

**From:** Symmes, Brian  
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**Subject:** Morning Clips - Tuesday, August 13, 2013

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## Morning Clips – Tuesday, August 13, 2013

### Governor Nikki Haley News:

**Associated Press:** Haley plans to announce re-election bid on Aug. 26

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20130812/AIK0105/130819828/1015/AIK0105/haley-plans-to-announce-re-election-bid-on-aug-26>

Jeffrey Collins

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley finally made it official Monday that she is running for re-election next year. Haley will kick off her re-election bid Aug. 26 during a fundraiser in Greenville with three other Republican governors, campaign spokesman Rob Godfrey said. The announcement sets up a likely rematch of the 2010 governor's race, when Haley got 51 percent of the vote and beat Democratic state Sen. Vincent Sheheen of Camden, who received 47 percent. Currently, both candidates are the only ones seeking their party's nominations.

**Note:** "With the fastest growing economy on the east coast, and the unemployment rate hitting a five-year low, South Carolina is moving fast in the right direction, but it's never fast enough for Nikki," Godfrey said. "She wants to make sure our state continues on the right path, and doesn't take a turn toward bigger government, higher taxes and Obamacare."

**Times and Democrat:** Governor's intent to run for 2nd term confirmed

[http://thetandd.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/governor-s-intent-to-run-for-nd-term-confirmed/article\\_f8f1a81c-03cc-11e3-8db9-001a4bcf887a.html](http://thetandd.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/governor-s-intent-to-run-for-nd-term-confirmed/article_f8f1a81c-03cc-11e3-8db9-001a4bcf887a.html)

Jeffrey Collins

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley finally made it official Monday that she is running for re-election next year. Haley will kick off her re-election bid Aug. 26 during a fundraiser in Greenville with three other Republican governors, campaign spokesman Rob Godfrey said. The focus of Haley's campaign is already evident through her official events. She will tout the generally declining unemployment rate during her term and the 36,000 new jobs her office has announced since she took office in 2011. Haley has also started reminding people she signed a bill that could raise up to \$1 billion of additional money for the state's roads through a combination of borrowing, extra revenue and money diverted from other sources.

**Post and Courier:** Veronica's dad eludes S.C.

[http://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?p\\_action=doc&p\\_docid=14827530C2C970A0&p\\_docnum=3](http://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?p_action=doc&p_docid=14827530C2C970A0&p_docnum=3)  
Natalie Caula and Andrew Knapp

An Oklahoma man at the center of a cross-country custody battle disappeared from the sights of South Carolina authorities again Monday, further complicating efforts to return his daughter to her adoptive parents on James Island. Charleston County Sheriff Al Cannon said Dusten Brown is only digging his hole deeper with stalling tactics to delay the return of 3-year-old Veronica to her adoptive parents, Matt and Melanie Capobianco. Brown's attorney, however, questioned the validity of South Carolina's efforts to pursue criminal penalties against Brown and vowed to fight his extradition to the Palmetto State.

**Note:** Gov. Nikki Haley on Monday signed a requisition warrant to gain custody of Brown, and it was being shipped overnight to Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin.

**Note:** "She stands in support of the Capobiancos and shares their desire to bring Veronica home safely," Haley's spokesman Doug Mayer said. In a statement to the Tulsa World newspaper, Gov. Fallin's spokesman Alex Weintz confirmed their office expects to receive that request from Haley on Tuesday.

**Seneca Journal:** Idaho Governor approves extradition request for Walhalla mom

<https://upstatetoday.com/2013/08/idaho-governor-approves-extradition-request-for-walhalla-mom/>  
Norman Cannada

Idaho Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter has approved an extradition request for a Walhalla mom who will soon face four felony custodial interference charges in Oconee County. A request from S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley to

extradite Laverne Marie Bennett, 44, was granted and signed by Otter Monday afternoon, according to Jon Hanian, the Idaho governor's press secretary. It was not known Monday night when Bennett would be transported back to Oconee County.

**Greenville News:** This week designated as 'Health Center Week'

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013308120043>

Liv Osby

Gov. Nikki Haley has designated Aug. 11-17 as "South Carolina Health Center Week" in recognition of the contributions that community health centers make to society. More than 324,000 South Carolinians get medical care at one of several community health centers around the state, according to Haley's proclamation. These centers help lower the cost of that care by reducing inappropriate use of emergency rooms and hospitals, according to the proclamation.

**The Hindu:** Anna Hazare to ring bell at NASDAQ

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/world/anna-hazare-to-ring-bell-at-nasdaq/article5018883.ece?homepage=true>

Indian Americans here are preparing to throw a red carpet welcome to anti-corruption crusader Anna Hazare, during his two-week visit to the US. Mr. Hazare is scheduled to arrive in New York on August 16. He will visit the United Nations headquarters; meet lawmakers at the Capitol Hill; besides interacting with students and academicians in San Francisco, Maryland, the University of Pennsylvania in Wharton and Columbia University.

**Note:** During his stay in the US, Hazare is scheduled to crisscross the country after leading India's Independence Day parade in New York to be attended by thousands of people, ring the bell at NASDAQ and have dinner with the South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley.

### **Opinion / Editorial Roundup:**

**Post and Courier:** Furl that banner to prove progress

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130813/PC16/130819815/1006/furl-that-banner-to-prove-progress>  
Frank Wooten

Front and center. That's where the Confederate battle flag flies on Statehouse grounds in Columbia. And the NAACP is keeping calls for an economic boycott of South Carolina front and center as long as that flag stays in what Dot Scott, president of the Charleston chapter, calls a "sovereign" position. The "sovereign" complaint is debatable. The "prominent" complaint is not. That flag at the Confederate Soldiers Memorial is smack dab in your Statehouse-front face along Gervais Street.

**Post and Courier (Guest Column):** Lessons from the TB debacle

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130813/PC1002/130819796/1021/lessons-from-the-tuberculosis-debacle>

Sen. Tom Davis

That government is best which governs least, and getting nonsensical laws off the books and stopping attempts to add ridiculous new ones — e.g., requiring animal shelters to be supervised by veterinarians, banning midwifery and out-of-hospital births, subjecting homeschooled children to state supervision, to name just a few from the South Carolina General Assembly's 2013 session — are among the most important things state lawmakers can do. That said, however, society does require government to provide certain core functions, and among those are protecting citizens from communicable diseases — a fact impressed upon me last week as I, along with other members of the State Senate Medical Affairs Committee, investigated the recent outbreak of tuberculosis in the rural upstate community of Ninety Six that resulted in more than 100 people contracting the TB germ, including 53 schoolchildren.

**Post and Courier:** Santee Cooper should plug in its rate-paying public

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130813/PC1002/130819792/1022/santee-cooper-should-plug-in-its-rate-paying-public>

Editorial

What if the board of a public agency voted on the largest public debt sale in the history of South Carolina, and nobody outside the agency was there to hear about it? That's pretty much what happened last Thursday when the Santee Cooper board approved the sale of \$1.34 billion in bonds at a "special" unscheduled meeting in Moncks Corner. The public utility contends it complied with the state Freedom of Information Act by putting up a notice in the lobby of its central office in Moncks Corner, and by a brief posting on its website

Tuesday night.

**The State:** Columbia's homelessness plan needs communitywide input

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/08/13/2915961/editorial-columbias-homelessness.html#storylink=cpy>  
Editorial

While Some Columbia officials and business owners understandably talk with extreme urgency about the need to address downtown homelessness, this is hardly a new phenomenon. In the mid-1990s, elected and business leaders deemed homelessness and aggressive panhandling a crisis that threatened the business district, driving customers elsewhere to avoid the hassle. Although the city cracked down on panhandling and sought other ways to deal with homelessness, it never has been able to make an appreciable difference. It hasn't been for a lack of ideas; many providers — including the Oliver Gospel Mission and The Salvation Army — tried to improve their services and facilities to aid in the effort.

**Seneca Journal:** Extradition takes teamwork

<https://upstatetoday.com/2013/08/extradition-takes-teamwork/>  
Editorial

Laverne Bennett is days away from being flown back to South Carolina, where she will face four felony charges for custodial interference. It was one month ago today when Bennett was found in Idaho three miles from the Washington state line with her four young children. She fled South Carolina with her girls in tow after she neglected to return them to their father July 7. She was traveling east from Washington, but it's unknown where she was heading. What we do know is this — she will face her consequences.

**Note:** We'd like to thank law enforcement in Oconee County and in Idaho, as well as both S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley's office and Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter for their effort to work together.

**Tampa Bay Times:** For education reform, teach teachers differently

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/aug/13/for-education-reform-teach-teachers-differently/>  
Bill Maxwell

During the next few weeks, America's public schools will reopen after summer vacation, and the debate about the quality of our teachers will resume. Negative headlines will hit front pages, and state lawmakers who disdain public school teachers will hatch new, ideologically driven quick fixes. It will be the same nasty debate in which teachers are portrayed as incompetent union-backed slackers and enemies of the children they are paid to instruct. I agree with earnest critics of the teaching profession that the way we educate and train our teachers should change and that we need to produce a better teacher corps. Many of our theories and practices are inherited from the 19th century, an industrial age, and should be scrapped.

**Aiken Standard:** Ride to honor officers an admirable effort

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20130812/AIK0201/130819842/1021/AIK0201/editorial-ride-to-honor-officers-an-admirable-effort>  
Editorial

It's a sad, yet humbling realization that Carolina Brotherhood will never have a reason not to ride.

Since last year, the group has been biking across North Carolina and South Carolina in honor of fallen law enforcements officers in both states. As part of this year's 700-mile bicycle journey, 30 officers from both states will be coming to Aiken today to commemorate the lives of those who served their community. Their trek began in Rocky Mount, N.C., on Saturday and will end on Aug. 17 in Boone, N.C., with a 6,000 elevation-foot climb on the last day.

**South Carolina News:**

**Spartanburg Herald-Journal:** Rep. Anthony to announce decision on SC superintendent of education run

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20130812/ARTICLES/130819918/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Anthony-to-announce-decision-on-SC-education-chief-run>

Felicia Kitzmiller

State Rep. Mike Anthony will announce his decision regarding a possible run for state Superintendent of Education at 10 a.m. Thursday at Union County Stadium. Anthony, D-Union, has been publicly mulling a run for the state's highest education position for several weeks. Before the six-term representative entered politics, he was a teacher and high school football coach for more than 30 years.

**The State:** 30 lawmakers earn perfect ratings from SC Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/08/12/2625768/30-lawmakers-earn-perfect-ratings.html#storylink=cpy>

Adam Beam

Thirty state lawmakers earned perfect scores in the S.C. Chamber of Commerce's 2013 legislative scorecard. The chamber ranked each lawmaker based on whether they cast a "business positive vote" on a number of bills that affected the business community. Twenty-nine Republicans earned perfect scores, along with two Democrats.

**Note:** State Sen. Vincent Sheheen, whom the chamber endorsed for governor in 2010, scored a 93. The chamber faulted him for voting to kill a budget amendment that would have set aside 10 percent of new recurring money each year to pay for road funding, a plan the chamber had endorsed. Sheheen is running for governor again in 2014.

**Note:** State Sen. Lee Bright, R-Spartanburg, scored a 53, the lowest of any state senator. Bright is scheduled to announce his candidacy for the U.S. senate on Tuesday, challenging Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham.

**Associated Press:** 6 Demos face off in Lowcountry state Senate race

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20130813/APN/1308130584>

Six Democrats are facing off in the primary for the state Senate seat in Charleston that was held by long-time state Sen. Robert Ford. Maurice Washington, Emmanuel Ferguson and Herbert Fielding are seeking their party's nomination as are Marlon Kimpson, Margaret Rush and Bob Thompson. There is no GOP primary. Billy Shuman is the only Republican to announce for the seat in the strongly Democratic district.

**Associated Press:** Bright set to kick off US Senate campaign

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20130813/APN/1308130583>

State Sen. Lee Bright is set to announce officially that he is mounting a Republican primary challenge against U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham next year. His campaign says the Roebuck lawmaker is making the announcement Tuesday during a teleconference with reporters. Bright was elected to the Senate in 2008. Last week, he went up with a website asking people to sign up for his newsletter and promising to send them a video announcement the moment he decides to run against Graham.

**Associated Press:** Clemson hosting international forum for scientists

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2013/08/13/5109309/clemson-hosting-international.html>

Clemson University is scheduled to host a forum for world-renowned scientists and engineers. The 15th International Conference on Macromolecular Complexes is set to begin Tuesday and run through Friday at the Hyatt Regency Greenville. It marks only the third time that a U.S. city has hosted the event. The discussion will center on the latest advances in polymers. Themes include energy harvesting, sustainability and green chemistry, biotechnology and biomedicine.

**Associated Press:** One-time Senate candidate Greene arrested in SC

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/08/12/2625782/ex-us-senate-candidate-alvin-greene.html#storylink=cpy>  
Jeffrey Collins

Alvin Greene, who as an unemployed Army veteran stunned the political world in 2010 by winning the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate in South Carolina without campaigning or spending money, has been arrested on a trespassing charge in Myrtle Beach. But the details of the arrest and why Green has been behind bars for four days on a misdemeanor charge with a \$100 fine remain a mystery, much like his sudden emergence into politics three years ago and his quick disappearance after being trounced by Republican Sen. Jim DeMint. Police said Greene, 35, was arrested Friday at an apartment complex after he was found walking around disoriented and asked for paramedics. They checked on Greene, according to a police report, and he was then taken into custody.

**Seneca Journal:** Free whooping cough vaccine offered today

<https://upstatetoday.com/2013/08/free-whooping-cough-vaccine-offered-today/>

Mikayla Kreuzberger

Due to recent changes in state law, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control will offer free whooping cough vaccines to incoming seventh graders and families today in Seneca and Wednesday in Pickens County. A state law now mandates all rising seventh graders to show proof of a Tdap booster vaccination in order to attend school next week. The booster protects teens and adults from tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis, also known as whooping cough. State officials said whooping cough is one of the most difficult diseases to control in S.C. and in the U.S.

**Local News:**

**Post and Courier:** Senate District 42 polls open at 7 a.m. today

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130813/PC16/130819806/1177/senate-district-42-polls-open-at-7-am-today>

Robert Behre

A light turnout is expected today as Democrats in Senate District 42 go to the polls to choose their candidate for the seat formerly held by Robert Ford. The forecast calls for a 30 percent chance of showers, with rain more likely in the late afternoon. As of late Monday, 645 absentee ballots had been cast or requested, just more than 1 percent of the district's 61,791 registered voters. Overall, turnout is expected to be between 10 percent and 15 percent, said Joe Debney, head of Charleston County's Board of Elections and Voter Registration.

**The State:** Columbia council to vote Tuesday on strong-mayor referendum

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/08/12/2916191/columbia-council-to-vote-tuesday.html#storylink=cpy>

Clif LeBlanc

The politically hot issue of changing the capital city's form of government for the first time in nearly 40 years comes before Columbia City Council Tuesday for a second time within 15 months. A May 8, 2012, effort to put the issue of a strong mayor before voters failed by one vote. Mayor Steve Benjamin again is pushing hard to get the controversial matter onto the Nov. 5 ballot, which also has his name and that of three other council members who are facing re-election.

**The State:** Feds fining Columbia \$1.5 million for pollution

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/08/13/2916226/feds-fining-city-15-million-for.html#storylink=cpy>

Sammy Fretwell

After more than four years of investigation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to hit Columbia with \$1.5 million in fines and cleanup costs for spilling sewage into rivers from the city's aging wastewater treatment system. The EPA's proposed sanctions, to be discussed Tuesday night by City Council, are designed to force repair of a sewer system that regularly leaks wastewater into once neglected rivers such as the Congaree and the Broad, which are increasingly popular with kayakers, canoeists and anglers.

**Rock Hill Herald:** Rock Hill educators travel to China for second year in a row

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2013/08/13/5109120/rock-hill-educators-travel-to.html#storylink=cpy>

Rachel Southmayd

While some teachers spent their summers vacationing, 25 Rock Hill educators spent it in classrooms. But they weren't classrooms here in South Carolina and their students weren't children. The local teachers were in China, helping Chinese teachers with their English skills. For the second year in a row, a team from Rock Hill spent four and a half weeks on the other side of the world, an opportunity that was open to any teacher or administrator in the district, said Michael Waiksnis, principal at Sullivan Middle School, where five of the Rock Hill team teach. The group travelled to three cities, helping Chinese educators with their English skills as well as their teaching methods.

**Island Packet:** County Council scraps \$125K for Solicitor's Office, endorses texting ban

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/08/12/2625635/texting-ban-solicitor-funding.html#storylink=cpy>

Tom Barton

Beaufort County Council overwhelmingly endorsed a proposal prohibiting drivers from texting while behind the wheel, but it split on whether to give an extra \$125,000 to the 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office. At its meeting Monday in Beaufort, the council unanimously gave first-reading approval to bar motorists from composing, sending or reading electronic messages, such as texts or emails, while driving. It does not prevent drivers from using GPS navigation or hands-free phone functions. It is nearly identical to an ordinance adopted last month by the Town of Hilton Head Island.

**Aiken Standard:** City outlines this year's projects

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20130813/AIK0101/130819793/1007/AIK0101/city-outlines-this-years-projects>

Maayan Schechter

The City of Aiken will work with a budget of about \$51 million for this fiscal year. The City approved the 2013-14 budget in June, a decrease from the past fiscal year's budget of about \$1.1 million. The City approved the budget, maintaining existing services, user fees based on full cost recovery, and the City has recorded no tax increases to the general fund in 23 years. Property taxes have also stayed the same. "What

Council has been able to do is keep property the same for 25 years,” said Richard Pearce, Aiken city manager. “Council has agreed not to raise the tax.”

**Aiken Standard:** Public Safety scores sweet deal on supplies

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20130813/AIK0101/130819822/1007/AIK0101/public-safety-scores-sweet-deal-on-supplies>

Teddy Kulmala

Aiken residents could soon see a white military-grade Hummer responding to calls with the Aiken Department of Public Safety's technical rescue or special response teams. Aiken Public Safety recently obtained two Hummers through a military surplus program known as the 1033 Program, which allows the U. S. Secretary of Defense to transfer, without charge, excess supplies and equipment from the U.S. Department of Defense to state and local law enforcement agencies.

**Rock Hill Herald:** Voter ID sessions scheduled, candidate filing for 8 towns opens in York County

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2013/08/12/5107973/voter-id-sessions-scheduled-candidate.html#storylink=cpy>

Voter IDs will be given out in Rock Hill during five events in August and September. York County elections officials have scheduled the sessions to help voters prepare for upcoming local elections. South Carolina law requires that voters have one of the following forms of identification to vote: S.C. driver's license, S.C. ID issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles, military ID (including Veterans Affairs card), passport or voter registration card with a photo.

**Anderson Independent:** New revenue figures mean more money for Oconee schools

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/aug/12/new-revenue-figures-mean-more-money-for-oconee/>  
Ray Chandler

New revenue figures mean the Oconee County school district won't have to dip into its savings as much as expected. District finance director Gloria Moore said Monday that revenue figures now showed the district would get about \$500,000 more in state money than officials anticipated when preparing the 2013-14 fiscal year school district budget. “In the original budget, we used (General Assembly) House Ways and Means numbers,” Moore told members of the school board of trustees. “These are the actual revenue numbers.”

**Times and Democrat:** ‘Off to a great start’: Organizations reignite students, parents for new school year

[http://thetandd.com/news/local/education/off-to-a-great-start-organizations-reignite-students-parents-for/article\\_2102cd74-039e-11e3-ba99-001a4bcf887a.html](http://thetandd.com/news/local/education/off-to-a-great-start-organizations-reignite-students-parents-for/article_2102cd74-039e-11e3-ba99-001a4bcf887a.html)

Kimberlei N. Davis

With less than a week before the beginning of a new school year, many parents, guardians and community organizations are helping get students off to a great start. Among those organizations are Trinity Lodge 559 and Trinity Chapter No. 3, which sponsored their 45th annual Back to School Bash and Community Cookout on Saturday. Tyshawn Hughes will join hundreds of other students as he makes the transition from elementary to middle school this year. Hughes and 80 other children were presented with book bags filled with school supplies on Saturday. In addition, the young people had the opportunity to learn about health and wellness and fire safety.

**Florence Morning News:** Debate over racial and economic disparities overshadows city council agenda

[http://www.scnw.com/news/article\\_399ab834-03c5-11e3-a90d-0019bb30f31a.html](http://www.scnw.com/news/article_399ab834-03c5-11e3-a90d-0019bb30f31a.html)

Lindsay S. Buchanan

In a meeting that started off by acknowledging and honoring city employees, recreation department athletes and the granting of a key to the city, Monday's Florence City Council regular meeting had a decided change of tone when it progressed to more than two hours of debate over economic and racial disparities among the city's citizens. Council's new chambers were filled to capacity as City employees and citizens listened to council grant length of service awards to a number of employees and then acknowledge the Recreation Department's award-winning sports teams.

**Anderson Independent:** City to reimburse developer for Anderson road

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/aug/12/city-to-reimburse-developer-for-anderson-road/>

Nikie Mayo

City officials took steps Monday night to end a long-standing dispute with Upstate developer Bill Epstein, agreeing to pay him more than \$280,000 for roadwork he has done in Anderson. In 1995, Anderson officials agreed that the city would build a road on Epstein's land near the intersection of Clemson Boulevard and

Liberty Highway. In return, Epstein agreed to annex 32 acres he owned there into Anderson's corporate limits, putting the land on the city's tax books. The land was annexed in 1997 and the city awarded a \$280,357 contract for the road construction the next year.

**Seneca Journal:** Clemson returns to merit pay system for employees

<https://upstatetoday.com/2013/08/clemson-returns-to-merit-pay-system-for-employees/>

Greg Oliver

Last year, City of Clemson employees received salary adjustments in what City Administrator Rick Cotton said was an effort to reduce the sting of increasing health insurance payments. But Cotton said any employee raises this year would have to be earned based on performance. "During this year's budget, we had the ability to go back to the merit pay system," Cotton told City Council during a recent meeting. "We do this on the anniversary of an employee's employment. So, if you had someone start today, you would typically have to wait a year to have a salary review."

**National News:**

**Associated Press:** N.C. governor signs sweeping elections bill

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130812/PC16/130819784/1006/nc-governor-signs-sweeping-elections-bill>

Tom Foreman Jr.

North Carolina's governor signed sweeping voting reforms into law on Monday, approving a package of changes that drew stinging criticism and a legal challenge from the NAACP and others. The American Civil Liberties Union joined two other groups in announcing they were filing suit against key parts of the reform package, hours after Gov. Pat McCrory signaled in a statement he had signed it without a ceremony. Republicans who backed the legislation said it was meant to prevent voter fraud, which they claim is both rampant and undetected in North Carolina. Independent voting rights groups joined Democrats and libertarians in suggesting the true goal was to suppress voter turnout, especially among blacks, the young, the elderly and the poor.

**Associated Press:** U.S. budget deficit down 37.6 percent through July

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20130812/AIK0103/130819837/1009/AIK0103/us-budget-deficit-down-376-percent-through-july>

Martin Crutsinger

The government on Monday reported a \$97.6 billion deficit for July but remains on track to post its lowest annual budget gap in five years. July's figure raises the deficit so far for the 2013 budget year to \$607.4 billion, the government says. That's 37.6 percent below the \$973.8 billion deficit for the first 10 months of the 2012 budget year. The Congressional Budget Office has forecast that the annual deficit will be \$670 billion when the budget year ends Sept. 30, far below last year's \$1.09 trillion. It would mark the first year that the gap between spending and revenue has been below \$1 trillion since 2008.

**Associated Press:** Biden keeps his name in the game for 2016

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/08/12/2625907/biden-keeps-his-name-in-the-game.html#storylink=cpy>

Josh Lederman

Joe Biden may run for president in 2016, or he may not. But he wants you to know he could. Iowa. New Hampshire. South Carolina. Michigan. Three years out from the next presidential election, the vice president is polishing his connections and racking up favors in all the right states to ensure he stays part of the conversation, keeping his name near the top of a list of likely contenders even if the prime spot seems to have already been claimed by Hillary Rodham Clinton. Biden's advisers and friends say his crowded schedule of campaign events to boost Democrats in key primary states reflects his role as vice president and a party leader, not some grand strategy to lay the groundwork for a presidential campaign he hasn't yet decided to undertake.

**Washington Examiner:** Liberals gear up for Obamacare fight

[http://thetandd.com/news/liberals-gear-up-for-obamacare-fight/article\\_edef05b0-0389-11e3-b5ab-0019bb2963f4.html](http://thetandd.com/news/liberals-gear-up-for-obamacare-fight/article_edef05b0-0389-11e3-b5ab-0019bb2963f4.html)

Byron York

While Republicans argue among themselves over what to do about Obamacare — Defund it? Delay it? Give up the fight to repeal it? — a coalition of wealthy and determined liberal groups is preparing to strike back at GOP efforts to stop the president's health care scheme. "We will deploy every tool and tactic at our disposal,

” said Brad Woodhouse, a former Democratic National Committee spokesman who now heads a group called Americans United for Change, during a recent conference call with reporters. “Events with supportive members (of Congress), administration officials, protests at Republican events, editorial board meetings, social media, press releases, op-eds, emails, videos, ads ... to hold Republicans accountable and go on offense in explaining (Obamacare’s) benefits to people.”

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