

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Tuesday, December 29, 2015

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Rep. Trey Gowdy endorsement for Marco Rubio should produce 'a modest bump'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151229/PC1603/151229409>

Schuyler Kropf

South Carolina U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy is a favorite among conservatives for his role interrogating former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during the hearings into the fatal 2012 Benghazi consulate terror attack. So with his endorsement of Marco Rubio for president, many see it giving the U.S. senator from Florida at least a temporary boost in the state's GOP primary field where he currently sits in a distant third place.

Note: Though not as important as coming from a statewide officeholder — namely U.S. Sen. Tim Scott or Gov. Nikki Haley — the fact that Gowdy is first among the state's congressional delegation to make a White House pick means it should carry some extra weight as the selection window closes.

WOLO: Governor proclaims January interfaith harmony month in SC

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/2015/12/29/governor-proclaims-january-interfaith-harmony-month-in-sc/>

The New Year is just days away and local religious groups are celebrating January as "South Carolina Interfaith Harmony Month." Interfaith partners of South Carolina announced the launch of the program Monday morning during a news conference at the State House.

S.C. Political News:

Rock Hill Herald: Trump to speak Jan. 8 at Winthrop Coliseum

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article51949800.html>

Bristow Marchant

Winthrop University's largest venue will host a candidate drawing some of the largest crowds of the Republican presidential campaign. Donald Trump will speak at the Winthrop Coliseum at 7 p.m. on Jan. 8. Free tickets for the event are available online.

Associated Press: Donald Trump says criticism of Bill Clinton is fair

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=VgKP5FfP

Jill Colvin, Ken Thomas

Donald Trump is reviving memories of Bill Clinton's affair with a White House intern and his turbulent interactions with black voters during South Carolina's 2008 primary as the ex-president campaigns for his wife in New Hampshire. Trump's latest broadsides on the Clintons - a potential preview of a nasty, personal general election - appear beneficial to both as they seek to energize voters leading into the first primary contests.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Greenville News: Legislators prefile bill to stiffen penalties for killing police dogs

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2015/12/28/legislators-prefile-bill-stiffen-penalties-killing-police-dogs/77982634/>

Ron Barnett

Hyco, the police dog who was shot and killed by a suspect in an Anderson County carjacking case, will live on in the South Carolina Code of Laws, if a bill prefiled by Easley House member Neal Collins and members of the Anderson County delegation becomes law.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Santee Cooper OKs 3-year deal to keep aluminum mill running at 50%

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151229/PC05/151229422>

David Wren

Santee Cooper approved a three-year deal Tuesday that will keep Century Aluminum's Mount Holly smelter partially operating. The vote by the state-owned power utility's board of directors was unanimous. The agreement gives state legislators time to write a new law that would allow the plant buy its electricity on the open market.

SCRN: New program tries to reduce rate of former inmates possessing guns

<http://www.southcarolinaradionetwork.com/2015/12/28/new-program-tries-to-reduce-rate-of-former-inmates-possessing-guns/>

South Carolina prison officials are partnering with federal law enforcement to launch a new effort to keep recently-released inmates from obtaining or illegally using guns. The "Real Time Reentry" program targets youthful offenders who are set to be released back into their communities.

Note: "The message is very simple, but serious," Corrections Director Bryan Stirling told South Carolina Radio Network. "If you're caught with a firearm or ammunition, your case will be referred to ATF and the US Attorney's Office for federal review and prosecution in federal court, where firearms-related sentences for repeat offenders are much more substantial."

The State: \$1.6 billion mystery project gets approval from Chester County Council

<http://www.thestate.com/news/state/article52115930.html>

Don Worthington

The Chester County Council approved tax breaks Tuesday as part of economic development package to bring a \$1.6 billion manufacturing facility to the county. The council, without discussion, approved a tax break ordinance for "Project 1429" which could employ as many as 1,400 people.

Post and Courier: DHEC proposes changing midwife regulations for infant safety

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151229/PC1211/151229445>

Lauren Sausser

In the past decade, women in South Carolina and across the country have increasingly decided to give birth outside of hospitals without the help of trained doctors, prompting the state health department to revise its regulations governing licensed midwives.

Island Packet: Record-high temps in Beaufort County send 'nature into a tizzy'

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/article52061520.html>

Lucas High

Every day since Christmas Eve, a new high-temperature record has been set in Beaufort County. The warmer-than-usual weather has "sent nature into a tizzy," Margie Fox, owner of The Garden Gate Nursery in Bluffton, said Tuesday.

The State: Wet, warm end to 2015 in Columbia

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article52022935.html>

Andrew Shain

The wet, unseasonably warm weather that has swept over the Midlands during the past three months of the year will continue through New Year's Day. But winter-like temperatures will arrive after the calendar turns to 2016. A new spate of rain triggered flood advisories along the Congaree River in the Columbia region.

Local News:

Associated Press: Carbon monoxide in home sends 6 to hospital; 2 are from SC

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

A carbon monoxide leak at a Long Island house sent a half-dozen people to a hospital and knocked two unconscious Tuesday, but most were released and the homeowner said the others were recovering hours later.

Post and Courier: ArborGen workers cheated in incentive plan get \$53.5 million court judgment

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151229/PC05/151229414>

David Wren

A group of 10 current and former workers at Summerville-based biotechnology firm ArborGen Inc. won a

\$53.5 million judgment against their employer and some of the nation's top forest products companies after a judge ruled the companies tricked workers into accepting incentive plan changes that robbed them of most of their wealth.

Post and Courier: High of 79 in Charleston ties record, could be broken

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151229/PC16/151229424>

Dave Munday

Another record day for warm temperatures in Charleston. Shortly before 1:30 p.m., the mercury at the Charleston International Airport hit 79 degrees, tying a record set in 1984, according to the National Weather Service. It's likely the record will be broken this afternoon, according to the Charleston weather team.

Brian Symmes

Cell: 803-673-9437

Office: 803-734-0304