

From: Symmes, Brian
To:
Date: 1/9/2014 8:08:34 AM
Subject: Morning Clips - Thursday, January 9, 2014

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Governor Nikki Education Reform Initiative:

Anderson Independent: Haley lays out plan to boost education

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/jan/08/haley-lays-out-plan-to-boost-education/?partner=RSS>

Kirk Brown, Sarah Freishtat

Gov. Nikki Haley outlined a series of proposals Wednesday to bolster education for South Carolina's poorest students. Haley announced her initiative at a West Columbia elementary school after meeting with 16 groups ranging from teachers to lawmakers during the past year. In a conference call with journalists earlier Wednesday, the Republican governor recalled a meeting that she held with 50 teachers from throughout the state. She said she was taken aback by "how demoralized they were."

Note: "Providing every child in South Carolina with the same educational opportunities isn't just something we should talk about — it's something we should be actively fighting to achieve and that is what we are doing today," Haley said. "We are taking a stand against the idea that where you are born and raised should influence the quality of your education."

Associated Press: Haley's reform plan would spend more on poor kids

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=e2tHy3sB

Seanna Adcox

Gov. Nikki Haley on Wednesday announced an education plan that spends more money on poor children, focuses on reading in the early grades and improves technology in schools. Haley's proposal would spend more than \$160 million extra in the next fiscal year on public schools. The Republican governor said this must be the first of a multiyear effort to transform South Carolina's schools within the next decade.

Note: "Now my daughter goes to the fabulous River Bluff High School in Lexington where every classroom has a 72-inch TV and every child has an iPad. Yet, when I went back to Bamberg to give an anti-bullying speech, they didn't even have the equipment for me to play a video," she said. "That's immoral. That's wrong. We can't be OK with that. We can't say we're going to continue to educate children in South Carolina based on where they're born and raised."

The State: SC Gov. Haley proposes \$160 million in new school spending

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/08/3196391/politics-gov-nikki-haley-unveils.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

Gov. Nikki Haley wants the state to spend about \$160 million in mostly new money to educate students living in poverty, hire reading coaches and expand classroom technology. The first-term Lexington Republican unveiled the details of her long-anticipated education reform plan Wednesday at Brookland-Cayce Grammar 1 in West Columbia to a group of teachers, students, representatives of education advocacy groups, lawmakers, state Board of Education members and state schools Superintendent Mick Zais.

WJBF (Video): Gov. Haley Announces Education Plans

<http://www.wjbf.com/story/24400318/gov-haley-announces-education-plans>

Robert Kittle

Gov. Nikki Haley announced her plan Wednesday afternoon for changing South Carolina schools, including a new funding formula, more focus on reading in the early grades, and more technology in all schools. The biggest part of her plan would send \$97 million in additional money to high-poverty school districts.

Note: "20 percent more per student if they are in a poverty district," she says. "If they are free or reduced lunch or if they are on Medicaid, we're going to give 20 percent more per student." Schools would also get 20 percent more per student with low proficiency in English who require individualized instructional plans that include family involvement.

Note: When asked about that, Gov. Haley said, "You know, I can't talk about the 1970s. What I can talk

about is we increased the student base funding this year. We are adding to all of this. This is about being positive and going forward, saying that we have to do a multi-year commitment to education."

WSAV: Gov. Haley Announces Plan to Change SC Schools

<http://www.wsav.com/story/24400314/gov-haley-announces-plan-to-change-sc-schools>

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WPDE: Governor Haley's reform plan would spend more on poor children

<http://www.carolinalive.com/news/story.aspx?id=992202#.Us6eGPRDuSo>

Crystal Costa

Gov. Nikki Haley wants to improve education in South Carolina by spending more money on poor children, focusing on reading and improving technology. Haley announced her plans Wednesday at an elementary school in West Columbia. She says this needs to be the first year of a multi-year effort to transform South Carolina schools. The governor proposes spending an extra \$97 million on children who live in poverty, \$30 million to hire additional reading coaches in elementary schools and \$29 million to improve Internet capabilities in schools. Haley says her plan would simplify the state's complicated, piece-meal education funding formulas.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Rock Hill Herald: State's 4K program benefits thousands

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/01/08/5563219/states-4k-program-benefits-thousands.html>

Editorial

Ample evidence suggests that early childhood education not only helps at-risk children keep pace with their peers but also offers benefits that can last a lifetime. Republican Gov. Nikki Haley, who is seeking re-election, supported last year's expansion. However, she said Wednesday that she favors keeping the program at current levels rather than opening it up to all 4-year-olds. Haley will launch a package of educational reforms this week. Addressing educational inequality, especially in poor rural districts, will be a top priority. But her emphasis will be on K-12 rather than preschool education.

Aiken Standard: Increased teacher pay a smart idea for state

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140109/AIK0201/140109462/1018/AIK02/editorial-increased-teacher-pay-a-smart-idea-for-state>

Editorial

Teacher salaries in South Carolina need a boost, but it must be done in a fiscally responsible way. The average South Carolina teacher was paid \$48,375 at the end of the 2013 school, nearly \$7,000 less than the national average. A bill proposed by likely Democratic candidate for governor Vincent Sheheen will raise the salaries of public school teachers to thankfully match that level. That's where reforms introduced by S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley come into play. The governor outlined a comprehensive education reform package this week aimed at improving the classrooms across the state, but especially in rural communities.

Florence Morning News: Void left by the closing of Choices

http://www.scnow.com/opinion/article_43870008-78c0-11e3-b9fc-001a4bcf6878.html

Editorial

We were disappointed to hear this week about the closing of Choices Charter School in Florence. With low enrollment and even lower funding, the little rustic campus out by Interstate 95 will be no more by month's end. The idea behind Choices Charter School in Florence has undeniable appeal. Ralph Porter, the retired Florence police chief, started this school more than a decade ago, believing it was his calling. It was based on military-style discipline and accountability, offering a tough-love second (or third, or fourth) chance to kids who just couldn't seem to make it at "regular" school.

Post and Courier: Gates' revealing objections

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140109/PC1002/140109463/1022/gates-troubling-revelations>

Editorial

Robert Gates stepped down as Secretary of Defense on July 1, 2011, after four and a half widely praised years serving two presidents of opposing parties. As he tells it in a new memoir that is refreshingly and uncommonly blunt about his relations with the White House and Congress, he was, "in personal terms, treated better by the White House, Congress and the press for longer than almost anyone I could remember in a senior U.S. government job."

Times and Democrat: McConnell leaves leadership legacy akin to another era

http://thetandd.com/news/mcconnell-leaves-leadership-legacy-akin-to-another-era/article_893f9986-78af-11e3-aeef-0019bb2963f4.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Lieutenant governor's decision not to be candidate. **OUR OPINION:** McConnell passionate then and passionate now about leadership positions; It appears that Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell will be leaving South Carolina politics after a span of service rivaling politicians of a bygone era. When elected to the state Senate in 1980, McConnell entered an upper chamber in which there were very few Republicans and senior Democratic senators dominated the political landscape of the state beyond the upper chamber's walls.

Island Packet: Overhaul funding formula for S.C. universities, colleges

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/01/08/2882860/overhaul-funding-formula-for-sc.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

Blame state lawmakers for the University of South Carolina Beaufort receiving so little state funding. Economic downturns in the early 2000s and the subsequent Great Recession rattled the state's 33 colleges and universities that were dealt "across-the-board" state funding cuts by lawmakers. As the state has recovered from the financial crises, the General Assembly abandoned its long-relied-upon funding formula that objectively determined the amount of state funding each school should receive.

Greenville News: Furman exceeds campaign goal

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014301090007>

Editorial

Six years ago, when the country was in a relatively stable financial condition and the economic collapse was not even a nightmare, Furman University launched an ambitious fundraising campaign to raise \$400 million. This week Furman announced that it had ended its "Because Furman Matters" campaign on Dec. 31. Yes, school officials were pleased, and they should be. The campaign raised \$406 million, and it is the largest fundraising campaign ever among private colleges in South Carolina and among the largest by any of the country's liberal arts colleges, Furman officials said.

South Carolina News:

The State: Judge finds SC prison system violates rights, threatens lives of mentally ill prisoners

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/08/3195980/judge-finds-sc-prison-system-violates.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

The treatment given to S.C. prison inmates suffering serious mental illness is so substandard that it's unconstitutional and threatens the mental health of inmates, a state judge ruled Wednesday in a historic decision. The S.C. Department of Corrections intends to appeal the decision, the agency said late Wednesday. Mental health is not just a corrections problem, it's a national problem that all sectors of society are working to address, the agency said through a spokesman.

The State: SC senator wants to take nullification out of anti-Obamacare bill

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/08/3196736/sc-senator-wants-to-take-nullification.html#storylink=cpy>

Adam Beam

A Republican lawmaker says he plans to take the "nullification" out of the Obamacare nullification bill before the state Senate. The federal Affordable Care Act – also known as Obamacare – requires everyone to have health insurance or pay a federal tax. The state bill, H.3101, which will be before the state Senate when the Legislature reconvenes next week, would offer a state tax deduction to offset that federal tax, effectively removing the punishment for not following the law.

Greenville News: Small businesses thrive through connections with big corporations

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014301090019>

Angelia Davis

Estlean Cook's machine tooling company is thriving today, partly because she made a decision years ago to cater to larger corporations. Treblig Inc., which turned 30 in October, dealt with a lot of smaller businesses in its early years, Cook said, but the company also "hooked up with Michelin right away." "If we hadn't, we probably wouldn't have survived the first five years," said Cook, whose company's client list now includes Lockheed-Martin and "quite a few" larger companies in addition to Michelin.

Post and Courier: Solicitor: Targeting witnesses to kill cases 'a huge problem'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140108/PC16/140109467/1006/intimidating-the-witness-records-show-how-aiding-police-can-bring-violent-consequences>

Glenn Smith

After Thomas Shine spoke with Charleston police about the murder of a young woman, two drug dealers approached him with words of advice. One urged him not to testify in the case. The other offered cash in return for Shine clamming up. Shine, 21, refused the money. Shortly thereafter, he was gunned down at a housing complex in 2011.

Island Packet: Beaufort schools consider whether to continue using lobbyists for fair funding

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/01/08/2883878/beaufort-schools-considers-whether.html#storylink=cpy>

Sarah Bowman

The numbers speak for themselves, several local officials say. After three consecutive years of receiving no money from one of the state's primary education funding formulas, the Beaufort County School District has made gains, according to Phyllis White, district chief operational services officer. Some officials -- including County Council chairman Paul Sommerville and state Sen. Tom Davis -- believe the gains would not have happened without the lobbying work of The McNair Law Firm.

Seneca Journal: Local legislators say roads top priority for General Assembly

<https://upstatetoday.com/2014/01/local-legislators-say-roads-top-priority-for-general-assembly>

Normal Cannada

Addressing improvements in state roads and infrastructure is one of the most pressing needs for the South Carolina General Assembly as it begins its 2014 session next week. "It's still roads and bridges and providing funding," State Sen. Thomas Alexander, R-Walhalla, said after Monday's annual meeting of the Oconee County Legislative Delegation at Seneca City Hall. "As any citizen travels our roads on a day-in and day-out basis, they see the amount of work in infrastructure that needs to be done. We got a great first start last year but we've got so far to go in that area."

Associated Press: Ex-state Rep. Viers gets 60 days for harassment

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

Former state Rep. Thad Viers will spend 60 days in jail on weekends after acknowledging he harassed an ex-girlfriend who collected a three-ring binder with unwanted texts, emails and phone calls, authorities said. Viers, 35, pleaded guilty Wednesday to second-degree harassment. Prosecutors dropped a stalking charge as part of a plea deal. A first-degree burglary charge against Viers is dismissed for now, but prosecutors have the right to reinstate the charge if the Myrtle Beach Republican ever bothers the woman again.

Aiken Standard: SRS clean-up contractors receive 'excellent' ratings

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140109/AIK0101/140109450/1004/srs-clean-up-contractors-receive-excellent-ratings>

Derrek Asberry

The Savannah River Site's waste contractors both received "excellent" ratings on their Department of Energy performance fee evaluations for the last fiscal year. Savannah River Nuclear Solutions -- or SRNS -- received more than \$30 million out of a possible \$32 million in available fees from the Department of Energy for environmental management missions on Site. The amounts equals a 96 percent performance rating.

Local News:

The State: Owner guarantees team if city builds Bull Street stadium

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/08/3196797/exclusive-owner-guarantees-team.html#storylink=cpy>

Jeff Wilkinson

Jason Freier, owner of minor league baseball teams in Fort Wayne, Ind., and Savannah, on Wednesday guaranteed he would bring a team to Columbia if the city builds a new ballpark as part of the redevelopment

of the old State Hospital campus on Bull Street. It's not clear yet how the stadium would be funded, but Freier said he could build it about \$7 million cheaper than the projected \$42 million cost.

Anderson Independent: Legislators push to keep Belton DMV office open

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/jan/08/legislators-push-to-keep-belton-dmv-office-open/?partner=RSS>

Kirk Brown

Two Anderson County legislators are trying to put the brakes on a proposal to shut down the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles office in Belton. State Rep. Mike Gambrell and Sen. Billy O'Dell said they were notified earlier this month that DMV officials are considering closing their office on Oneal Street in Belton. Rumors about the closing have been circulating in Belton since last summer.

The Item: Prosecutors tell Tuomey it can afford to pay more

http://www.theitem.com/news/local_news/prosecutors-tell-tuomey-it-can-afford-to-pay-more/article_c315d464-7894-5b89-aec6-17b4d07cec11.html

Braden Bunch

Arguing Tuomey Healthcare System can pay far more than it's admitting, U.S. district attorneys on Wednesday requested the judge overseeing the federal lawsuit between the government and the local hospital order Tuomey place at least \$70 million in escrow if the hospital wants to continue appealing its case. Responding to Tuomey's request last month to Senior U.S. District Judge Margaret B. Seymour.

The State: Funds drying up to check for toxic leaks near Lake Marion

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/08/3196204/money-used-to-check-for-leaks.html#storylink=cpy>

Sammy Fretwell

The state is running out of money to prevent leaks from a closed toxic waste landfill near Lake Marion and taxpayers are almost certain to make up a chunk of the shortfall – instead of a company that once ran the dump in rural Sumter County. That company, Safety Kleen, filed for bankruptcy in 2000 and eventually left South Carolina after negotiating a more than \$150 million settlement to pay for long-term monitoring and cleanup of the 279-acre dump southeast of Columbia.

National News:

Associated Press: Christie faces political fallout over traffic jam

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=YWbTTb6K

Angelia Delli Santi, Steve Peoples

This was supposed to be a month of celebration for New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's political future. But after personal messages revealed that his administration may have closed highway lanes to exact political retribution, the prospective Republican presidential candidate is faced with what may be the biggest test of his political career. Wednesday's revelations thrust a regional transportation issue into a national conversation raising new questions about the ambitious governor's leadership on the eve of a second term designed to jumpstart his road to the White House.

Associated Press: Republicans promote ways of helping the poor

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=JDS1WcQy

Ken Thomas

Faced with an empathy gap before the 2014 midterm elections, Republicans are trying to forge a new image as a party that helps the poor and lifts struggling workers into the middle class. GOP leaders are using the 50th anniversary of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty to offer a series of policy proposals that would shift anti-poverty programs to the states, promote job training and offer tax incentives for low-income workers.

Brian Symmes

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304

Cell: (803) 673-9437