

From: Symmes, Brian
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Subject: Morning Clips - Tuesday, October 15, 2013

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: Charleston Developer Pledges To Work With Governor On Economic Development
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=uqpecb72

Adam Beam

Charleston developer Pat McKinney officially kicked off his campaign for lieutenant governor Monday with some subtle criticisms of his “friend of 25 years,” current Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell. During his announcement, which had about 50 “live” viewers online, McKinney called himself a fiscal conservative, saying his first act as lieutenant governor would be to eliminate the office’s security detail and driver.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley of Lexington and McConnell of Charleston, both Republicans, have had their differences. Two years ago, for instance, then-Senate President Pro Tem McConnell took Haley to court after the governor tried to force the Legislature to reconvene and pass a bill to restructure state government. But McConnell’s political consultant, Richard Quinn, said the lieutenant governor and Haley have a “good relationship.” “She (Haley) has said she’s not getting involved in this race, and we believe she’s telling the truth,” Quinn said.

Anderson Independent: Gov. Haley announces Earthquake Awareness Week

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/oct/14/gov-haley-announces-earthquake-awareness-week/>

Gov. Nikki Haley has issued a statewide proclamation designating Sunday, October 13 through Saturday, October 19 as Earthquake Awareness Week. The proclamation recognizes the unpredictable nature of major earthquakes and the extensive damages that would occur if one happened to take place in any of South Carolina’s major cities. It also recognizes that South Carolina has partnered with North Carolina, Georgia, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia for the Great Southeast ShakeOut, which will be one of the largest earthquake drills in the United States.

The Patch: Gov. Haley Issues Executive Order Compelling List of State-Owned Assets

<http://columbia-sc.patch.com/groups/politics-and-elections/p/gov-haley-issues-executive-order-compelling-list-of-state-assets>

Lindsay Street

Gov. Nikki Haley issued Executive Order 2013-09, compelling all executive agencies to create and report an inventory of their respective assets to the Budget and Control Board by Dec. 15. The Executive Order requires all agencies to become compliant with Section 1-11-58 of the South Carolina Code of Laws and Proviso 118.2, which mandates each state agency to perform a detailed, annual inventory and prepare a report of all real property to be submitted to the Budget and Control Board. The Division of General Services will use these reports to create a comprehensive inventory, to help determine excess real property in an effort to consolidate assets.

Note: Haley wants the list of assets “so she can review it with agencies and figure out what the state can sell or consolidate to save money,” the State newspaper reported.

Anderson Independent: Gov. Haley recognizes local student for receiving Buick Achievers Scholarships
<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/oct/14/gov-haley-recognizes-local-student-receiving-buick/>

Gov. Nikki Haley recognized Clemson sophomore Justin Shaw today as 2013 Buick Achievers Scholarship Program recipient. Justin received a scholarship of up to \$25,000, renewable for up to four years. One of the largest scholarship programs in the country, Buick Achievers places a strong focus on recognizing women, minorities and students known for excelling in the classroom and giving back to their communities.

Note: “I would like to thank the General Motors Foundation for their generous support of education here in South Carolina,” Gov. Haley said. “They are not only helping our students achieve more academically but they are actively building a smarter workforce for tomorrow. Justin’s success also reflects the hard work of his teachers, family and friends who have helped him along the way.”

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Greenville News: More progress on PCB clean-up

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131015/OPINION/310150005/Editorial-More-progress-PCB-clean-up>

Editorial

Finding and mitigating PCBs in the area around the Twelve Mile River and Lake Hartwell is going to be a long-term job. The danger of these substances, along with the fact that they are known cancer-causing agents that are not easily removed, demands diligence. South Carolina residents and particularly those who regularly use the Twelve Mile and Lake Hartwell, should be thankful they appear to have a diligent partner in cleaning up the environmental mess that was created when the Sangamo-Weston capacitor plant left behind a legacy of pollution — PCBs that were dumped or seeped into the Twelve Mile and have rendered some fish in the river and from Hartwell inedible.

Aiken Standard: Pumping up gas tax is right decision

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131015/AIK0201/131019696/1021/AIK0201/editorial-pumping-up-gas-tax-is-right-decision>

Editorial

The possibility of increasing the state's gas tax has become a perennial issue for our legislature, but so far, remains a dormant idea. For some lawmakers, the possibility of adding more cost to traveling our roads is a non-starter. The argument has been framed around how an increase would put an added burden on families and small businesses. Additionally, any vote for a tax increase may deny a lawmaker re-election as it would inevitably be used by political opponents. However, a state panel has indicated that the state will require \$29 billion in additional revenue over the next 20 years to address problems with our roads, highways and bridges. The best option to fill that need appears to be increasing the gas tax, if only be a penny or so.

Island Packet: Town, hauler should end troubled trash contract

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/10/14/2738153/town-hauler-should-end-troubled.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

Neither the Town of Hilton Head Island nor Republic Waste Services seems satisfied with their nearly 3-year-old franchise agreement. It's probably time to call it quits on this waste hauling contract. That's not to say the town should give up on the idea of a single hauler for the island. Despite the focus on continuing complaints about missed pick-ups, the decision to limit the number of waste haulers on Hilton Head was a good one. Recycling volume has quadrupled, and there are far fewer trash trucks on the road. And town officials have said that overall, the number of complaints is small compared with the number of customers.

South Carolina News:

The State: SC Politics: Republican Says He Will Challenge Clyburn

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=JmzZLE0m

Sumter Republican says he will challenge Clyburn. The Rev. Leon Winn of Sumter is running as a Republican for South Carolina's 6th District congressional seat in 2014. That seat is held now by U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-Columbia. Winn will announce his candidacy on the State House steps at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday. Winn also plans campaign stops Tuesday in Sumter and Orangeburg. Winn is a 16-year U.S. Air Force veteran and Morris College graduate, according to a news release from his campaign manager, James Krantz. Winn ran for state Senate District 36 seat in 2012, losing to Democrat Kevin Johnson. Winn told the Manning Times in 2012 that he formerly was a Democrat, but the Republican Party's beliefs were more like his own.

Associated Press: SC schools get chance to buy Charleston law school

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=09Un68xX

A company that runs for-profit law schools says it will give other schools in South Carolina a final chance to buy the Charleston School of Law before going forward with its plans to purchase the school. The InfiLaw System said in a statement Monday that it will give the College of Charleston or the University of South Carolina an opportunity to make an offer for the private law school. InfiLaw says it will continue its effort to be licensed to run the Charleston school while any talks continue. InfiLaw operates the Charlotte School of Law, the Florida Coastal School of Law and the Phoenix School of Law. The only other law school in the state is the University of South Carolina School of Law in Columbia.

Greenville News: State moves forward with new teacher evaluation program

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131015/NEWS04/310150009/State-moves-forward-new-teacher-evaluation-program>

Ron Barnett

The new teacher evaluation system the state is piloting is like the computer models weather forecasters use, in the opinion of Greenville County Schools' testing expert: There are so many factors involved that accuracy is relative. "If we have a meteorologist that predicts a 70 percent chance of rain next Wednesday and today is Friday, we're probably not going to fire the meteorologist if it's sunny on Wednesday," Dr. Jason McCreary said. State Department of Education officials say the system levels the playing field for teachers, holding them accountable for their students' growth regardless of whether they are teaching gifted students, special education students, or students from low-income families.

Greenville News: Reactions to ex-senator's hiring to head S.C. pension fund mixed

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131015/NEWS/310150008/Reactions-ex-senator-s-hiring-head-S-C-pension-fund-mixed>

Tim Smith

The executive director of the State Employees Association says his members are "not happy" with the selection of former Sen. Greg Ryberg to become the acting chief operating officer of the agency overseeing investments for the state's \$27 billion pension fund. Carlton Washington, who heads the employees association, which also includes retirees, told The Greenville News that employees are concerned about Ryberg because of the senator's past positions on retirement issues. A spokesman for State Treasurer Curtis Loftis, a member of the state Retirement Systems Investment Commission, which hired Ryberg on Friday, said Loftis is concerned with the speed with which Ryberg was hired and that it appeared a "recruitment" of Ryberg took place before Friday's meeting.

Anderson Independent: State lawmaker: Use vehicle property taxes to pay for paving roads

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/oct/14/state-lawmaker-use-vehicle-property-taxes-to-pay/>

Kirk Brown

Anderson County officials should set aside revenue from property taxes on vehicles as seed money for desperately needed road projects, a state lawmaker suggested Monday. The poor condition of roads "is one of the biggest complaints that the public has," said Rep. Don Bowen during an Anderson County Transportation Committee meeting. The Anderson Republican warned that these complaints will continue "unless we come up with some money." Bowen said he wants to use revenue from property taxes on vehicles to attract matching money from agencies such as the South Carolina Transportation Infrastructure Bank to pay for repaving work throughout the county.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Two Spartanburg County lawmakers to push bill to close primaries

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20131014/ARTICLES/131019827/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Two-Spartanburg-County-lawmakers-to-push-bill-to-close-primaries>

Felicia Kitzmiller

Two Spartanburg County legislators plan to pick up the fight for closed primaries when they reconvene with their colleagues in January. Rep. Bill Chumley, R-Woodruff, and Sen. Lee Bright, R-Roebuck, said they plan to pre-file legislation that would close the primaries. South Carolina voters would have to register by party and vote only in their own party's primary. "I think Republican-minded people should choose our candidate and not have it part of a partisan strategy of who the other party would like to run against," Chumley said. Such legislation has died in the Legislature before, but the lawmakers said they are undeterred and are optimistic this year could be different.

Anderson Independent: Government shutdown disables eligibility verification for new workers

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/oct/14/government-shutdown-disables-eligibility-for-new/>

Kirk Brown

Employers in South Carolina cannot determine whether new employees may work legally because the federal government shutdown has led to the temporary disabling of a national verification system. The E-Verify system has been offline since the government shutdown began Oct. 1. As a result, employers are unable to make sure that new workers are eligible to be hired. Under a state law that took effect last year, all employers in South Carolina must use the E-Verify system to screen new workers within three business days after they are hired.

Post and Courier: MUSC Children's Hospital changes name — again

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131014/PC16/131019673/1006/musc-children-x2019-s-hospital-changes-name-x2014-again>

Lauren Sausser

The Medical University of South Carolina Children's Hospital quietly reversed course on a name change announced this summer. In late July, Children's Hospital administrators said the hospital was rebranding itself as The Children's Hospital of South Carolina at MUSC. The hospital promoted the name change on social media sites, through a press release and in an online video. Now, the hospital's name has been changed back to its original — MUSC Children's Hospital.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Charleston County School Board to approach Charleston lawmakers about changing state law on tax referendums

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131014/PC16/131019641/1389/charleston-county-school-board-wants-to-change-state-law-on-referendums>

Diette Courrage Caasey

The Charleston County School Board is taking steps that would enable a sales tax extension referendum to be held before November 2016, and it has the full support of the Charleston, North Charleston and Mount Pleasant mayors. The school board voted 7-1 Monday night to allow the board chair and district officials to approach the Charleston legislative delegation with a request to change state law to permit the district to ask voters in November 2014 or 2015 whether they want to extend the 1 percent sales tax for school building construction. If state law isn't changed, the soonest the district could put the issue on voters' ballots would be November 2016.

Aiken Standard: Infrastructure funding passes City Council

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131015/AIK0101/131019671/1007/AIK0101/infrastructure-funding-passes-city-council>

Maayan Schechter

Aiken City Council unanimously passed a motion of approval of funds for three critical infrastructure improvements. George Grinton, director of Engineering and Utilities, wrote to Council requesting funds for the water and sewer system infrastructure repairs through the one-cent Capital Sales Tax III. Projects include about \$194,000 for the Southwood lift station parallel sewer and manhole rehabilitation, a little more than \$35,000 for Boardman Road waterline improvements and about \$31,000 for Two Notch Road roadway improvements. The projects total about \$260,000. All three projects are in critical need of repair, according to a memorandum filed by City Manager Richard Pearce.

Aiken Standard: Workshop provides educators advancement information

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131015/AIK0101/131019676/1007/AIK0101/workshop-provides-educators-advancement-information>

Rob Novit

America is dealing with a huge debt and only a fraction of that amount in the coffers. That drew chuckles from a group of Aiken County School District assistant principals and school instructional coaches because Dan Parent, the District's social studies specialist, was talking about the United States following the Revolutionary War. Parent gave a 20-minute synopsis of a classroom discussion that can engage history students and the past's connection to the present. District administrators currently are providing weekly sessions on a variety of topics to prepare the school-based personnel for the future. The District's top leaders recognize that, in the next few years, many of those senior staffers and principals will retire or will be close to that decision.

Florence Morning News: Federal shutdown impacts Pee Dee program

http://www.snow.com/news/politics/article_6d2d7798-353b-11e3-9484-001a4bcf6878.html

Gavin Jackson

The impact of the federal shutdown continues to ripple through programs in the area as the Pee Dee Workforce Investment Area grapples with a one-two punch from the sequester and the shutdown as it begins its second quarter. At the Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments meeting Monday evening Joette Dukes, workforce development director with the workforce investment board, told members that if the government doesn't reopen soon it may be forced to borrow money from other COGs in the state with a lower expenditure rate and/or furlough some of its 50 workers as it has already ceased offering training to

economically disadvantaged adults.

Post and Courier: Visions for homes, high-tech and heavy industry on former Navy base in North Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131014/PC16/131019681/1006/>

David Slade

Now that a 12-year-old plan to redevelop the north end of the former Navy base is dead, it will be up to North Charleston and the state's railroad agency to determine the future of that important slice of real estate. The land covers hundreds of acres, including much of North Charleston's public waterfront and properties that could become home to new job-creating businesses. "I think this could truly be the most significant decision the Lowcountry could make for the next 10 years," said Alan St. Clair, developer of the Lowcountry Innovation Center, a building on the base where 17 high-tech firms now operate.

Index-Journal: Stein tackles health care, tea party

<http://www.indexjournal.com/main.asp?SectionID=4&SubSectionID=40&ArticleID=21400>

Matt Bruce

From the impact of the controversial Affordable Care Act to the nation's preoccupation with materialism, famed economist and comedian Ben Stein held no punches in his speech Monday night at the Madame Curie Society recognition dinner. More than 200 people gathered at Piedmont Tech's James Medford Family Event Center in Greenwood for the latest installment of the banquet dinner, which dates back nearly 20 years. The Self Regional Healthcare Foundation, which raised nearly \$26 million for operations at the Self Regional Medical Center in the last 27 years, hosts the annual event. It is meant to acknowledge donors who contributed at least \$1,000 to the foundation during the year.

Florence Morning News: Florence City Council appoints judges to form livability court system

http://www.snow.com/news/local/article_9d412484-3509-11e3-a373-0019bb30f31a.html

Gavin Jackson

Florence City Council conditionally appointed five judges and an administrator and will form a livability court system in Florence at its monthly council meeting Monday. The system will be responsible for enforcing housing and property code laws on offenders violate, a rampant problem in the city that has thousands of abandon properties and a system that can let offenders to get lost in and back up City Court. The judges, which consist of several local lawyers, should be in place within a month and the court will slowly get up to speed in the next three to six months Mayor Stephen J. Wukela said.

The State: Students rally around University of South Carolina freshman paralyzed by gunshot wound

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/10/15/3039408/students-rally-around-university.html#storylink=cpy>

Noelle Phillips

Two high school friends reunited for the weekend, with one, now a USC freshman, showing off her new campus to her out-of-town guest. But the night ended tragically for the young women, when the freshman was struck by a random bullet while waiting for a taxi near the iconic fountain in Five Points. Martha Childress, 18, is paralyzed from the hips down, after a .40-caliber bullet lodged in her spine, said her uncle, Jim Carpenter, who is serving as the family's spokesman. She also suffered damage to her liver and a kidney, but doctors were optimistic those wounds would heal, he said. Childress graduated in the spring from J.L. Mann High School in Greenville.

National News:

CBS: Expert: Obamacare Website Is 'Not Even Ready For Beta Testing'

<http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2013/10/14/expert-obamacare-website-is-not-even-ready-for-beta-testing/>

Two weeks after the Affordable Care Act online marketplace opened, many people have reported continued trouble logging onto HealthCare.gov. CBS 2's Don Champion got to the truth about how much it all cost, and found concerns about the website before it even went online. With ads promoting HealthCare.gov hitting the air, Americans flocked to the website, finding themselves wishing they had health coverage to cure the headache the site has caused them. "As of yet, I still have not even seen the plans," said Shirley Stigall, one of numerous people having problems with the site.

New York Times: Senators Near Fiscal Deal, but the House Is Uncertain

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/15/us/politics/seeking-deal-to-avert-default-lawmakers-to-meet-obama.html?ref=todayspaper&_r=0

Michael D. Shear and Jeremy W. Peters

Senate leaders neared the completion Monday night of a bipartisan deal to raise the debt ceiling and end the government shutdown while the rest of the world braced for the possibility of an American default that could set off a global financial disaster. Negotiators talked into the evening as senators from both parties coalesced around a plan that would lift the debt limit through Feb. 7, pass a resolution to finance the government through Jan. 15 and conclude formal discussions on a long-term tax and spending plan no later than Dec. 13, according to one Senate aide briefed on the plan.

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