

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Monday, September 21, 2015

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Charleston Business Journal: S.C. unemployment rate for August marks biggest 1-month drop in 3 decades

<http://www.charlestonbusiness.com/news/55720-s-c-unemployment-rate-for-august-marks-biggest-1-month-drop-in-3-decades>

South Carolina's jobless rate dropped for the third consecutive month, to 6% in August, down from July's 6.4%, the state Department of Employment and Workforce reported. The decline from July to August was the largest one-month drop since 1983, the agency added.

Note: "These numbers reflect the fact that more South Carolinians are working than any time in history," Gov. Nikki Haley said. "Whether it's another business expansion, another groundbreaking or another drop in our unemployment rate, there are great things happening in our state."

S.C. Political News:

Rock Hill Herald: SC's Mulvaney endorses Rand Paul for president; calls for shake-up of GOP establishment

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article35959809.html#storylink=cpy>

Bristow Marchant

Saying the establishment wing of the Republican Party is "lost" in modern Washington politics, U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney said Monday he would endorse U.S. Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky for president. Mulvaney will serve as Paul's Eastern States co-chairman, the campaign announced. He is the first member of the South Carolina delegation to make an endorsement in the GOP race.

CNN: Rand Paul nabs South Carolina endorsement from Rep. Mick Mulvaney

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/09/21/politics/rand-paul-mick-mulvaney-endorsement-south-carolina/>

Tal Kopan

Sen. Rand Paul picked up a key endorsement in the early primary state of South Carolina on Monday, when Rep. Mick Mulvaney announced he'd be a co-chairman of Paul's campaign in the Eastern states. It's a big get for the Kentucky Republican as his campaign continues to struggle in the low single digits in the polls, and his recent debate performances have been seen as lackluster.

Associated Press: US Rep. Mulvaney backing Paul's GOP presidential bid

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

Meg Kinnard

In an interview with The Associated Press before the announcement, the South Carolina Republican said he chose to back Paul because he believes voters, particularly in this early-voting state, will embrace a Republican candidate who breaks with the party's establishment and supports less government involvement in their lives.

Washington Post: Rep. Mick Mulvaney endorses Rand Paul for president

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2015/09/21/rep-mick-mulvaney-endorses-rand-paul-for-president/>

David Weigel

Rep. Mick Mulvaney (R-S.C.) has endorsed Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) for president, saying that the "complete and utter surrender, the lack of conviction" from the House GOP's leadership forced his hand. "The last two weeks have been probably the most frustrating weeks in Washington for me, and that's a high bar," said Mulvaney, who has represented a safe conservative district since his victory in the 2010 Tea Party wave.

The State: SC's Tim Scott, Paul Ryan to headline presidential forum on poverty in Columbia
<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article35974320.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott and U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan will moderate a conference for presidential hopefuls and others on poverty and expanding economic opportunity in Columbia. The conference will be held Jan. 9 at the Columbia Conference Center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Attorney appointed for friend of Charleston shooting suspect

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=wXe4lk9f

An attorney has been appointed to represent the friend of a white man charged with shooting nine black churchgoers to death. Court papers filed Monday show that former federal prosecutor Deborah Barbier has been appointed to represent Joey Meek. Meek pleaded not guilty Friday to lying to law enforcement agents and failing to report what he knew about Dylann Roof's plans.

The State: Columbia attorney Deborah Barbier assigned to Roof-related case

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article35984949.html>

John Monk

A federal judge on Monday appointed Columbia defense attorney Deborah Barbier to represent a friend of Dylann Roof, the Columbia area man who is charged with murder in connection with the shooting deaths of nine African-American churchgoers at a Charleston church.

Post and Courier: S.C. gas prices continue to fall; still lowest in the nation

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150921/PC05/150929904>

Warren L. Wise

Gasoline prices continue to tumble across South Carolina to an average \$1.89 per gallon, the lowest in the nation. Gas price gauger GasBuddy reported Monday pump prices fell another 3.8 cents during the past week across the Palmetto State, based on a survey of more than 3,000 gas outlets in the state.

Island Packet: Study: South Carolina has 3rd fairest tax structure

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/politics-government/article35949312.html>

The personal finance site WalletHub has released its annual study of taxation in the United States, and has found South Carolina to be the state with the third fairest tax system. The rankings are based on surveys of what residents think a fair tax system looks like compared to the actual tax burden across low, middle and high-income groups in their states.

Greenville News: Study: S.C. has 3rd most fair tax system

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2015/09/21/study-sc-has-3rd-most-fair-tax-system/72555224/>

South Carolina has the 3rd most fair tax system, according to a new study by WalletHub. Tax systems vary dramatically across state lines. Some states don't have income tax, some don't have sales tax. The personal finance site analyzed all 50 states by factors including how the poor are taxed versus the rich.

WalletHub: 2015's Most & Least Fair State Tax Systems

<https://wallethub.com/edu/most-least-fair-tax-systems/6598/>

John S. Kiernan

With summer ending, the 2016 elections are starting to heat up. And, as usual, tax policy is a hot-button issue, as political candidates from both sides of the aisle claim their plan is more "fair." But what does a fair tax system look like? Which states actually have the fairest tax systems?

National News:

New York Times: Scott Walker Said to Be Quitting Presidential Race

<http://www.nytimes.com/politics/first-draft/2015/09/21/scott-walker-said-to-be-quitting-presidential-race/>

Alexander Burns

Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin has concluded he no longer has a path to the Republican presidential nomination and plans to drop out of the 2016 campaign, according to three Republicans familiar with his decision, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Associated Press: As Georgia race heats up, Marco Rubio gets congressman's support
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150921/PC1603/150929897>

Bill Barrow

As the Republican presidential scramble heats up ahead of Georgia's March 1 primary, the state's elected leaders are starting to take sides, with Marco Rubio picking up support Monday from a conservative congressman from south Georgia. Rep. Austin Scott, introducing Rubio at a campaign event at a Buckhead hotel in Atlanta, cited national security concerns as his reason for backing the Florida senator.

Brian Symmes

Cell: 803-673-9437

Office: 803-734-0304