National News:

New York Times: Unions' Misgivings on Health Law Burst Into View

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/12/business/unions-misgivings-on-health-law-burst-into-view.html?ref=todayspaper&_r=0

Steven Greenhouse

When President Obama phoned the president of the A.F.L.-C.I.O. last month, he shared some news that the labor leader had long wanted to hear — the administration would propose measures to reduce workplace exposure to disease-causing silica dust. But their conversation soon moved to what has become a contentious topic this summer: labor's renewed anger over Mr. Obama's health care law and decisions surrounding it, especially the postponement of an employer mandate to ensure coverage for workers and the potential effects of the coming health insurance exchanges on existing plans. According to officials briefed on the call, the president voiced concern about labor's criticisms, prompting the union federation's leader, Richard Trumka, to promise that he would try to soften the harshly worded resolutions that several unions planned to push at this week's A.F.L.-C.I.O. convention in Los Angeles.

Associated Press: Health Care Law Perplexing to Business Owners

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/health-care-law-perplexing-business-owners-0>

Michael Virtanen

Restaurant owners Colleen and Tim Holmes were considering opening a third business in a growing upstate New York suburb but decided against it. One factor was the risk from expanding their staff beyond 50 full-time employees and having to provide them federally mandated health coverage. Despite knowing the penalty for that part of the Affordable Care Act had been postponed for a year, the couple said their margins are thin and the requirements and costs under the law remain unclear. They also face some disruption from their current health plan, with some coverage moving to the new insurance exchange after this year. They've discussed whether they need to hire a consultant to help them understand what the law means for the owners of small businesses, but it's an expense they'd rather not have. Yet they have little time to research the act on their own, since they already work more than 70 hours a week.

Brian Symmes

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304

Cell: (803) 673-9437