

From: Symmes, Brian
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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Aiken Standard: Sen. Young urges residents to take action to avoid budget crisis

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131215/AIK0101/131219634/1004/sen-young-urges-residents-to-take-action-to-avoid-budget-crisis>

Derrek Asberry

S.C. Sen. Tom Young, R-Aiken, is encouraging residents to call members of their Congressional delegation and express their concerns over the Savannah River Site budget crisis. In a newsletter released last week, Young explained how Environmental Management projects – which include waste cleanup – are only funded through Jan. 15. After that, SRS will be vying for a full budget or a continuing resolution that will provide adequate funding. Young added that legislators are working on securing a budget; however, local residents can stress what they want by contacting them.

Note: He also noted that legislators on all levels are fighting for SRS funding. He referenced a Dec. 6 Aiken Standard article in which Gov. Nikki Haley spoke about her conversation with DOE Secretary Ernest Moniz about SRS funding.

Times and Democrat: Boeing is major factor in Haley, S.C. flying high

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/editorial/boeing-is-major-factor-in-haley-s-c-flying-high/article_a8a36646-648b-11e3-bc28-001a4bcf887a.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: More growth from airplane maker; OUR OPINION: Research jobs add to Boeing footprint and Haley development track record. Boeing added to a really good week for Gov. Nikki Haley and South Carolina when on Thursday it announced the shifting hundreds of jobs to South Carolina as part of the restructuring of its U.S. research operations over the next two years. Just the day before, Haley and her development team trumpeted South Carolina manufacturing numbers. The governor said announcements by Belk Inc. and Flame Spray of a total \$41 million in investment and 215 jobs up the number of jobs created since she took office in January 2011 to 40,000. During the same time period, South Carolina has announced 301 projects statewide – 126 new facilities and 175 expansions.

The State: Huge potato farm sparks tensions on the Edisto River

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/14/3159222/whats-at-stake-huge-potato-farm.html#storylink=cpy>

Sammy Fretwell

Solitude enveloped Doug Busbee as his small boat sliced through the glassy, black water of a river he has loved since childhood. Aside from the low hum of the vessel's engine, Busbee heard only an occasional bird call or the gurgling current of the Edisto River's South Fork. But as he maneuvered the boat around a bend in the stream, the grinding noise of heavy equipment drifted upriver. Soon, he found the source: a clearing in the hardwood forest where a Michigan agribusiness is preparing land for what's expected to be the largest potato farm ever in South Carolina.

Note: George Young, a 56-year-old Edisto basin landowner who accompanied Busbee down the South Fork last week, said he recently wrote Gov. Nikki Haley asking for help to stop the potato farm's water withdrawals.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Post and Courier: Gen. Zais right to end his tenure as education chief

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131215/PC1610/131219679/1177/gen-zais-right-to-end-his-tenure-as-education-chief>

Melanie Balog

After the November 2014 election, South Carolina won't have Mick Zais to kick around anymore. As he said

in a news release Friday, the state education superintendent decided he wants to spend more time with his family. And he will not seek re-election next year. Though he said he planned on running, maybe we should have seen this coming. For someone who's supposed to be improving the educational experience for our kids, some of the things coming out of his mouth sure didn't sound very education friendly.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Greenville News (Guest Column): Infrastructure investment will pay dividends

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013312150012>

Brian Gallagher

South Carolina has enjoyed considerable success in economic development. Recent announcements of capital investments and new jobs will have a positive impact on our local Upstate economy for years to come. An investment in infrastructure, particularly, roads and bridges, is vital to serve our existing businesses and residents, attract new companies, and support our manufacturing economic engine.

Note: In July, Gov. Nikki Haley signed a bill to spend close to \$1 billion over the next 10 years to repair the states roads.

Post and Courier: Local Boeing boom continues

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131215/PC1002/131219631/1021/local-boeing-boom-continues>

Editorial

Boeing made big news here and beyond when it announced in 2009 that it would build a 787 Dreamliner assembly plant in North Charleston. And on Friday, the good Boeing news for our community kept coming when the company announced that it will nearly triple its land holdings by that facility near Charleston International Airport. Jack Jones, vice president and general manager of Boeing South Carolina, stated the obvious by saying the \$49 million property purchase "makes future growth in North Charleston possible."

The State: Columbia Must Hire Top-notch Police Chief With Staying Power

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

Editorial

Hiring a capable, qualified police chief who can survive the rigors of Columbia city government for more than a year or two is the most significant task on the city's plate right now. People move to Columbia and agree to pay higher taxes in part for a higher level of police protection. But for years now, the Police Department has faced embarrassing scandals and a revolving door at the chief's office. The next chief will be the eighth since 2007. With communities from Five Points to North Columbia understandably demanding improved police protection amid rising gang violence and other safety concerns, it is imperative for city manager Teresa Wilson and the City Council to be on the same page.

Greenville News: City on right path to phone ban

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013312150013>

Editorial

The city of Greenville is taking the right approach as it investigates a proposed ordinance that would ban the use of handheld communications devices by drivers within the city limits. The idea began as a plan to ban texting within the city, but quickly became a broader approach to combat all forms of distracted driving involving mobile telephones. This is not a knee-jerk reaction. City Council and other city officials including the chief of police and the city attorney's office deserve credit for moving deliberately on this issue.

Florence Morning News: Time to lessen SC wait time for a divorce

http://www.scnow.com/opinion/editorials/article_6160b3e2-6503-11e3-a959-001a4bcf6878.html

Editorial

It is one of the most difficult matters a person might undertake. Country great Tammy Wynette couldn't even utter the word — though she was married five times. Divorce is an emotionally wrenching ordeal. There's no clean way around it. It rips through a family with the force of a twister and often tears the heart out of everyone it touches. Marriage, of course, has its roots in religious convention and is traditionally ordained by a higher power. Well, make that two higher powers. The state certifies a union.

Sun News: Righting a miscarriage of justice

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2013/12/14/3901867/editorial-righting-a-miscarriage.html>

Editorial

In today's culture, George Stinney's execution illustrates an egregious miscarriage of justice. The 14-year-

old died in South Carolina's electric chair in Columbia on June 16, 1944. Just over 5 feet tall, he sat on books in order for his head to reach the electrodes. He is considered the youngest person executed in the United States. The bodies of two girls, Betty June Binnicker, 11, and Mary Emma Thames, 7, were found on March 23, 1944, in the small town of Alcolu, about 100 miles west of Myrtle Beach. The victims were white; Stinney was black.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

The State: Sen. Tim Scott shares life turnaround story with youthful offenders

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/14/3158979/sen-tim-scott-shares-life-turnaround.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Tim Scott knew he could die one of two ways if he continued hanging out with a friend who dealt drugs when he was a teen growing up in North Charleston. "Either he was going to get me killed or she would kill me," the Republican U.S. senator said, referring to his disapproving mother during a speech Saturday to 50 youthful offenders in Columbia. Scott spent an hour sharing how he turned around his life with teens just entering the legal system at the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice's Midlands Evaluation Center in Columbia.

South Carolina News:

The State: The Buzz: Let us introduce Tim to Rick

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/14/3159812/the-buzz-let-us-introduce-tim.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Tim Scott, Rick Wade. Rick Wade, Tim Scott. Let The Buzz make some introductions here since Scott, the Republican U.S. senator from North Charleston, said Saturday that he has never met his new Democratic challenger. "I know nothing at all" about Wade, Scott said a day after the business consultant and former Obama campaign adviser entered the 2014 race.

S.C. leaders, let us know what you're doing: All nine of South Carolina's statewide-elected officers, including the governor, would have to tell the public about all their official activities under a bill that state Rep. Bakari Sellers, D-Bamberg, said he plans to introduce next year.

Rice's fight vs. the 'imperial presidency': U.S. Rep. Tom Rice wants Congress to sue the White House for overstepping its authority in what the freshman Republican from Myrtle Beach calls "the establishment of what is in effect an imperial presidency."

McKinney nabs Mulvaney: Charleston developer Pat McKinney nabbed his first endorsement from an elected official in his GOP bid for S.C. lieutenant governor next year.

Greenville News: Careers flower from STEM growth

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013312150014>

Ron Barnett

When Roland Stone finished his bachelor's degree in polymer and fiber chemistry at Clemson University in 2008, he looked around at the job market and didn't see much. It was the beginning of the Great Recession, and the future seemed uncertain for anybody starting a career. So he went back to school, and on Thursday, he will pick up his doctorate. It's a whole different world out there now, he says. During the years he was in the graduate program at Clemson's Advanced Materials Center, interest in science, technology, engineering and math careers took off.

Florence Morning News: Common Core opposition gears up for fight

http://www.scnow.com/news/education/article_88e6d726-650c-11e3-8d16-001a4bcf6878.html

Ellen Meder

Crusaders against Common Core Standards came to Florence this week to rally support during their tour of the state, which will culminate in what is poised to be a drag-out fight at the Statehouse during the second half of the legislative session next year. Grassroots groups are hoping to overthrow the set of educational goals and standards adopted in 2010 by South Carolina, and by 44 other states. It will be a fight about what's best for thousands of school children. It will be a fight about what overarching principals and minute details must be imparted to the next generation.

Florence Morning News: SC Help offers financial foreclosure assistance for those who qualify for it

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_261bbe76-651c-11e3-b720-001a4bcf6878.html

Gavin Jackson

More than half of the \$295 million in federal funds given to the state of South Carolina in 2010 by the U.S. Department of Treasury for foreclosure mitigation are still available for homeowners facing hardships and to prevent foreclosure. South Carolina is ranked fourth in the nation for home foreclosures, according by RealtyTrac. Though the foreclosure rates are falling, the nonprofit S.C. Housing Corp., a division of the State Housing Finance and Development Authority, created SC HELP to receive federal funds and work to change that ranking, director Clayton Ingram said.

Associated Press: Michelin recalls 1.2 million tires in US

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ioOr77dh

Tire-maker Michelin says it is recalling about 1.2 million tires sold in the U.S. because an increasing number are experiencing tread loss or rapid air loss. The tires are commonly used for pickup trucks, heavy-duty vans, small RVs and commercial light trucks. The Greenville, S.C.-based company says no deaths or injuries have been reported because of the tires. The tires, known as Michelin LTX M/S tires, were manufactured between January 2010 and June 2012. They were sold as original equipment on some vehicles and as new replacement tires.

Local News:

The State: A divided Columbia City Council pledges to do better job in wake of failed strong-mayor vote

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/14/3159581/a-divided-columbia-city-council.html#storylink=cpy>

Clif LeBlanc

The meeting began at 2:17 p.m. in the dog days of August as City Council tackled agendas that were packed with controversial, important issues that would unfold in front of jammed meeting rooms in North Columbia. By the time the workday ended at 3:30 a.m. Aug. 14, members had repeatedly exchanged cross words. Citizens waiting to address council complained aloud: "Bicker on your own time. This is our time." Public policy on homelessness emerged muddled after that 13-hour meeting drew to a close. Strong-mayor forces went into overdrive.

Post and Courier: Charleston County School District to pay \$96,800 in parking fees for two downtown schools' teachers

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131215/PC16/131219742/1177/charleston-county-school-district-to-pay-96800-in-parking-fees-for-two-downtown-schools-teachers>

Diette Courrage Casey

Computer teacher Pamela Rijo feels grateful that the Charleston County School District is picking up the tab this year for her parking garage fees. Rijo works at downtown Buist Academy, and when the district rebuilt the school, it did so on top of the school's former parking lot. That means teachers must park in nearby garages, and the county school board recently agreed to cover those costs.

The Item: City council to consider penny tax projects

http://www.theitem.com/news/local_news/city-council-to-consider-penny-tax-projects/article_900aaee8-2b4d-5fa7-8f18-7ed0646c9286.html?_dc=642081636004.1499

Bristow Marchant

One week after Sumter County Council met to discuss how to spend a proposed new penny sales tax, it's now city council's turn. Sumter City Council will hold a specially called meeting this week on potential projects to be funded over the next seven years by an extended capital sales tax. Council members will meet at 12:30 p.m. Monday on the first floor of the Sumter Opera House, 21 N. Main St. Before that discussion, council is scheduled to go into an executive session closed to the public to talk about "contractual matters," according to the agenda released to the media last week.

National News:

Associated Press: Budget deal may signal era of tiny achievements

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=0vAD2WDC

Charles Babington

People hoping for a government that works better can't decide whether to cheer or lament a bipartisan budget bill that legislative leaders call a breakthrough even as they acknowledge it does little. In an era of low expectations, House passage of the bill marks a rare cease-fire that should avoid a repeat of this fall's government shutdown and flirtation with default. Yet it comes nowhere near the more ambitious efforts to address long-term spending and debt. Such comprehensive plans repeatedly collapsed in recent years

despite secret White House talks, blue-ribbon panels, a congressional "supercommittee" and other devices and tactics.

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