

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
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Subject: Clips – Saturday, May 31, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Sun News: Gov. Haley, local officials urge residents to prepare for a hurricane now
<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/05/30/4258621/gov-haley-local-officials-urge.html?sp=/99/134/#storylink=cpy>

Tonya Root

State and local officials gathered Friday to urge Grand Strand residents and those visiting the area this hurricane season to get prepared now for a storm. Hurricane season begins Sunday and continues until Nov. 30. Gov. Nikki Haley made her annual "hurricane fly around" to the coastal areas of the state Friday meeting with local leaders and the media to discuss hurricane preparedness and public safety.

Note: "In Horry County, your emergency management division is stellar. They absolutely are always on target whether it's fires, whether it's hurricanes or any other disaster," Haley said. "Horry County is always ready, but what we need you to know is that while Horry County is ready and the state and all our agencies are ready, we need the people to be ready. This is the time we need you to really do your family planning."

Associated Press: Haley tours coast with advent of hurricane season
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=RUKY5EeD

Bruce Smith

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, encouraged by the way South Carolinians responded to last winter's ice storms, is now urging residents to prepare for the hurricane season that begins on Sunday.

Note: "This is the 25th anniversary of Hurricane Hugo so it's not will it happen. It can happen, we have seen it first hand," she said Friday in North Charleston, during a trip to three coastal counties to meet with local emergency officials.

Note: "Charleston will be ready. The state will be ready. What we're asking is for the citizens to be ready," she added.

Associated Press: Gov. Haley says she needs a lieutenant governor
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=bvL2kcB1

Seanna Adcox, Bruce Smith

Gov. Nikki Haley said Friday that South Carolina shouldn't be left without a lieutenant governor for five months as the current officeholder steps down to take over as a college president. Haley contends state law may require Senate President Pro Tem John Courson to step into the state's soon-to-be vacant No. 2 position.

Note: "There are a lot of things people don't want to do. But we do what we have to do," she said. "I need a lieutenant governor. I need someone that if I'm going to go out of state or if something happens to me, I can feel comfortable the state is in good hands. I think the citizens of the state want that, too. So this is not about comfort. This is about what is required by the people of this state."

Note: Haley's office responded that her comments were unrelated to DSS: "The governor was just saying the Senate needs to follow the law," said spokesman Doug Mayer.

WBTW: Atlantic Beach refuses to comment on Governor's call to end Bike Fest
<http://www.wbtw.com/story/25657206/atlantic-beach-refuses-to-comment-on-governors-call-to-end-bike-fest>
AJ Janavel

Atlantic Beach town officials refused to comment after Governor Nikki Haley called for an end to the town's Bike Fest. Friday local city and county leaders met in Conway with the governor to discuss the future of the Bike Fest. Governor Nikki Haley stated she wants the motorcycle rally, based out of Atlantic Beach, to come to an end.

Post and Courier: Democrats Sheheen, Smith plan efforts to address veterans issues in South Carolina in

wake of scandal

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140530/PC1603/140539910/1382/democrats-sheheen-smith-plan-efforts-to-address-veterans-issues-in-south-carolina-in-wake-of-scandal>

Jeremy Borden

Two prominent South Carolina Democrats, a gubernatorial candidate and a veteran of the war in Afghanistan, plan to announce measures next week that call on Gov. Nikki Haley and others to help alleviate systemic problems at Department of Veterans Affairs' facilities in the state.

S.C. Political News:

The Item: Graham talks challengers, strategy on campaign trail

http://www.theitem.com/news/local_news/graham-talks-challengers-strategy-on-campaign-trail/article_52172a08-c584-58f3-965b-6ddbdea8d516.html

Bristow Marchant

During election season, the road to Washington takes a turn through Sumter. U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham swung through town this week to eat dinner with supporters at Sunset Country Club, hoping to sell his message to the voters he needs to send him back to the Senate for a third term.

The State: Re-electing Graham means 'another war,' GOP rival says

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/30/3477838/re-electing-graham-means-another.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

State Sen. Lee Bright took frequent shots at U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham at a forum in Columbia on Friday, criticizing the Republican incumbent for negotiating with countries with ties to U.S. enemies and saying if voters do not make a change in the June 10 GOP primary, "We will be in another war, we will have amnesty – I guarantee it."

Post and Courier: U.S. Senate forum mostly polite but a few barbs at Graham

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140530/PC1603/140539950/1382/us-senate-forum-mostly-polite-but-a-few-barbs-at-graham>

Schuyler Kropf

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham told members of a conservative family group "the one thing I can say about Barack Obama is that he has been a weak, indecisive commander in chief," as he warned the fear of terror attacks is far from over.

Index-Journal: Cash guns for U.S. Senate job

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/News/News/Article/Cash-guns-for-U-S--Senate-job/4/40/25799>

Chris Trainor

Richard Cash thinks if he can get into a runoff with U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, he has an opportunity to take down the longtime senator. He is working hard to get that opportunity. Cash is one of a host of challengers who are taking on the incumbent Graham in the June 10 Republican primary. If needed, a runoff would be June 24.

The State: Graham announces 'National Security Coalition'

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/30/3477032/graham-announces-national-security.html>

Jamie Self

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham's campaign announced a new group of supporters this week: a National Security Coalition made up of military and national security leaders from around the state. Also co-chairing the coalition is Major Gen. James Livingston, a retired U.S. Marine Corps Medal of Honor recipient and co-chairman of the coalitions.

The State: 'McKinney Means Business Tour' launched by Lt. Gov Candidate

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/30/3477159/mckinney-means-business-tour-launched.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

Republican candidate for lieutenant governor Pat McKinney announced a statewide small business tour on Friday. On the "McKinney Means Business Tour," he will travel to small businesses in several counties.

The State: Head of Christian Coalition of America endorses Sally Atwater for ed. superintendent

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/30/3477064/head-of-christian-coalition-of.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

The President and CEO of the Christian Coalition of America endorsed Republican candidate Sally Atwater for superintendent of education. Atwater is the former executive director of President George W. Bush's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Index-Journal: Of mammoth feats, mammoth fossils

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/Opinion/Opinion/Article/Of-mammoth-feats--mammoth-fossils/8/154/25801>

Editorial

Olivia wrote to Gov. Nikki Haley and suggested the Palmetto State adopt the Columbian Mammoth as the state's official fossil. Why the mammoth? Because in 1725, slaves in the state reportedly found mammoth teeth, which are believed to be the first identified vertebrate fossils in all of North America.

Island Packet: State money will ease transition to civilian life

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/05/30/3137545/state-money-will-ease-transition.html?sp=/99/342/1750/#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

About 1,000 military service members face the bumpy transition to civilian life each year as they leave the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, the Marine Corps Recruit Depot on Parris Island and the Beaufort Naval Hospital.

Sun News: More Myrtle Beach police officers just one part of solution to violence

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/05/31/4256696/editorial-more-myrtle-beach-police.html?sp=/99/158/1251/#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

Increasing the number of Myrtle Beach police officers is appropriate and an action the City Council had determined to take prior to the shameful lawlessness that claimed three lives in the city over the Memorial Day weekend.

Times and Democrat: Hugo anniversary adds needed focus on hurricane threat

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/hugo-anniversary-adds-needed-focus-on-hurricane-threat/article_651c8d32-e864-11e3-a005-0019bb2963f4.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Hurricane season. OUR OPINION: South Carolina learned a lot from 1989 storm, rightly continues to focus on preparedness.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley has proclaimed June 1-7 as 2014 South Carolina Hurricane Awareness Week.

Post and Courier: Hurricane numbers that count

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140531/PC1002/140539899/1021>

Editorial

It sounded at least a little reassuring: Last week the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecast a below-to-near-normal year of 2014 hurricane activity, predicting from 8 to 13 named storms and roughly half as many hurricanes, with only one or two reaching "major" (Category 3 or stronger) status.

Post and Courier: A few drinking laws too many

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140530/PC16/140539935/1382/a-few-drinking-laws-too-many>

Frank Wooten

Who is legally allowed to sell - and buy - alcohol? When, where and how? Why do the answers to those questions keep changing? From Wednesday's Post and Courier: "New businesses selling alcoholic beverages in the heart of the historic tourist and nightlife district likely will have to close at midnight instead of 2 a.m., after the Charleston City Council Tuesday gave the plan initial approval."

Legislative Session News:

Greenville News: Road funding bill may be dead

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/05/31/road-funding-bill-may-be-dead/9803011/>

Tim Smith

Senate leaders say the chances of any road funding bill passing this year are slim, meaning motorists may

have to wait another year for the hope of lawmakers addressing the state's crumbling infrastructure. With just three days left in the regular legislative session, a Senate transportation funding bill technically remains the top priority on the body's calendar.

Associated Press: McConnell to resign to help Charleston bill pass

<http://www.wistv.com/story/25653059/mcconnell-to-resign-to-help-charleston-bill-pass>

The incoming president of the College of Charleston, Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell, plans to resign from his state office next week. McConnell told The Post and Courier of Charleston on Thursday that he will resign as lieutenant governor in order to help pass a bill to create a research university attached to the College of Charleston.

Greenville News: New law to help more get diplomas

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/05/31/new-law-help-get-diplomas/9802577/>

Ron Barnett

Years of frustration over being turned down for jobs for lack of a high school diploma could be over soon for thousands of South Carolinians who finished high school but didn't earn a diploma because they couldn't pass the exit exam.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Associated Press: S.C. legislators react following Shinseki resignation

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140531/AIK0101/140539954/1004/sc-legislators-react-following-shinseki-resignation>

Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki apologized in public and then resigned in the privacy of the White House on Friday, driven from office by a mushrooming scandal over the agency's health care system that serves millions of the nation's former warriors.

South Carolina News:

The State: Report about substandard care at Dorn was among first to attract attention to VA's problems

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/30/3477618/report-that-attributed-6-deaths.html#storylink=cpy>

Joey Holleman

Problems at the Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia, detailed in a report released in September, contributed to the resignation Friday of Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki. The resignation came at the end of a crescendo of complaints about systemic delays in care at VA medical centers nationwide.

Associated Press: Appeals court: Judge has no place in school grades

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

Meg Kinnard

Judges should stay out of school districts' decisions about how to calculate South Carolina students' grades, an appellate court ruled on Friday. According to a three-judge panel of the state Court of Appeals, a trial judge should have dismissed a student's lawsuit challenging district officials' recalculation of his grade.

Greenville News: Judge: School grades don't belong in court

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/education/2014/05/31/judge-school-grades-belong-court/9803229/>

Ron Barnett

A Southside High School student whose top class ranking had been bumped to No. 6 after a complaint from another student's mother, and then restored to No. 1 by a Circuit Court judge, will have his grade-point average recalculated again after the state Court of Appeals ruled Friday that the Circuit Court had no business ruling on student grades.

The State: SCE&G customers facing seventh rate increase for nuclear project

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/30/3477727/sceg-customers-facing-seventh.html#storylink=cpy>

Roddie Burris

South Carolina Electric & Gas Co. customers would pay an extra \$50 a year on average for their electric bills starting in October if the utility's request for a rate hike is approved. Under the plan, they would be paying \$236 more per year in 2014 than they were in 2008 – a 37 percent increase.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Shallow inland waterway grounds marine traffic

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140530/PC16/140539917/1382/shallow-inland-waterway-grounds-marine-traffic>

Prentiss Findlay

Jim Willis of Mount Pleasant and his wife Debbie were traveling on the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway when their vessel struck a shoal near Breach Inlet. The impact caused her to fall backward and hit her head. In the emergency room, doctors determined she had a fractured vertebrae, a concussion and a broken rib.

Greenville News: Greenville plan may limit new bars

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/05/30/greenville-plan-may-limit-new-bars/9801135/>

Anna Lee

Unofficially, the group was known as the nightlife task force. It included the fire chief, police chief, city manager, city attorney and others who walked in downtown Greenville most Friday nights, checking up on certain bars to see if the rules were being followed.

National News:

Politico: VA audit finds 'systemic lack of integrity'

<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/05/veterans-affairs-audit-107262.html>

Jeremy Herb

Appointments' wait times were manipulated at more than 60 percent of the Department of Veterans Affairs health facilities investigated as part of a new internal audit. The White House-ordered audit found that schedulers faced pressure to manipulate the system and concluded there was a "systemic lack of integrity within some Veterans Health Administration facilities."

Associated Press: VA Audit: Pressured schedulers masked wait times

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_VETERANS_SHINSEKI_AUDIT?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-05-30-15-47-36

Here are highlights from an internal audit by the Department of Veterans Affairs that was ordered by Eric Shinseki, who resigned Friday as head of the agency: - Meeting a 14-day wait-time target "for new appointments was simply not attainable" given the number of medical workers and growing patient demand.

McClatchy DC: Tea party's last shot this year? Mississippi votes Tuesday

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2014/05/30/228933/tea-party-s-last-shot-this-year.html?sp=/99/104/#storylink=cpy>

David Lightman

Kipp Gregory looks around Biloxi and marvels at the gleaming new Civic Center and the spacious, modern visitor center. He appreciates how Sen. Thad Cochran had a big hand in rebuilding this seaside city, left for dead by Hurricane Katrina nine years ago.

Brian Symmes

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304

Cell: (803) 673-9437