

From: Symmes, Brian
To:
Date: 12/31/2013 6:32:35 AM
Subject: Morning Clips - Tuesday, December 31, 2013

Morning Clips – Tuesday, December 31, 2013

Governor Nikki Haley News:

Politico: Nikki Haley, Scott Walker bet beers, BBQ on Capital One Bowl

<http://www.politico.com/story/2013/12/nikki-haley-scott-walker-football-capital-one-bowl-101615.html#ixzz2p39OoEKv>

Jose Delreal

Call it a trial run in sportsmanship before the 2016 election. South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker have a friendly bet going on the Capital One Bowl, in which teams from their respective states will play Wednesday. Both Republican governors are considered potential contenders in the 2016 presidential election, though neither has announced their candidacy.

Note: “A wager has been made with my friend, Governor Scott Walker on the Capital One Bowl! On the table is Wisconsin beer, brats, and cheese or SC beer and great southern BBQ,” Haley wrote Monday on her Facebook page. “Let the smack talk begin! Go Gamecocks!”

WLTX: Nikki Haley Makes Wager with Wisconsin Gov. on Bowl Game

<http://www.wltx.com/sports/article/260021/4/Haley-Makes-Wager-with-Wisconsin-Gov-on-Game>

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley has made a friendly wager with Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker on who will win the Capital One Bowl. Their states respective teams, the USC Gamecocks and the Wisconsin Badgers, take on each other Wednesday afternoon in Orlando. Haley announced the wager on her Facebook page. If South Carolina wins, Haley says Walker will give her beer, bratwursts, and cheese; if Wisconsin is victorious, Haley will offer up beer and barbeque to Walker.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Greenville News: Duncan brings focus to energy

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013312310006>

Editorial

South Carolina Rep. Jeff Duncan is bringing back to Congress a comprehensive energy bill that would expand oil and gas drilling and encourage development of clean energy sources while rolling back some regulation on emissions that have contributed to a rise in energy prices in recent years. The bill probably is too broad and controversial to pass a bitterly divided Congress that has difficulty taking any decisive action. However, Duncan deserves a measure of credit for bringing forward genuine ideas to help improve the country's energy security in a time of transition between traditional energy sources and clean energy that is gaining favor but still is expensive to produce.

Post and Courier: New bridge: the bottom line

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131231/PC1002/131239923/1022/new-bridge-the-bottom-line>

Editorial

With \$3 million, the S.C. Department of Corrections could hire about 70 officers; a school district could hire 60 teachers; or the S.C. Department of Transportation could hire 50 engineers. So the idea that the powers that be are asking permission to spend \$3-\$4 million more than necessary to build a bridge over the Wando River should make the state's fiscally conservative congressmen take action. Opponents of the proposed 55-foot bridge on Highway 41 have asked Sen. Tim Scott, a hard-liner when it comes to spending, to intervene.

The State: And You Thought 2013 Was A Bad Year In Washington?

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

Cindi Ross Scoppe

With all the talk about what an awful year 2013 was in Washington - from the do-less-than-nothing Congress

to the meltdown of Obamacare - I've been trying to come up with something to celebrate closer to home. I've not been particularly successful. Oh, you could find a handful of accomplishments - if you have small hands. Topping the list: Two years after gambling interests convinced a few gullible judges that a law allowing McDonald's sweepstakes games also opened the door to slots and video poker, the Legislature finally rewrote it to make it extra clear that it doesn't make legal that which other laws make illegal.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Aiken Standard: Clyburn bill requires testing drivers who cause fatal accidents

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131231/AIK0101/131239942/1004/clyburn-bill-requires-testing-drivers-who-cause-fatal-accidents>

DeDe Biles

Drivers involved in fatal crashes in which people are killed or seriously injured would be scrutinized more closely under legislation proposed by a local lawmaker. S.C. Rep. Bill Clyburn, D-Aiken, is the sponsor of a bill that would require the operators of vehicles in such situations to be tested to determine if they were under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The testing would be conducted even if law enforcement officers did not suspect the drivers of being intoxicated. Clyburn pre-filed the legislation on Dec. 10, and it has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Stolen laptop held data of high-risk pool members

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=xSjec1r6

Seanna Adcox

A laptop stolen from an auditor's car contained the personal information of more than 3,400 members of a high-risk insurance pool set up in South Carolina for those unable to find coverage because of a medical condition, an attorney hired by the pool told The Associated Press on Monday. The password-protected laptop, stolen Oct. 16, contained names and Social Security numbers of 3,432 people who were part of the high-risk pool in 2011 and 2012, said Cynthia Hutto of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough. The Legislature created the South Carolina Health Insurance Pool in 1989.

The State: Notices About Stolen SC Insurance Data Sent 2 Months After Theft

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=0WNdc6YI

Andrew Shain

More than 3,400 customers who get health insurance through a South Carolina state-mandated program did not learn that a laptop containing their names and Social Security numbers was stolen until two months after the theft. The laptop was stolen Oct. 16 from the car of a private auditor hired to review S.C. Health Insurance Pool claims and payments, said Cynthia Hutto, a Charleston attorney hired to assist with the incident. The pool, run by insurers through the S.C. Department of Insurance, offers coverage to people who cannot get policies elsewhere.

Aiken Standard: S.C. Rep Smith won't run for re-election

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131231/AIK0101/131239957/1004/sc-rep-smith-wont-run-for-re-election>

Derrek Asberry

After 26 years of service, S.C. Rep. Roland Smith, R-Aiken, officially announced on Monday morning that he will not run for re-election. Smith said he will be retiring at the end of his 26th term. Soon to be 81 years old on Feb. 26, Smith had already made up his mind that he would not run for re-election; however, he wanted to announce it during the Jan. 13 Aiken County Legislative Delegation meeting. Monday's early announcement is due to several leaks about his retirement, Smith said.

Greenville News: Retailers, economists encouraged by holiday sales

http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013312310013&nclick_check=1

David Dykes

Retail anxiety over a slow start to a shorter holiday shopping period might prove unfounded, as sales appear likely to at least match last year's levels and next year could be even more promising, small-business owners and economists said Monday. Kelly Colacioppo, owner of Cook's Station on Main Street in downtown Greenville, said a slow start to Christmas shopping this year had her worried. "I really thought that I was doomed," she said.

Greenville News: Success finding health insurance for children earns SC \$17.5M bonus

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013312300099>

Mary Orndorff Troyan

South Carolina's success in finding health insurance for more children has earned the state a \$17.5 million bonus, the federal government said Monday. "States are working hard to ensure children get access to the health coverage they need," said Marilyn Tavenner, administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. "We are pleased to provide financial support to reward states that are reducing enrollment barriers and are connecting kids to coverage."

Post and Courier: MUSC files lawsuit against prescription drug giant for patent infringement

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131230/PC16/131239939/1006/musc-files-lawsuit-against-prescription-drug-giant-for-patent-infringement>

Lauren Sausser

The Medical University of South Carolina is taking on a drug manufacturing giant in a federal lawsuit that alleges the company is ripping off an MUSC scientist's intellectual property. MUSC's Foundation for Research Development and Charleston Medical Therapeutics filed the suit in federal court in mid-December against the Delaware-based AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals for patent infringement. The plaintiffs argue in court papers that AstraZeneca should not be allowed to market and sell Crestor as a medication to treat patients with vascular inflammation without a history or risk of cardiovascular disease or stroke.

Associated Press: Boeing says union vote will decide fate of jobs

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/viewart/20131231/BUSINESS/312310015/Boeing-says-union-vote-will-decide-fate-jobs>

Mike Baker

Boeing Co. told political leaders in the Seattle area on Monday that this week's vote by Machinists will determine the fate of some jobs on the new 777X airplane. Local politicians gathered at a press conference in Everett to discuss the importance of approving the revised contract offer. They said Boeing executive Ray Conner told them earlier in the day that an accepted contract will ensure that work on the airplane's wing stays in the Puget Sound area, but a vote to reject the deal will ensure the jobs go elsewhere.

South Carolina Population Increases:

The State: Census: SC's Growth The 11th Fastest In The Country

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=P0fxC9pX

Jamie Self

South Carolina has the 11th-fastest-growing population of any state, growing faster than the nation as a whole and exceeding state forecasters' expectations. South Carolina had 4,774,839 residents on July 1, according to U.S. Census data released Monday. That's an increase of 51,422, or 1.1 percent, from July 1, 2012. That increase suggests that South Carolina is on track to surpass a projection by the S.C. Office of Research and Statistics that the state population will reach 4.8 million in 2015, said Mike MacFarlane, state demographer.

Associated Press: NC, SC populations keep growing

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=083Ur33W

North Carolina and South Carolina keep growing at a strong clip. The U.S. Census Bureau announced Monday its national and state-by-state population estimates. It projected North Carolina's population at nearly 9.85 million people as of July 1. That's an increase of almost 100,000 people compared to July 2012. North Carolina is still ranked 10th highest among the states in population - ahead of New Jersey at No. 11 and just behind Michigan at No. 9.

Post and Courier: South Carolina aiming for 23rd most populous state as growth continues

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131230/PC16/131239973/1006/south-carolinas-population-growth-continues>

David Slade

Propelled by population growth in the greater Charleston area, South Carolina has been one of the faster-growing states in the nation since the 2010 Census, and new estimates suggest the pace is picking up. The Census Bureau released new estimates Monday that put South Carolina at No. 11 for population growth from July 2012 to July 2013. If it weren't for fracking, the Palmetto State would have made the top 10.

Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, created a natural gas extraction boom that sent North Dakota to the top of the charts for both population and income gains during the past several years.

Local News:

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Downtown Spartanburg welcomes 24 new businesses during busy 2013
<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20131230/ARTICLES/131239970/1112?Title=Downtown-welcomes-24-new-businesses-during-busy-2013>

Lynne Shackelford

Downtown Spartanburg experienced a banner year with 24 new businesses opening here, and even more investment is expected in 2014. The city center is now home to more restaurants like Wild Ace Pizza and Pub, the Back Porch and CrockPot Cafe and retailers such as Herb & Renewal, The Greene Canary, The Local Hiker and Haute Mama. This year, downtown also became a hotbed for web-based enterprises such as the Iron Yard, the web-design firm A-LINE Interactive and Katalyst, IT network support services.

Post and Courier: Third-grader Ethen Richardson gets wish of seeing NYC, will appear on national TV
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131230/PC16/131239944/1006/local-third-grader-gets-wish-of-seeing-nyc-will-appear-on-national-tv>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

Just before the ball drops tonight, a local 8-year-old fighting brain cancer will step into Times Square to appear live on national TV while living his dream of visiting the Big Apple. Ethen Richardson and his family will join hosts Elisabeth Hasselbeck and Bill Hemmer on Fox News for its live New Year's Eve coverage. The Mount Pleasant residents will appear at 10 p.m. Ethen, a smiley third-grader with sky blue eyes and mopy brown hair, was diagnosed in July with Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma.

Aiken Standard: Green looking forward to Board vice chairman role
<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131231/AIK0101/131239948/1007/AIK0101/green-looking-forward-to-board-vice-chairman-role>

Rob Novit

Levi Green, recently selected by the Aiken County Board of Education as the new vice chairman, actually goes back more than 30 years as a school district volunteer. Prior to his Board election in 2006, Green spent 27 years with the Area 5 Advisory Council, most of it as chairman. As the Aiken County Board's vice chairman, Green is succeeding Ray Fleming, who did not seek another term in that position. "It's a humbling experience that the Board members felt confidence in me," Green said. "I'll have big shoes to fill, as Ray has a done a wonderful job."

Sun News: Myrtle Beach police honor fallen officer, dedicate new memorial
<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2013/12/30/3931311/myrtle-beach-police-honor-fallen.html#storylink=cpy>

Amanda Kelley

A Myrtle Beach police officer killed in the line of duty was remembered during an annual service Monday night at a new, expanded memorial site. Joe McGarry was shot and killed in 2002 while confronting a suspect outside a doughnut shop. Cpl. Mike Guthinger, who was with McGarry the night he died, said the day doesn't get any easier but is honored each year when a large crowd continues to gather to remember his friend.

National News:

Associated Press: Congress letting 55 tax breaks expire at year end
http://www.snow.com/news/politics/article_299e94d6-717b-11e3-8527-001a4bcf6878.html

In an almost annual ritual, Congress is letting a package of 55 popular tax breaks expire at the end of the year, creating uncertainty — once again — for millions of individuals and businesses. Lawmakers let these tax breaks lapse almost every year, even though they save businesses and individuals billions of dollars. And almost every year, Congress eventually renews them, retroactively, so taxpayers can claim them by the time they file their tax returns. No harm, no foul, right? After all, taxpayers filing returns in the spring won't be hurt because the tax breaks were in effect for 2013.

Associated Press: DIGITS: Looking back at 2013, by the numbers
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8kKXtARc

Jennifer Agiesta

About half of Americans expect 2014 to be a better year than 2013, according to the recent AP-Times Square New Year's Eve poll. And judging by the typical questions pollsters use to measure the public mood, it doesn't seem like it could be much worse. A look at how the public rated the nation's performance in 2013: Whether people think the nation is heading the right way or the wrong way is a basic measure of optimism that pollsters have used for decades to gauge the public mood. In AP-GfK polling this year, few thought the United States had found the right path.

Brian Symmes

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304

Cell: (803) 673-9437