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Subject: Clips – Sunday, January 26, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Rock Hill Herald: York County educators support Haley initiative

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/01/25/5613329/york-county-educators-support.html>

Rachel Southmayd

On a chilly Friday morning in a small classroom at Ebenezer Avenue Elementary School, a teacher sits and works one-on-one with a first-grader. The student is small, quiet and has a few front teeth missing, like many other first-graders. Teacher Andrea Zampetopoulos works with her students for 30 minutes, as she does every day. Together, they look at books, at letters, at sentences. They talk about stories and parts of a word and how it should sound when it's read aloud.

Associated Press: Bill begins dividing agency's duties in July

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

Seanna Adcox

A bill being talked about as the largest overhaul of state government in 20 years is on its way to desk of Gov. Nikki Haley, who praises the restructuring both she and her predecessor fought for as bringing South Carolina out of the dark ages. But explaining how taxpayers benefit won't be easy as she and her Democratic opponent tout its passage on the campaign trail.

Note: The bill's passage is a "win that will finally provide the people of this state with the efficient, cost effective, and forward looking government they deserve," said Haley spokesman Doug Mayer. "Gov. Haley has long maintained that government needs to run like a business and this is a major step in that direction."

Anderson Independent: Sen. Bryant says supporters exaggerated importance of government-restructuring bill

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/jan/25/sen-bryant-says-supporters-exaggerated-of-bill/?partner=RSS>

Kirk Brown

In a rare display of political unity, Republican Gov. Nikki Haley and her rival, Sen. Vincent Sheheen, both hailed last week's long-awaited passage of a state government restructuring bill. The legislation creates a Department of Administration in the executive branch that will oversee bureaucratic functions such as fleet management and human resources.

Note: In her State of the State address Wednesday night, Haley described the measure as the "biggest and most important piece of government reform South Carolina has seen in two decades."

The State: The Buzz: How Carroll Campbell became SC's Ronald Reagan

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/25/3227282/the-buzz-how-carroll-campbell.html>

Andrew Shain

The late Carroll Campbell has not been a regular in the S.C. State House for 19 years, but the name of the former governor echoed through its halls last week.

Are state smokers blowing smoke? South Carolina's state workers are either very healthy – or liars. That's according to officials at the Public Employee Benefit Authority, which oversees the state health plan that covers nearly 450,000 people.

Nikki Haley's small talk: Turns out Haley's State of the State address last week was not the shortest of her first term.

S.C. Political News:

The State: Toal-Pleicones SC Supreme Court race is fierce behind-the-scenes duel to career death

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/25/3227178/game-of-thrones-toal-pleicones.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

After the State House emptied out late last week, S.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Jean Toal huddled on a chair in the lobby with her chief vote-getting lieutenant, Rep. Jenny Horne, R-Dorchester. "No comment," they told a reporter when asked how many votes Toal had. Nearby, in the same lobby, Toal's rival for the chief justice post, Associate Justice Costa Pleicones, stood contacting supporters on his cellphone.

The State: Divorce documents reveal problems with Hilton Head representative Patrick's finances

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/25/3227545/divorce-documents-reveal-problems.html#storylink=cpy>

A divorce case involving Hilton Head island Rep. Andy Patrick paints a picture of a politician who spent beyond his means, whose four children are on food stamps and Medicaid, and who now lives outside of his district in a fellow legislator's guest house. Patrick, who recently announced he is running for state superintendent of education, also figures in a lawsuit that alleges he took for himself money that a relative intended to be used for a down payment on a home in Spanish Wells for Patrick and his wife, Amee.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

The State: Scoppe: 'Reform in name only?' Hardly. SC Legislature passed real reform this week

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/26/3225392/scoppe-reform-in-name-only-hardly.html>

Cindi Scoppe

Two years after Gov. Mark Sanford renewed the decade-abandoned idea of abolishing the governor-emasculating Budget and Control Board, Ways and Means Chairman Dan Cooper introduced, and the House quickly passed, legislation that turned the board's important duties over to a new Department of Administration, allowing governors to control central administrative functions of the government. But it is a huge step forward, and Gov. Haley deserves a great deal of credit for building public support for it

Greenville News: Unwieldy state board finally gone

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014301260015&gcheck=1>

Editorial

Step by incremental step the state of South Carolina is edging toward a structure of government that gives needed accountability to its elected executive officer. The latest and most significant step is a bill that does away with the antiquated and unwieldy Budget and Control Board and puts some of the broad authority it had into a Department of Administration that is part of the executive branch. In her State of the State address on Wednesday night, Gov. Nikki Haley appropriately praised the reforms.

Note: "The Budget and Control Board — what I call the big, green, ugly monster — is dead, and with it the legacy of a backwards administrative government that was as wasteful as it was clumsy, as inefficient as it was embarrassing. We are a better state today. We will be a better state tomorrow."

Rock Hill Herald: Finally, S.C. restructures its government

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/01/25/5613509/sc-finally-restructures-its-government.html>

Editorial

State lawmakers chose a good way to start the new legislative session: passing a bill that substantially restructures state government. The speed with which lawmakers passed the bill belies the fact that they have been debating it for at least a decade. Nonetheless, it stands as a major and necessary accomplishment. Passed unanimously in the House and by a margin of 39-4 in the Senate, the bill creates a state Department of Administration that reports directly to the governor.

Index-Journal: Bars, restaurants, guns: Sounds like a bad combo

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/Opinion/Opinion/Article/Bars--restaurants--guns--Sounds-like-a-bad-combo/8/154/23248>

Editorial

We are not fans of editorials that essentially don't take a side on an issue. Providing readers a series of pros and cons without ever taking a stance on the matter serves little purpose. And so it goes, we find ourselves conflicted about a particular piece of legislation that appears to be headed to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk, where it will likely be signed into state law. That legislation will allow people who have concealed-weapons permits to carry their weapons into bars and restaurants that serve alcohol.

The State: Columbia officials obligated to negotiate best deal possible on proposed baseball park

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/25/3225402/editorial-columbia-officials-obligated.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

While we maintain that the city of Columbia shouldn't be the primary funder of a minor-league baseball park, City Council seems determined to construct a publicly owned stadium. On Tuesday, the body voted 5-2 (council members Leona Plough and Moe Baddourah voted in opposition) to open formal negotiations with a minor-league-team owner to build a ballpark on the old State Hospital site on Bull Street, where a large mixed-use development is planned.

Florence Morning News: Gov Haley showing SC a new side of her

http://www.scnow.com/opinion/article_819fd6e2-860a-11e3-b04c-001a4bcf6878.html

Editorial

Gov. Nikki Haley told us last week that South Carolina is "just getting started." So, too, is her re-election campaign. There was one minor development that could be deemed a surprise to some people, although it is one that has been some time coming. The 2014 version of Haley is sounding less and less like the one that rode the tea party wave to the governor's mansion in 2010.

Legislative Session News:

Aiken Standard: School Board seeking sales tax option with legislators' help

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140126/AIK0101/140129568/school-board-seeking-sales-tax-option-with-legislators-help>

Rob Novit

Aiken County Board of Education members are working hard to give county residents the opportunity next fall to vote in support of a penny sales tax referendum. A new one-cent sales tax could provide funds for the construction of new schools or for additions to existing schools, they say. At a meeting with the Aiken County Legislative Delegation earlier this month, School Board Chairman Rosemary English addressed the School District's needs.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Greenville News: Same goal, 2 messages: Graham's 'establishment' record countered by Scott's tea party votes

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140125/NEWS09/301250032/Same-goal-2-messages-Graham-s-establishment-record-countered-by-Scott-s-tea-party-votes>

Rudolph Bell

You know it's an unusual election year when both of South Carolina's U.S. senators find themselves bumping into each other on the campaign trail. Normally, a state's two senators wouldn't be in campaign mode at the same time. But they are this year in South Carolina because Sen. Tim Scott was appointed to the job last year by Gov. Nikki Haley after former Sen. Jim DeMint resigned part of the way into his second term.

Post and Courier: Graham calls for GOP embrace of Reagan conservatism

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140125/PC16/140129540/1006/>

Prentiss Findlay

The Republican Party has a great opportunity to re-gain control of the country, but it must seize the day, U. S. Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina said Saturday night. The GOP is poised to win back a majority in the Senate and keep its advantage in the House in Congressional elections this fall, Graham said. He delivered the keynote address at The Citadel Republican Society's annual Patriot Dinner, where he received the 2014 Nathan Hale Patriot Award.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Other states' population losses fuel S.C. growth

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140125/PC16/140129562/1006/>

David Slade

People who relocated to the Palmetto State accounted for two-thirds of the state's population growth since 2010, giving South Carolina one of the nation's faster growth rates, new Census Bureau estimates show. The state's ability to attract residents from other states and nations helped give South Carolina the nation's 11th-fastest growth rate in 2013, and the 11th-highest number of new residents in any state that year.

Associated Press: Big SC potato farm's water demand hits nerve

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=0OvoH205

Farmers and their neighbors opposing a massive potato farm that would draw billions of gallons of water from the Edisto River are feeling under attack as South Carolina's most powerful agriculture lobby blasts what it calls "radical environmentalists." The South Carolina Farm Bureau this week launched a website and media campaign that blames "extremists" for unfairly targeting Walther Farms, a Michigan potato corporation with operations across the country, The State of Columbia reported (<http://bit.ly/1iy00IY>).

The State: Generational shift approaching for nuclear power in SC

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/25/3227087/generational-shift-approaching.html#storylink=cpy>

Roddie Burris

In 2009, fresh out of college with a civil engineering degree from Clemson University, 26-year-old Findlay Salter was driving a forklift at a Lowe's store in the wake of the worst recession in a lifetime. While growing up in Irmo, Salter said, he had never heard of the V.C. Summer nuclear plant in Jenkinsville, 30 minutes outside Columbia.

Index-Journal: Report: De la Howe expenditure excessive

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/News/News/Article/Report--De-la-Howe-expenditure-excessive/4/40/23255>

Kate Hruby

State Inspector General (SIG) Patrick J. Maley published his review of the management of John de la Howe School on Friday. The review was conducted to "assess organizational effectiveness" at JDLH, a school for wayward youth in grades 6-12. Coincidentally, school president Thomas Mayer officially began his monthlong medical leave through the Family Medical Leave Act on Friday. Viola Faust, the school's chief financial officer, will serve as acting president in the interim.

Local News:

Florence Morning News: Williamsburg County to seek Public Safety Sales Tax legislation, referendum

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_4363b59e-8612-11e3-ab1b-001a4bcf6878.html

Christopher McKagen

Williamsburg County agencies, administration and county council will propose a plan to the county's state delegates seeking new legislation aimed at the implementation of a penny sales tax for use in a massive overhauling of the county's public safety capacities. The Public Safety Sales Tax initiative, headed up by Tiffany Cooks, director of the Williamsburg County Emergency Management Division, requires the state legislation to pass a Public Safety Sales Tax Act to allow the county to call for a referendum for a citizen vote on the issue.

Post and Courier: Charleston County School Board's failure to hold teacher hearings racks up \$150,000 bill for district

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140126/PC16/140129656/1389/charleston-county-school-boards-failure-to-hold-teacher-hearings-racks-up-150000-bill-for-district>

Diette Courrage Casey

The Charleston County School District has shelled out more than \$150,000 to pay eight teachers who haven't set foot in a classroom this year because their contracts were not renewed from the previous school year. The district decided in April 2013 to terminate a group of teachers for the 2013-14 school year, but state law gives them the right to appeal to the county school board.

The State: Richland's penny: Where does the citizen watchdog committee fit in?

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/25/3227272/richlands-penny-where-does-the.html#storylink=cpy>

Dawn Hinshaw

This summer, before work can get started on \$85 million in dirt-road paving and suburban resurfacing projects, Richland County Council has to decide which roads to do first. Will a citizen watchdog committee, appointed to monitor progress on the county's penny projects, have a voice in ranking the projects? "I've been very clear ... they don't," Councilman Jim Manning said recently.

Sun News: Experts expect a surge of new health care signups

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/01/25/3980768/experts-expect-a-surge-of-new.html#storylink=cpy>

Steve Jones

Only about 10 percent of the 11,000 uninsured patients at Little River Medical Center had signed up for

Obamacare as of last week, a figure that's in line with the turnout across South Carolina. But local and state officials involved in the effort are pleased with the results and are expecting a surge of new enrollees before March 31, the deadline for people to get health insurance through the Affordable Care Act until enrollment opens again next fall.

Post and Courier: 'Victory' for those seeking a better Hwy 41 bridge bike-pedestrian path
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140125/PC16/140129564/1006/victory-for-those-seeking-a-better-hwy-41-bridge-bike-pedestrian-path>

Robert Behre

Those pushing for a wider bike and pedestrian lane on the new S.C. Highway 41 bridge apparently will get their way. S.C. Department of Transportation Secretary Robert St. Onge recently emailed several Lowcountry officials and said the state can rework the design to remove two proposed 5.5 foot wide sidewalks in exchange for a 10-foot wide bike and pedestrian lane.

National News:

Associated Press: In address, Obama to focus on economic opportunity
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Igi173CR

Julie Pace

Struggling to generate second-term momentum, President Barack Obama will use Tuesday's State of the Union address to announce new executive actions on job training and retirement security, while prodding a divided Congress to work harder on expanding economic mobility for middle class Americans.

Associated Press: Republicans struggle in Georgia's Senate primary
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=OQoP2E6J

Bill Barrow

Seeking promotion to the U.S. Senate, Republican Rep. Jack Kingston avoids an explicit yes-or-no answer when asked by a voter if he considers himself a tea party candidate. Instead, the 11-term congressman offers the lunch crowd at a northeast Georgia community center a careful plea for a unified party that can sell limited-government arguments to a wider audience. Kingston doesn't mention any of his seven primary opponents. But the subtext is obvious in a field that includes Kingston's House colleagues Paul Broun and Phil Gingrey.

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