

From: Symmes, Brian
To:
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Subject: Morning Clips - Monday, December 16, 2013

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Greenville News: Action expected on road funding and ethics reform in Columbia

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013312120048>

Rudolph Bell

Road funding and new ethics rules for public officials are among the big issues that Greenville County's representatives in the state Legislature expect to take up when they return to Columbia after the holidays. They also predicted lots of Statehouse campaigning, with a race for chief justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court, one senator running for governor and another for U.S. Senate. An ethics reform bill that Gov. Nikki Haley has been promoting around the state is scheduled for early Senate action when the General Assembly is gaveled to order on Jan. 14.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: A texting ban here, one there

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131216/PC1002/131219625/1021/a-texting-ban-here-one-there>

Editorial

If Greenville bans texting while driving, more than half a million South Carolinians will live in municipalities with such laws. But South Carolina is one of only three states without a statewide ban. The others are Arizona and Montana. Just how much momentum will it take for the S.C. Legislature to get off the dime and act to make our roads safer? As it stands now, at least 12 municipalities have their own laws, some more strict than others. Greenville's proposed law would ban the use of any hand-held device while driving. Charleston's law, adopted in October, bans texting but allows drivers to make and receive phone calls on hand-held devices.

Post and Courier: GM bailout numbers games

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131216/PC1002/131219626/1021/rear-view-mirror-on-gm-bailout>

Editorial

The Treasury Department has sold off the last of the government's shares in General Motors for a net loss (on the purchase price) of \$10.5 billion. Even counting another \$50 billion in tax breaks given to GM when it reorganized, the government is proclaiming an overall profit for the economy. There is no question that the federal bailout of GM and Chrysler, both based in Michigan, has preserved jobs in the Midwest and helped unionized auto workers. But the math that says the economy as a whole came out ahead is at best dubious. Still, President Barack Obama says his bet on the auto industry paid off handsomely.

Aiken Standard: Local pragmatism part of House vote

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131216/AIK02/131219713/1018/AIK02/editorial-local-pragmatism-part-of-house-vote>

Editorial

Perhaps it was the lack of ideological theatrics that allowed a much needed U.S. House bill to recently be passed under the radar. But in case the headline was missed, the U.S. House was actually able to come to a 2-year bipartisan budget deal last week, hopefully signaling some sense of compromise that has been lacking lately in Washington, D.C. The budget deal passed 332-94, and while it's a modest plan, it should help to avoid government shutdowns and ease automatic spending cuts, at least in the short term.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Americans for Prosperity kicking off SC effort

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=YJBEhJO2

A tea party-allied group is kicking off its efforts in South Carolina with an event in Greenville. On Monday, Americans for Prosperity - South Carolina is hosting a gathering at Tommy's Country Ham House. Organizers say AFP President Tim Phillips and U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan are expected to attend. Americans for Prosperity is a conservative anti-tax and regulation group founded with the support of billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch. The group says it has more than 2.3 million members across the country, with more than 17,000 members in South Carolina.

Post and Courier: Quietly, Hillary Clinton supporters taking stock in S.C.

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131215/PC16/131219622/1006/>

Schuyler Kropf

Earlier this month, the S.C. Democratic Women's Council held its fall forum in Columbia, where "Electing Democratic Women" was one of the discussion topics for the 100 or so in attendance. A co-sponsor of the event was a low-key but nationally focused political action committee that has been actively pushing to see Hillary Clinton elected president in 2016. "Ready for Hillary," which operates without her official approval, made a financial donation toward putting the gathering on, though council president Susan Smith of Pawleys Island declined to say how much it was.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Spartanburg lawmaker pre-files bill to help foster parents

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20131214/ARTICLES/131219809/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Spartanburg-lawmaker-pre-files-bill-to-help-foster-parents>

Felicia Kitzmiller

A Spartanburg lawmaker has pre-filed a bill to eliminate what he believes is a double standard for biological and foster parents. Rep. Mike Forrester, a Republican, has filed a bill that would require a court order to have foster parents suspected of abuse or neglect put on the state's central registry for such actions. Biological parents must be found guilty of child abuse or neglect in family or criminal court to have their names added to the registry, but no such court finding is required for children in out-of-home care. If a Department of Social Services investigation shows abuse or neglect, even if it does not rise to criminal standards, the person responsible is put on the registry.

Island Packet: Deer-culling programs seen as successful in Beaufort County communities

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/12/15/2850729/deer-culling-programs-seen-as.html#storylink=cpy>

Tom Barton

Seven Beaufort County communities have received the state's permission to reduce their deer population. The S.C. Department of Natural Resources will allow culling of about 200 deer in Belfair, Colleton River Plantation, Hilton Head Plantation, Indigo Run, Leamington, Palmetto Bluff and Sea Pines. The deer are killed at night by sharpshooters using spotlights and sound-suppressed firearms. The plantations obtain permits from DNR to kill a certain number each year, based on surveys of their deer populations and car accidents involving deer.

Times and Democrat: Three S.C. State Board seats up for re-election

http://thetandd.com/news/three-s-c-state-board-seats-up-for-re-election/article_43648a98-65fe-11e3-af7c-0019bb2963f4.html

The Joint Legislative Committee to Screen Candidates for College and University Boards of Trustees is accepting letters of intent from potential candidates for seats on trustee boards. Seat 3 of the 3rd Congressional District and at-large Seats 8 and 10 on the South Carolina State University Board are up for re-election. Trustee Robert Waldrep, a lawyer from Anderson, currently holds Seat 3. He has been a member of the board since July 2010. Waldrep is vice chair of the board. He acted as interim chair from July, when then Chair Dr. Walter Tobin left office, until October, when Dr. William Small Jr. was elected to the position.

Post and Courier: New medical report determines prevention counseling paired with HIV testing may have little impact

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131216/PC16/131219596/1006/new-medical-report-determines-prevention-counseling-paired-with-hiv-testing-may-have-little-impact>

Lauren Sausser

HIV prevention counseling may be a classic case of "in one ear, out the other." A recent report in the Journal of the American Medical Association concluded that HIV prevention counseling paired with HIV testing does little to actually keep patients from contracting new sexually transmitted diseases. In fact, a group of patients studied in this paper who received counseling at the time of their HIV tests contracted virtually the same

number of STDs six months down the road as another group that had received no counseling.

Local News:

The State: Lexington County towns seek road repairs and more from proposed tax

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/15/3161431/lexington-county-towns-seek-road.html#storylink=cpy>

Tim Flach

Lexington County municipalities are seeking road improvements and much more from a proposed sales tax. The proposals taking shape in six of the 15 municipalities are the first glimpse at some being developed for a referendum on the tax hike of a penny-on-the-dollar in November. Many road improvements wanted in Batesburg-Leesville and Lexington include widening busy intersections, adding turn lanes and installing sidewalks on local thoroughfares.

National News:

Associated Press: Federal workers' pensions targeted in budget deal

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=bQoz3LI6

Alan Fram

Distinctly unpopular among voters and a scant presence in most congressional districts, federal workers have become an easy target in the hunt for budget savings. Their retirement programs are notably generous compared to the norm in private industry. But for federal workers hired after 2012, the pension program is turning less generous. Most federal civilian employees hired beginning in January will contribute 4.4 percent of their pay to their pension plans under the House-passed budget bill the Senate is expected to approve this week.

Associated Press: McCain: CIA misled Congress on missing American

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=rm0pscts

Sen. John McCain says he is disturbed the Obama administration has not been more forthcoming about an American who disappeared while on a secret intelligence mission to Iran. McCain said he is confident the U. S. is doing all it can to learn what has happened to Robert Levinson, but he told CNN's "State of the Union" the CIA has not been forthcoming with the Congress about him. Iran's foreign minister, meanwhile, asserted that Levinson is "not incarcerated by the government and I believe the government runs, pretty much, good control of the country."

Brian Symmes

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304

Cell: (803) 673-9437