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Subject: Clips - Wednesday, February 13, 2013

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Governor Nikki Haley News

Patch: Nikki Haley Pushes Regulatory and Tax Reform in Cabinet Session

Says loosening regulations will help continue growth; creates task force.

<http://standrews.patch.com/articles/nikki-haley-pushes-regulatory-reform-in-cabinet-session>

Shawn Drury

Since taking office, Gov. Nikki Haley has made it abundantly clear that her first priority is creating jobs to lift the South Carolina economy. **Thousands more people are working now than when Haley took over in 2011**, but in her State of the State address last month she said that more could be done to free up growth and hiring, particularly among small businesses.

Note: Haley's cabinet will issue a report to the Task Force by May 1 that provides information on regulatory burdens and what can be done to repeal or amend them. A 2010 report from the NYU School of Law gave South Carolina a letter grade of "D" for its regulatory review process. "I won't be happy until that's an "A," Haley said

Post and Courier: Haley: Cabinet directors ordered study of regulations

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130213/PC05/130219708/1005/haley-cabinet-directors-ordered-study-of-regulations>

Stephen Largen

Gov. Nikki Haley has ordered state agencies to conduct a comprehensive review of their procedures and regulations, calling on departments to help create a more business-friendly government. "At a time when you see me focused on jobs, jobs, jobs, this where your agencies come into play in terms of us doing that," Haley told her Cabinet agency directors Tuesday.

Note: The agencies' mission, Haley said, is to assess the impact of the regulations to determine whether their costs to businesses and employers outweigh their intended benefits. The reviews will then be evaluated by a new panel appointed by Haley and legislative leaders, with representation from business groups and a conservation group. Agencies ripe for review are the Department of Health and Environmental Control, Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation and Department of Health and Human Services, Haley said.

Associated Press: Gov Haley wants to get rid of regulations in SC

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Nf4gAH7Z

Seanna Adcox

Gov. Nikki Haley directed her Cabinet agencies Tuesday to review their regulations, saying South Carolina needs to get rid of government rules that hamper businesses. Haley signed an executive order that creates an 11-member task force to review regulations and make recommendations on which ones to throw out or alter. It also requires her 16 Cabinet agencies to report their suggestions to the task force by mid-May.

Note: The Republican governor can't mandate other state agencies do the same, but she's encouraging them to. "We are continuing to make sure every agency in South Carolina is customer-service friendly," she told reporters after her Cabinet meeting. "These agencies work for the taxpayer, for the businesses. If they're costing them time, they're costing them money."

SCMA Statement on the Creation of a Regulatory Review Task Force

<http://myscma.com/news/23>

James Richter

The South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance's (SCMA) President and CEO, Lewis F. Gossett, issued this statement following Governor Nikki Haley's announcement of the creation of a regulatory review task force: "Governor Haley's announcement today of the creation of a regulatory review task force is welcome news. The United States in general and South Carolina in particular are experiencing a rebirth of the

manufacturing sector. Reshoring of jobs is beginning to occur, and there is reason for optimism in the manufacturing sector. That trend, however, could stop cold if we continue to overregulate our economy. The biggest competitor now for manufacturing is often government red tape, and as a result, Governor Haley's focus on the proper role of government and its regulations is particularly timely. The Governor's task force will be yet another strong step by her administration to foster an environment in South Carolina where the private sector can flourish and create jobs."

WBTW: Gov. Nikki Haley establishes Regulatory Review Task Force

<http://www2.wbtw.com/news/2013/feb/12/gov-nikki-haley-establishes-regulatory-review-task-ar-5579344/>
Julie Roy

Governor Nikki Haley today signed an executive order establishing the Governor's Regulatory Review Task Force, an eleven member group that will include the chairman of the Small Business Regulatory Review Committee, to review and reduce government involvement in business and create a more simplified and market-friendly regulatory system.

Note: According to the governor's order, the task force will develop a report by November 15, 2013, that evaluates South Carolina's current regulatory burdens on all sizes and types of businesses in South Carolina and proposes recommendations to relieve those burdens.

Associated Press: Haley applauds House GOP for tax-cutting bills

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=14EsNoD5

Staff Report

Gov. Nikki Haley is praising House Republicans in South Carolina for proposing to further cut income taxes. Measures introduced in the House differ from her recommendation, but Haley said Tuesday she supports anything that reduces income taxes. Haley wants to eventually eliminate corporate and personal income taxes, as a business recruitment tool.

Note: Haley's executive budget recommends eliminating the 6 percent tax bracket, cutting \$26 million. Legislation introduced in the House last month would collapse four middle tax brackets. State economic advisers predict that would reduce revenues by \$80 million.

The State: Bill offers SC taxpayers an average \$86 savings

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/12/2630185/bill-would-cut-income-taxes-by.html>

Adam Beam

Most S.C. taxpayers would save an average of \$86 a year under a bill proposed in the S.C. House. Right now, any money that S.C. residents earn up to \$14,500 a year in taxable income is taxed at a variety of rates, anywhere from 3 percent to 6 percent. State Rep. Tommy Stringer, R-Greer, says that is too complicated. He wants to combine all of those tax brackets into a single 3.75 percent tax on taxable income between \$2,850 and \$14,500. Taxable income is how much money you earn in a year, minus any tax deductions or credits you qualify for, such as for dependents or mortgage interest.

Note: "Anything that reduces income taxes in this state, I will be for," Haley said. "I am for eliminating (the) income tax. So the fact that the House is even moving on income tax, I applaud them."

Freedom Works: Gov. Nikki Haley on HealthCare: Part One

<http://www.freedomworks.org/blog/breeanneh/interview-governor-haley-on-healthcare>

Breeanne Howe

Now that Barack Obama has been sworn in for a second term, the focus will again turn to Obamacare and health care exchanges. A key component of Obamacare, health care exchanges are to be set up by the states giving consumers a limited amount of options to purchase health care in their state. Those that traditionally cannot afford to purchase health care will be given tax credits. Additionally, the federal government will also help cover co-pays and deductibles that aren't covered by insurance. New taxes and a large fine for not having any health care coverage will allegedly be used to pay for the enormously expensive plan. In their continued efforts to protect their individual states from the ever-increasing interference of the federal government, governors across the nation have fought back against the Obamacare health care exchange mandate.

Note: In South Carolina, Governor Nikki Haley is one of over 20 governors who have refused to set up state exchanges. Featured by Forbes, Haley seeks to focus on reforming the state's established health care system; as opposed to the Obama administration's plan to simply take it over. Haley explained her position recently in her State of the State address:

Red State: Gov. Nikki Haley on HealthCare: Part Two

<http://www.redstate.com/2013/02/12/haley-on-healthcare-part-two/>

Breeanne Howe

Previously, I covered the first portion of my interview with South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley. In the next part of our discussion, Governor Haley relayed the efforts by South Carolina to improve health care in the state.

Note: "We are taking the lead in the country on payment reform. We had \$40 million alone in payments and we tied it to performance. Which meant that we have to actually produce better health, but more than that, we're getting our Medicaid beneficiaries to be more engaged in their health."

WLTX: Lawmakers Propose Ban on Colleges Using State Plane

<http://www.wltx.com/news/article/221474/2/Lawmakers-Propose-Ban-on-Colleges-Using-State-Plane>

Tony Santaella

Lawmakers have proposed a ban on South Carolina colleges and universities using the state plane to recruit athletes. The ban was proposed as a proviso to the budget and lawmakers says it would apply to every school in the state

Note: "I think that that's up to the legislature to decide, I have no problem with them eliminating that," Haley said. "Clemson University -- when I first saw it, they do reimburse. But we do have to decide what is the state place intended to be used for. So if they decide that want to eliminate that, I'm happy with that, that's fine."

Patch: Angling For 2014 Statewide Races Is Underway

Most of the seats look safe, but a few others are all but certain to be challenged.

<http://ht.ly/hEI9b>

Shawn Drury

Much of the political media's attention on 2014 has focused on Gov. Nikki Haley's re-election prospects and on the two senate races that will feature Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott, who will both be heavily favored to get re-elected. But down the ticket, in the other statewide constitutional offices, chatter and positioning has already begun.

Note: Much of the political media's attention on 2014 has focused on Gov. Nikki Haley's re-election prospects and on the two senate races that will feature Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott, who will both be heavily favored to get re-elected.....Democrats like their chances in a re-match of 2010 between Haley and Sen. Vincent Sheheen. The stronger Sheheen is, the more likely other Democrats on a statewide ballot would be to break through with a win.

The State: SC ethics law hasn't worked, must be reformed (Opinion)

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/12/2630530/crangle-sc-ethics-law-hasnt-worked.html>

John Crangle

Campaign donations historically have been a source of corruption and abuses. Operation Lost Trust in 1990 convicted 17 legislators, almost all of them for accepting bribes disguised as campaign contributions. The 1991 Ethics Act struggled with limited success to stop corruption. Recent ethics reform hearings have clearly shown that the law's limits on the size of campaign contributions can be evaded by single donors using multiple political action committees and shell corporations. This must be banned.

Note: Given all the millions of dollars of scandals involving huge amounts of campaign funds, shocking conflicts of interest, embezzlement of taxpayers' funds and sweetheart ethics enforcement mechanisms, it is long past the time when the General Assembly should pass and Gov. Nikki Haley should sign a drastic new ethics reform act.

Post and Courier: Forgetting South Carolina (Opinion)

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130213/PC16/130219707/1005/hicks-column-forgetting-south-carolina>

Brian Hicks

So much for all that blather about it being a great day in South Carolina. If you saw the first installment of Doug Pardue's powerful "Forgotten South Carolina" series in Sunday's Post and Courier, you know that most days are pretty abysmal in parts of the state.

Note: One of the more shameful scenes in Pardue's series is Gov. Nikki Haley at a job and health fair in Marion County, where 31 percent of people live in poverty and more than 17 percent of the workforce is unemployed. Haley says the idea is to get neighbors helping neighbors, and not rely on the government

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South Carolina News

Associated Press: National IT director: SC moving in right direction

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

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina is moving in the right direction on cyber-security following the massive breach at the Department of Revenue, the director of a national group of state computer chiefs said Tuesday. Doug Robinson of the Association of State Chief Information Officers told a Senate committee that a proposed bill for centralizing state agencies' cyber-security responsibilities contains key elements for success.

The State: SC could be national model, security expert says

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/13/2630727/sc-could-be-national-model-security.html>

Andy Shain

After suffering the nation's worst data breach at a state agency, South Carolina's computer security could become a model for the country, an information-technology expert told lawmakers Tuesday. A bill introduced in the state Senate would create a cabinet-level Department of Information Security, reporting to the governor, that would oversee protection of state computer networks.

Greenville News: SCDOT-paid claims range from car damage to lost lives (Video)

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130213/NEWS09/302130012/SCDOT-paid-claims-range-from-car-damage-lost-lives>

Tim Smith

On the evening of Oct. 17, 2003, 16-year-old Deonte Elmore left a high school football game in Allendale driving home. According to his family, he was taking proper safety precautions on a rainy night. He drove below the posted highway speed limit and wore his seat belt. But somewhere along the wet highway, Elmore lost control, drove into the median and sat helpless as his car rolled over several times. He later died from his injuries.

Greenville News: 4K expansion is worth serious look (Opinion)

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130213/OPINION/302130010/4K-expansion-worth-serious-look>
Editorial

South Carolina has tried before to expand the availability of early-childhood education in the form of 4-year-old kindergarten in this state that sorely needs to ensure its children get off to the best possible start to their education. Those efforts have failed for various reasons. Another chance is emerging to expand this important way of reaching at-risk children not only in the state's poorest school districts, but also throughout South Carolina. A pair of bills have been introduced in the state Legislature — one in each house — that ultimately would make 4K available to every at-risk child in the state.

The State: Wilson seeking proper balance on attorney pay

www.thestate.com/2013/02/13/2630527/scoppe-wilson-seeking-proper-balance.html

Cindi Ross Scoppe

When Trinity Cathedral in Columbia agreed last month to pay the wife of former Dean Philip Linder \$75,000 to drop claims of defamation and emotional distress, church leaders were quick to say they opposed the decision. They had no choice, they said, because their insurance company had determined it would cost more to defend the church and the diocese in court than to settle the case. It was just the latest high-profile telling of a too-oft-repeated tale that tort-reform proposals never manage to address in a smart way.

The State: South Carolina Senate plan would expand in-vehicle breathalyzers for DUIs

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/12/2630689/south-carolina-senate-plan-would.html>

Jamie Self

A bill that would expand a state program requiring DUI offenders to install breathalyzers in their vehicles advanced to the Senate Tuesday. If the bill becomes law, DUI first offenders who blow a .12 blood alcohol content or higher would be required to install a breathalyzer device connected to a vehicle's ignition system, said Sen. Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg.

Greenville News: S.C. unemployment agency pursues fraud charges

Attorney general has opened 21 fraud cases, winning 12 convictions

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130213/NEWS/302130011/S-C-unemployment-agency-pursues-fraud-charges>

Tim Smith

State unemployment agency officials have referred an estimated 2,000 cases for fraud prosecution during the past two years, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Employment and Workforce told GreenvilleOnline.com. The agency in 2008 had stopped prosecuting jobless recipients for fraud but reversed course after lawmakers reforming the agency directed fraud prosecutions to resume.

The State: SC could privatize program for sexual predators

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/12/2629953/sc-could-privatize-program-for.html>

Adam Beam

The state Department of Mental Health could privatize its program for sexually violent predators under a proposal that state lawmakers endorsed Monday. South Carolina is one of about 20 states that has a program that allows the state to keep sexually violent predators in prison past their release dates if a judge rules they pose a threat to the community.

Greenville News: Ex-HomeGold chief to appeal for prison release

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130213/NEWS06/302130024/Ex-HomeGold-chief-appeal-prison-release>

Tim Smith and David Dykes

Former HomeGold chief executive Ronald Sheppard is scheduled to appeal for freedom today, asking a state parole panel to release him from prison. A parole hearing for Sheppard, 55, will be held here this morning, a state Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services spokesman said. Sheppard will participate from prison via closed-circuit television, the spokesman said.

Associated Press: Social services, health leaders talk kids' fitness

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=nQOGOX9z

Meg Kinnard

South Carolina social services and health officials are talking about a new initiative they hope will promote healthy eating and activity among children at daycare. The directors of the Departments of Social Services and Health and Environmental Control are holding a news conference Wednesday at La Petite Academy in Columbia.

Post and Courier: Sen. Graham to address Ashley Hall incident in gun control speech

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130213/PC16/130219681/1165/sen-graham-to-address-ashley-hall-incident-in-gun-control-speech>

Lauren Sausser

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham will talk in a press conference at the Capitol today about how a woman with a documented history of mental illness purchased a gun legally and then used it to threaten a school official at Ashley Hall. On Feb. 4, Alice Boland pointed a Taurus PT22 handgun at an Ashley Hall employee outside the school in downtown Charleston. She pulled the gun's trigger, but it did not fire because there was no ammunition in the chamber. Boland has a history of mental illness, but purchased the gun legally. She faces an attempted murder charge.

Gannett: Duncan, other S.C. GOP lawmakers cool to Obama's State of the Union speech

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130213/NEWS/302130015/Duncan-other-S-C-GOP-lawmakers-cool-Obama-s-State-Union-speech>

Mary Orndorff Troyan

President Barack Obama's State of the Union speech Tuesday night did nothing to persuade South Carolina's Republican members of Congress that the White House will be an ally in tackling the federal deficit. "He mentioned all these spending programs but he's not going to pay for them," Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-Indian Land, said in an interview after the speech. "I just don't think he gets it."

Associated Press: Sanford: Overwhelmed by support in new race

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=CFS56At7

Bruce Smith

Former South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford says he's humbled and overwhelmed by the support he's been getting as he tries to mount a political comeback. It's been about a month since Sanford announced he would seek South Carolina's vacant 1st Congressional District seat that he once held for three terms.

Post and Courier: 16 of 20 1st District candidates face off

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130213/PC16/130219704/1005/16-of-20-1st-district-candidates-face-off>

Robert Behre

The election to fill U.S. Sen. Tim Scott's former House seat stands out because of its expansive field and compact time frame. Both were on display Tuesday morning, as 16 of 20 candidates — from the Republican, Democratic and Green parties — sat elbow to elbow on a stage inside a Charleston hotel.

POLITICO: Ex-Jim Clyburn aide aims to lead S.C. Dems

http://www.politico.com/story/2013/02/jaime-harrison-south-carolina-democrats-87435.html?utm_medium=referral&utm_source=t.co

Jonathan Martin

Jaime Harrison, a former top aide to Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.), is announcing his candidacy Monday for chairman of the South Carolina Democratic Party. Harrison has already secured the endorsement of a slew of top South Carolina Democrats, including Clyburn, former Gov. Jim Hodges, likely 2014 gubernatorial candidate Vincent Sheheen and the last three state party chairs.

Associated Press: SC State sees 9 percent decline in enrollment

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8GKlkb3b

Staff Report

South Carolina State University administrators say enrollment at the school declined nearly 9 percent between the fall and spring semesters. The Times and Democrat of Orangeburg reports (<http://bit.ly/YUoby4>) that Vice President for Finance Eric Eaton says the university has a plan to deal with a potential \$5 million shortfall from the enrollment decline.

Associated Press: Benedict College set to host black history event

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Yj3YHvjK

Staff Report

Benedict College is scheduled to host a two-day celebration for Black History Month that features workshops for students, a celebration dinner and special guest speakers. Benedict spokeswoman Kymm Hunter says the event begins Tuesday with a dinner and continues Wednesday with a series of workshops at various locations across the campus.

Associated Press: FBI commemorating Black History Month in SC

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=G0wkYn9P

Staff Report

Authorities with the FBI in South Carolina are taking part in a program to celebrate Black History Month. Special Agent In Charge David Thomas and other officials from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Columbia office are taking part in an event Wednesday at Brookland Baptist Church in West Columbia.

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Hyperlocal News

The State: Third Army to get new commander (Shaw Air Force Base)

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/12/2630735/third-army-to-get-new-commander.html>

Kristy Rupon

The commanding general of the Third U.S. Army at Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter will be promoted and reassigned. Lt. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, a three-star general, has been nominated by the President for appointment to the rank of four-star general and will be reassigned as commanding general of the U.S. Army Pacific at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta said Monday.

Associated Press: SC community invited to tour Army training base

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=OdorlX7n

Staff Report

South Carolinians have an invitation to visit Fort Jackson. Bring Gen. Bryan Roberts is inviting community members to get a close-up look at how soldiers live and train for combat at the Army's largest training installation. The six-hour tour is scheduled for Feb. 21.

Post and Courier: Slightly smaller Charleston tax hike passes

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130213/PC16/130219697/1005/slightly-smaller-charleston-tax->

hike-passes

Schuyler Kropf

Charleston Mayor Joe Riley got most of what he wanted for his emergency public safety tax hike, but had to give up adding eight new police officers for the downtown bar and entertainment district to get it. And, instead of property taxes going up by \$40 annually on a house valued at \$250,000, they will go up \$35.

The State: Five Points police case headed to trial

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/13/2630845/five-points-police-case-headed.html>

John Monk

A federal case involving a controversial Five Points incident that may help define how a citizen bystander can interact with a police officer making an arrest will go to a jury trial, U.S. Judge Joe Anderson said Tuesday. Anderson made his statement at the end of a 70-minute hearing during which lawyers for Columbia and three city police officers argued against a lawyer for Jonathan McCoy over whether McCoy's 2009 arrest on a Five Points street outside the Red Hot Tomatoes bar was legal under the U.S. Constitution.

Associated Press: Cox Media selling radio stations in 6 markets

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1ZQ9RSIY

Staff Report

Cox Media Group has reached an agreement to sell radio stations in six of its markets. The company announced Tuesday that it will sell stations in Birmingham, Ala., Greenville, S.C., Hawaii, Louisville, Ky. and Richmond, Va. to SummitMedia. The company is also selling three stations in southern Connecticut and contract rights to a fourth station in Connecticut to Connoisseur Media, based in Westport, Conn.

The State: Ameris Bank moving state headquarters to Columbia's Main Street

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/12/2630168/ameris-bank-moving-state-headquarters.html>

Jeff Wilkinson

Ameris Bank is relocating its South Carolina headquarters to 1333 Main St. The bank, which has three branches in Columbia and six others in Charleston, Greenville, Hilton Head and Beaufort, will move to the space beside Granger Owings clothing store in mid-May, said Richard Sturm, the bank's South Carolina regional president. The bank will occupy 3,000 square feet on the ground floor of the former IBM building, as well as 12,500 square feet of additional office space that will serve as the bank's state headquarters, which are now on Gervais Street.

Tribune-Times: Mauldin lauded for traffic safety

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130213/NEWS/302130001/Mauldin-lauded-traffic-safety>

Paul Alongi

Mauldin was among 15 communities across the state honored for traffic safety based on crash statistics, number of law enforcement officers per capita and the presence of a formal safety program or special traffic division. The Upstate city was among five with a population between 10,000 and 30,000 to win the Outstanding Traffic Safe Community award from the AAA Carolinas Foundation for Traffic Safety. Also in the category were Easley, Newberry, Port Royal and Irmo.

The State: New student housing project proposed for downtown Columbia

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/13/2630708/new-student-housing-project-proposed.html>

Jeff Wilkinson

Another large student housing project is now planned for downtown Columbia – this one on Pendleton Street near the city's Amtrak station. Documents filed with the city's Design, Development Review Commission show the development is 122 units with 249 beds situated in a single building on the two-acre parcel. The new development, owned by WC Columbia LLC, is to be considered by the commission on Thursday. It is the latest in what has become a rental housing boom in Columbia from the river to the Vista to Olympia.

Greenville News: Upstate home sales 'building steam'

Upstate sales increase 18 percent in January

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130213/BUSINESS/302130014/Upstate-home-sales-building-steam->

Angelia Davis

Nearly 500 homes on the market were sold in the Greenville metro area last month, giving the region an 18 percent increase in sales from the same month a year ago. From Jan. 1 to Jan. 31 this year, 476 residences

were sold compared with 404 during the same period in 2012, according to statistics from the Greater Greenville Association of Realtors.

Associated Press: Simpsonville names new police chief

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=DL978Tyt

Staff Report

Simpsonville has a new police chief to replace the man who was fired after just three months on the job. The Greenville News reported (<http://gmol.co/VSiljs>) that Simpsonville City Council voted 4-2 on Tuesday to name interim chief Steve Moore as the permanent chief.

Associated Press: Thousands expected for Beaufort film festival

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6cdzaPLN

Staff Report

The Beaufort International Film Festival is getting under way and thousands of people are expected for the four-day event. The Beaufort Gazette reports (<http://bit.ly/V66VIU>) the festival's seventh season opens with a reception Wednesday night for the filmmakers. There are three days of film screenings that follow.

The State: Defense attorneys begin attack on key witness in Hells Angels federal trial in Columbia

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/12/2630171/defense-attorneys-begin-attack.html>

Noelle Phillips

The key witness in a federal case against five Hells Angels will not take the stand for weeks, but defense attorneys started attacking his credibility Tuesday during their opening statements. Joseph Dilulio, a Rock Hill jewelry store owner, served as a paid informant for the FBI, earning \$6,000 a month to help bring down the Hells Angels, said John Delgado, a defense attorney representing Mark Baker, the Hells Angels club president. Dilulio is a "large, Italian man" with a New York accent who is an ex-con and a "scheming, scamming stealer," Delgado said.

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National News

WhiteHouse.gov: President Barack Obama's State of the Union Address — as delivered

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/state-of-the-union-2013>

Staff Report

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, members of Congress, fellow citizens: Fifty-one years ago, John F. Kennedy declared to this chamber that "the Constitution makes us not rivals for power but partners for progress." "It is my task," he said, "to report the State of the Union -- to improve it is the task of us all."

Associated Press: Fact Check: Overreaching in State of Union speech

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/12/2630902/fact-check-overreaching-in-state.html>

Calvin Woodward

President Barack Obama did some cherry-picking Tuesday night in defense of his record on jobs and laid out a conditional path to citizenship for illegal immigrants that may be less onerous than he made it sound. A look at some of the claims in his State of the Union speech, a glance at the Republican counterargument and how they fit with the facts:

The State: SC reaction to State of the Union

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/12/2630993/sc-reaction-to-state-of-the-union.html#.URUjA2fFzdU>

Staff Report

Some of the reaction Tuesday night to President Barack Obama's State of the Union speech: U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-Seneca, U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, R-North Charleston, Assistant House Democratic leader James E. Clyburn, D-Columbia, U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-Springdale

Associated Press: Obama asks Congress for boost in manufacturing

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/viewart/20130213/BUSINESS/302130020/Obama-asks-Congress-boost-manufacturing>

Staff Report

President Barack Obama is launching three manufacturing hubs and is asking Congress to create 15 more that can create locations with partnerships between the private sector and the federal government to create high-tech jobs. The proposal is a central element of Obama's plan to spur manufacturing, which has been a

bright spot in the U.S. economy. Manufacturing expanded at a much faster pace in January compared with December.

McClatchy: Sens. Marco Rubio, Rand Paul deliver blistering rebuttals to Obama

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/12/2631003/sens-marco-rubio-rand-paul-deliver.html#storylink=cpy>
William Douglas

In English and Spanish, Republican Sen. Marco Rubio on Tuesday night delivered a scathing rebuke of President Barack Obama's State of the Union speech, signaling a Republican battle for middle-class voters that could help re-energize his party and also propel a potential 2016 White House run. The Florida senator delivered his party's official rebuttal to Obama's speech, but he wasn't the only Republican responding Tuesday night. Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, another potential Republican presidential contender, responded to Obama's talk on behalf of the tea party.

Washington Post: Virginia's governor says he's prepared to cut a deal on transportation

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/va-politics/virginias-governor-says-hes-prepared-to-cut-a-deal-on-transportation/2013/02/11/a0761296-749c-11e2-8f84-3e4b513b1a13_story.html

Fredrick Kunkle and Lori Aratani

A key committee meeting Tuesday could offer a glimpse of what a possible compromise on Gov. Robert F. McDonnell's transportation funding plan would look like. And lawmakers from both sides and transportation experts say the least likely element to survive is the centerpiece of McDonnell's proposal: eliminating the gas tax for an increase in the sales tax.

Associated Press: FBI: Elderly ex-con robbed bank in hopes of prison

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=JHViqr8S

Michael Tarm

After spending most of his adult life behind bars, 73-year-old Walter Unbehaun decided to rob another bank in hopes of getting caught. He felt more comfortable in prison, court documents allege, and wanted to spend his final years there. So the balding, gray-haired South Carolina man leaned on a cane as he walked into a bank in suburban Chicago over the weekend and used a novel stickup line: He had just six months to live, so he had nothing left to lose, according to a federal complaint citing his post-arrest interrogation.

Associated Press: Vatican message: Benedict will play no role in selecting successor

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130213/PC1601/130219715/1005/vatican-message-benedict-will-play-no-role-in-selecting-successor>

Victor L. Simpson and Nicole Winfield

The papal ring will be destroyed, along with other powerful emblems of authority, just as they are after a pope's death. The retiring Pope Benedict XVI will live in a monastery on the edge of the Vatican gardens and will likely give up even his beloved theological writing. The Vatican went out of its way Tuesday to declare that for Benedict, retirement means just that: Retirement.

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