

From: Symmes, Brian
To:
Date: 12/26/2013 10:18:19 AM
Subject: Clips - Thursday, December 26, 2013

Clips – Thursday, December 26, 2013

S.C. Political News:

Anderson Independent: 2014 will be year for politics in S.C.

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/dec/25/2014-will-be-year-for-politics-in-sc/>

Kirk Brown

Some of the state's best-known and most ambitious politicians spent 2013 laying the groundwork for what promises to be a banner year for politics in South Carolina. South Carolina voters will elect a governor and two U.S. senators in 2014, along with the usual cast of House of Representatives elections. In Anderson County, the political year will kick off in Belton, where voters will choose a mayor and two city council members in February.

Note: In her bid for a second term, Haley is pitted in a rematch against Democratic state Sen. Vincent Sheheen of Kershaw. She defeated him in 2010 by a margin of 4.5 percent of the vote.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

The State (Guest Column): Columbia's Famously Hot New Year Celebrates A New Year And A Dynamic City

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

Mayor Steve Benjamin

On Tuesday, Columbia will once again host one of the largest and best New Year's Eve celebrations in the Southeast - Famously Hot New Year. This is the third annual FHNY event, and it's going to be better than ever. Legendary band Kool & the Gang will give a free concert in front of the State House, as will up-and-coming blues-hop and soul singer ZZ Ward and Columbia favorite Weaving the Fate. FHNY will also offer great food and drink, midnight fireworks (the largest New Year's display in the Carolinas), and much more. Best of all, general admission to the event is free.

Greenville News: Rules needed for septic systems

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013312260001>

Editorial

South Carolina's waterways are being threatened as residential growth continues to feed a proliferation of septic systems in the state. Those systems frequently are not properly maintained, and they leak and send sewage into the soil and water. This state has about 1 million septic tanks, according to a recent report by Greenville News staff writer Nathaniel Cary. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 10 percent of septic systems fail in any given year. In South Carolina, that means that 100,000 septic systems — every year — are failing. In a state that has more than 1,000 waterways designated as impaired, this is a significant worry.

South Carolina News:

Aiken Standard: How the Department of Juvenile Justice works

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131226/AIK0102/131229656/1007/AIK0101/how-the-department-of-juvenile-justice-works>

Teddy Kulmala

Flanked by the S.C. Department of Corrections, the state Law Enforcement Division and the Criminal Justice Academy, the Department of Juvenile Justice looks much like the other law enforcement facilities along Broad River Road in Columbia; however, the department exists far beyond the "other side of the fence," as it is called by those within the department. The main campus in Columbia used to house more than 1,000 juveniles and now houses about 100 – sometimes even less than that, according to director Margaret Barber.

Post and Courier: Flood insurance reform spurs storm of real estate worries

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131225/PC16/131229681/1177/flood-insurance-reform-spurs-storm-of-real-estate-worries>

Prentiss Findlay

Hal Jones thought he could sell his aunt and uncle's house to settle their estate, but now he's not so sure. "I'm very upset and frustrated about the whole thing," he said. Jones said he lost a \$420,000 sales contract on the home because of a steep price hike for federal flood insurance. Before Oct. 1, Jones paid about \$1,000 per year for flood protection of the property on Oak Island near Folly Beach. Now, estimates for flood coverage range from \$12,000 to \$18,000 because of the newly implemented Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act.

The State: Duke Urged To Develop Massive Solar Farm

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Ayla3qKA

Sammy Fretwell

Renewable power boosters are pushing Duke Energy to build what could become the country's largest solar farm in a rural corner of the Upstate. But the power company is cool to the idea, suggesting the scope of the project is unrealistic. The S.C. Coastal Conservation League and the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy recently asked the state Public Service Commission to require that Duke add up to 375 megawatts of solar capacity as it develops a new natural gas plant in Anderson County.

Associated Press: Groups urge Duke Energy to develop solar power

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

Two environmental groups are urging Duke Energy to develop a solar farm in Anderson County. The State newspaper reported (<http://bit.ly/19qR2nv>) that the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League and the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy have asked regulators to order Duke to produce up to 375 megawatts of solar energy capability. Duke is building a natural gas plant in Anderson County. Duke's response with the Public Service Commission says it would need more than 2,600 acres for a solar farm to generate as much electricity as the groups propose.

Associated Press: Aiken will now release juvenile crime records

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8XqK7sme

Aiken's city manager says police made a mistake by refusing to release any details to the public about crimes involving juveniles. The Aiken Department of Public Safety initially refused to release information about a possible sexual assault at a middle school, saying the agency needed confirmation from state officials that releasing any details wouldn't break state law. But City Manager Richard Pearce told the Aiken Standard (<http://bit.ly/18LpAjO>) that the city realizes that position was wrong.

Local News:

Florence Morning News: 2013: Pee Dee business news a mix of good, bad

http://www.snow.com/news/business/article_49c3b8bc-6e2f-11e3-8977-0019bb30f31a.html

John D. Russell

The business climate in the Pee Dee saw its share of ups and downs in 2013 with major development announcements and expansions, as well as layoffs. Florence downtown revitalization seemed to give residents much to see, though, as its momentum gained speed. Several development announcements and developments up and running are evidence that downtown is changing in a big way. In 2014, the forecast calls for more growth as the announcements keep coming from developers taking on new projects.

National News:

Associated Press: Health care tactics split Republican Senate rivals

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6VNyQCjC

Bill Barrow

Most Republicans agree the unwieldy health care overhaul offers a golden opportunity for the GOP in the 2014 midterm elections. What they don't agree on is what tactics to use in opposing that unpopular law. In a number of Senate primaries, conservatives are arguing over the best way to oppose President Barack Obama's signature accomplishment. The outcome of those campaigns could affect the battle over which party controls the Senate. In intraparty skirmishes from Georgia to Nebraska, the GOP's most strident

candidates and activists are insisting on a no-holds-barred approach.

Associated Press: Weekly US jobless claims drop 42K to 338K

http://www.scnw.com/news/business/article_1fa44fbc-6e37-11e3-bb25-0019bb30f31a.html

Paul Wiseman

The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits dropped by 42,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 338,000, the biggest drop since November 2012. But economists say the figures from late November and December are warped by seasonal volatility around the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays. The Labor Department reported Thursday that the less-volatile four-week average rose 4,250 to 348,000. Claims had jumped 75,000 over the two weeks that ended Dec. 14 before plunging last week.

Associated Press: Health care divides some Republican Senate rivals

http://www.scnw.com/news/politics/article_46ef3930-6d81-11e3-ac3f-0019bb30f31a.html

Republicans see the 2014 midterm elections as a chance to capitalize on voter frustration with the problem-plagued health care overhaul, but the GOP first must settle a slate of Senate primaries where conservatives are arguing over the best way to oppose President Barack Obama's signature law. In intraparty skirmishes from Georgia to Nebraska, the GOP's most strident candidates and activists are insisting on a no-holds-barred approach. They accuse fellow Republicans — including several incumbent senators — of being too soft in their opposition to the Affordable Care Act and to the president in general.

Brian Symmes

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304

Cell: (803) 673-9437