

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

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Coastal Observer: Schools: Charter founder tells Haley funds needed for facilities

<http://www.coastalobserver.com/articles/2013/091213/5.html>

Charles Swenson

The biggest challenge facing charter schools is the lack of funding for facilities, the founder of Coastal Montessori Charter School told Gov. Nikki Haley last week. In the year since Coastal Montessori opened in a vacant wing at Waccamaw Middle School, Kristin Bohan has worked to get funds to build a permanent facility. She's now awaiting approval of environmental studies for a site at the Prince George property that the school hopes to buy from the USC Development Foundation. But that hinges on a loan from the federal Rural Development agency.

Note: Bohan was among a group of charter school leaders who met with the governor last week. "She was really interested in listening," Bohan said. Haley, who is up for re-election in 2014, has been meeting with a range of education groups to assemble a reform plan. She supports school choice plans that would allow public funds to follow students wherever they enroll. While those funds follow charter school students, the funds don't include money for transportation or buildings.

Daimler Vans Expanding Operations In Charleston County:

Post and Courier: Daimler Vans to expand operations in North Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130912/PC05/130919761/1177/daimler-vans-to-expand-in-north-charleston>

Warren L. Wise

Daimler Vans Manufacturing today announced that it will expand its existing facility in Charleston County in a \$4.6 million investment that will create at least 60 new jobs. "We are thrilled to grow our operations here in Charleston County," said Marco Wirtz, president and CEO of Daimler Vans Manufacturing. "South Carolina has provided our company with an excellent environment for doing business and a talented workforce. We appreciate all the support we've received from state and local officials."

Note: "Today's announcement by Daimler Vans Manufacturing is another indication that South Carolina is on the right track with its economic development efforts," Gov. Nikki Haley said. The governor met with the company in 2011 during a business development trip to Germany and has plans to meet again with company officials in the immediate future.

Greenville News: Daimler Vans to expand in Charleston, add 60 jobs

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130912/BUSINESS/309120045/Daimler-Vans-expand-Charleston-add-60-jobs>

Tim Smith

Daimler Vans Manufacturing today announced that it will expand its existing facility in Charleston County with an investment of more than \$4.6 million investment and at least 60 new jobs, according to Gov. Nikki Haley's office. Daimler distributes its vans from the facility to markets throughout North America. The company will make improvements to the building and changes to its current assembly line, according to Haley's office. The company expects to complete expansion by 2018.

Note: "Today's announcement by Daimler Vans Manufacturing is another indication that South Carolina is on the right track with its economic development efforts," Haley said. "We celebrate the company's decision to invest more than \$4.6 million and create 60 new jobs in Charleston County."

Times and Democrat: Daimler Vans manufacturing expanding in Charleston County

http://thetandd.com/business/daimler-vans-manufacturing-expanding-in-charleston-county/article_e5036a42-1bd3-11e3-891a-001a4bcf887a.html

Daimler Vans Manufacturing announced on Thursday that it will expand its existing facility in Charleston County. The more than \$4.6 million investment is expected to generate at least 60 new jobs. Daimler Vans Manufacturing will expand its existing van assembly plant in Charleston County, located at 8501 Palmetto Commerce Parkway. Daimler distributes its vans from the facility to markets throughout North America. The company will make improvements to the building and changes to its current assembly line. The company expects to complete expansion by 2018.

Note: "Today's announcement by Daimler Vans Manufacturing is another indication that South Carolina is on the right track with its economic development efforts. We celebrate the company's decision to invest more than \$4.6 million and create 60 new jobs in Charleston County," said Gov. Nikki Haley.

Manufacturing Business: Daimler Vans Manufacturing Expanding In S.C., Hiring 60

<http://www.mbtmag.com/news/2013/09/daimler-vans-manufacturing-expanding-sc-hiring-60>

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2014 Campaign Cycle News:

WPDE: Senator Sheheen talks small business success

http://www.carolinalive.com/news/story.aspx?id=945741#.UjIO3j_Nno5

Courtney Griffin

Lowering small business property tax, and making workforce training more available are two of the goals Senator Vincent Sheheen is working toward. "I know what it's like to meet a payroll, I know what it's like to pay that high level of property taxation; to make sure that we're there to help the small business people, not be a hindrance to job growth," said South Carolina Senator Vincent Sheheen, (D) District 27.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Faculty: Select academic for Charleston president

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

Faculty members at the College of Charleston say they want a leader experienced in higher education to serve as the next president of the school. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports (<http://bit.ly/14GtClf>) that faculty are concerned after several political names have been mentioned as possible successors to George Benson, who is stepping down next year after six years as president. The faculty senate this week passed a resolution calling on the board of trustees to conduct a nationwide search and select someone knowledgeable and experienced in higher education. Former first lady Jenny Sanford has said she is interested in the job. The names of Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell and Charleston state Rep. Chip Limehouse have also been mentioned.

Associated Press: SC in another contract dispute on overdue system

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=f5FAELVp

South Carolina still lacks a computer system for tracking deadbeat parents, 16 years after missing a federal deadline, as contract disputes continue and federal fines exceed \$100 million. The state has canceled its contract with Hewlett Packard and wants the company barred from winning future state contracts. HP argues the delays are due to the state's mismanagement, The Greenville News reported (<http://grnol.co/1b9A8Js>). "Time and time again, the state changed its mind with regard to the type of system it wanted, pulling the rug out from under (HP) as it tried to accommodate shifting demands and moving targets," the company responded in documents filed with the state's procurement office.

Associated Press: Group sues over SC public school event at chapel

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

Meg Kinnard

A lawsuit filed Wednesday by a humanist group seeks to stop a Greenville County public school from holding its 5th-grade graduation ceremonies at a Christian university. In the complaint, filed in federal court in Greenville, the American Humanist Association seeks to stop Mountain View Elementary School from

holding future ceremonies in a chapel on the campus of North Greenville University, which is affiliated with the South Carolina Baptist Convention. The suit against the Greenville County School District, its superintendent and the elementary school's principal also seeks to stop school-sponsored prayers at future events.

Greenville News: Public school graduation at Christian university's chapel faces court challenge
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130912/NEWS06/309120044/Public-school-graduation-Christian-university-s-chapel-faces-court-challenge>

David Dykes

The American Humanist Association has sued the Greenville County School District to stop a Taylors elementary school from holding its fifth-grade graduation ceremonies at North Greenville University, a Christian college. The suit filed in U.S. District Court in Greenville alleges that those events violate the constitutional principle of separation of church and state. The Mountain View Elementary School graduation was held May 30 at North Greenville University, which is affiliated with the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

Times and Democrat: Former SCSU president to lead White House Initiative on HBCUs
http://thetandd.com/news/former-scsu-president-to-lead-white-house-initiative-on-hbcus/article_b2781a38-1bc3-11e3-ba6f-001a4bcf887a.html

The Obama Administration announced today the new leadership team for the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Joining the HBCU Initiative as executive director is Dr. George Cooper with Dr. Ivory Toldson serving as the deputy director. As part of the leadership team for the White House Initiative on HBCUs, both Cooper and Toldson will work with the presidentially appointed HBCU Board of Advisors and assist Secretary Arne Duncan as a liaison between the executive branch and HBCUs across the country. Cooper and Toldson will serve as the constant voice of the HBCU community at the Department of Education and help to shape policy and deploy resources to better serve the students, faculty and families of the greater HBCU community. They will also work with 32 federal agencies that support HBCUs through federal grants and contracts.

Greenville News: S.C. could save millions in crime costs by increasing graduation rate, report finds
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130912/NEWS06/309120046/S-C-could-save-millions-crime-costs-by-increasing-graduation-rate-report-finds>

Tim Smith

South Carolina could save as much as \$431 million in annual crime costs if its high school male graduation rate increased by at least 5 percentage points, a new report released today from the Alliance for Excellent Education has found. The Alliance, a national policy and advocacy group, calculated that the savings nationally could total \$18.5 billion if graduation rates increased. The report, "Saving Futures, Saving Dollars: The Impact of Education on Crime Reduction and Earnings," looked at the link between lower levels of educational attainment and higher rates of arrests and incarceration. Support for the report, the group said, was provided in part by State Farm® as part of a series of documents that demonstrates the economic benefits from improving high school graduation rates.

The State: Health-plan data shared for 75 state benefits members
<http://www.thestate.com/2013/09/12/2975810/health-plan-info-shared-in-error.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

The names, addresses and health plan information for about 75 people who receive health benefits through the state accidentally were sent to 75 other people, officials with the state Public Employee Benefit Authority said. Coverage letters sent out last month included names, addresses, generic information about coverage plans, and a randomly generated Benefits Identification Number, said David Avant, director of the Public Employee Benefit Authority. The letters did not include social security numbers, medical histories or financial information, Avant said.

Associated Press: Judge tosses federal permit for SC cruise terminal
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=uZo3eUJZ

Bruce Smith

In a victory for environmental and preservation groups, a federal judge on Thursday tossed out a permit for a planned \$35 million South Carolina cruise terminal saying the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers did not adequately review the project's effects on the area. "I think you did an end run," U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel chastised attorneys representing the Corps. "You gave this permit a bum's rush." His decision to

send the permit back to the Corps for a more complete review came in a lawsuit seeking to invalidate the permit because the agency did not properly consider what problems the terminal possibly could bring to the environment and the city's historic district.

Associated Press: SRS contractor says it's laying off 465 people

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/09/12/2680343/srs-contractor-says-its-laying.html#storylink=cpy>

The contractor managing Savannah River Site's highly radioactive liquid waste is laying off 465 people. The interim president of Savannah River Remediation informed employees in a memo Thursday. Stuart MacVean says affected workers' last day will be Sept. 27. The contractor represents a team of companies that oversees the site's liquid waste, including clean-up efforts of underground tanks. Its workforce will shrink to about 1,700 employees. The director of South Carolina's environmental control agency calls the waste stored in the site's degrading tanks the state's single largest environmental threat. Catherine Templeton has warned the U.S. Energy Department the state will fully enforce its agreements on clean-up milestones she believes are threatened by federal budget proposals. They include \$154 million in fines if a waste processing facility doesn't open in 2015.

Local News:

Associated Press: Columbia City Council Reverses Itself, Votes To Put Strong Mayor Question On Ballot

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=7qKuxoEc

Clif LeBlanc

Columbia City Council's most senior member on Wednesday reversed himself and cleared the way for a historic referendum to allow residents to decide on Nov. 5 whether to approve a strong-mayor form of government. Council must vote a second time to finalize Wednesday's razor-thin decision – which flips by a similar one-vote margin two previous votes by council within the past 18 months that defeated a referendum. The final, binding vote is scheduled for Wednesday of next week and the wording of the ordinance approved tentatively after nearly two hours of heated debate could change.

The State: Tonight's Forum At Richland County Library Deals With Affordable Care Act

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=RXiXM8hP

Joey Holleman

An Affordable Care Act Forum is scheduled 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday in the Bostick Auditorium of Richland Library Main, 1431 Assembly St. Panelists for the forum include Patrick Cobb of AARP of South Carolina; Sue Berkowitz of Appleseed Legal Justice Center; York Glover of Eau Claire Cooperative Health Centers; and Wanda Pearson of The Cooperative Ministry. The forum will feature an overview of the Affordable Care Act and the open enrollment for the Health Insurance Marketplace that begins Oct. 1. The panelists also will answer questions from the audience.

Associated Press: Lt. Dan Weekend set on new stage in new city

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/09/12/2974375/lt-dan-weekend-set-on-new-stage.html#storylink=cpy>

Bruce Smith

The annual Lt. Dan Weekend is being held in a new city with a new concert venue and a new sponsor. What is not new this week is the purpose and the headliner, actor-musician Gary Sinise and his Lt. Dan Band. This weekend's events, being held for the first time in Charleston, mark the fourth straight year Sinise performs to raise money and show support for wounded vets. Until now, the concert sponsored by the nonprofit Independence Fund, was held in nearby Beaufort. Sinise played Lt. Dan in the 1994 film "Forrest Gump," filmed in part in South Carolina. This weekend is one of about 50 concerts his band plays yearly in support of America's troops and veterans.

National News:

Associated Press: Exchanges create confusion for Medicare recipients

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=b00YJL5G

Kelli Kennedy

Dear seniors, your Medicare benefits aren't changing under the Affordable Care Act. That's the message federal health officials are trying to get out to some older consumers confused by overlapping enrollment periods for Medicare and so-called "Obamacare." Medicare beneficiaries don't have to do anything differently and will continue to go to Medicare.gov to sign up for plans. But advocates say many have been confused by a massive media blitz directing consumers to new online insurance exchanges set up as part of

the federal health law. Many of the same insurance companies are offering coverage for Medicare and the exchanges.

Associated Press: Kerry testing Russia on Syria weapons

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/09/12/2679298/kerry-set-to-test-russia-on-syria.html>

Matthew Lee

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and his team opened two days of meetings with their Russian counterparts on Thursday, hoping to emerge with the outlines of a plan for the complex task of safely securing and destroying vast stockpiles of Syrian chemical weapons in the midst of a brutal and unpredictable conflict. President Barack Obama, meeting with his Cabinet in Washington, said he was hopeful the talks would produce "a concrete result," adding that Kerry "is going to be working very hard over the next several days to see what possibilities are there." Russian President Vladimir Putin, for his part, held out the effort as "a new opportunity to avoid military action" by the U.S. against Syria.

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