

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 11/21/2014 8:01:34 AM
Subject: Morning Clips – Friday, November 21, 2014

Morning Clips – Friday, November 21, 2014

Governor Nikki Haley News:

Press Trust of India: South Carolina invites Indian biz men

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/south-carolina-invites-indian-biz-men-114112100733_1.html

Indian-origin Governor of the US state of South Carolina, Nikki Haley, today invited Indian businessmen across various sectors for setting up businesses in her home State as part of enhancing trade ties between the two countries.

Note: "The opportunities are limitless. Already two or three companies have evinced interest (for investing in South Carolina). We have to wait for six months to see the results of our tour here (in India)..", Haley said to a question at an interactive session organised by CII here.

Note: "I see opportunity here. Our government structures are the same. We want to be here. I want Indian companies investing in South Carolina," she said.

Press Trust of India: TNAU receives FICC overall excellence award

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/tnau-receives-ficc-overall-excellence-award-114112100360_1.html

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has been conferred with the "Overall Excellence Award" instituted by Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICC), recently.

Note: The award was presented by Nikki Randhawa Haley, Governor of South Carolina (USA) in the presence of Smriti Zubin Irani, Union HRD Minister, Greg Clark, UK's Minister of State for Universities and Mohandas Pai, Chair, FICCI HE Committee.

Aiken Standard: New Bridgestone facility to have economic, educational impacts

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141121/AIK0101/141129962/1004/new-bridgestone-facility-to-have-economic-educational-impacts>

Derrek Asberry

The ribbon-cutting for Bridgestone's new off-road radial tires facility is over, but the impact it will have on the local economy and education, in addition to the entire state, is just beginning. Bridgestone brought hundreds out for its media day Tuesday on Giant Tire Parkway in Graniteville, where leaders and business partners spoke about the 1.5 million-square-foot facility.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley couldn't attend Tuesday's event but sent comments via a pretaped video. Haley said the state and the company have a successful history of working together. "Bridgestone is a great South Carolina company, employing thousands of our citizens and playing an active and positive role in their local community," she said.

Greenwood Today: Local manufacturing company announces expansion

<http://gwdtoday.com/main.asp?SectionID=2&SubSectionID=27&ArticleID=32151>

A local manufacturing company announced Thursday that it would be expanding its Greenwood County operation, creating 15 new jobs as part of a \$12 million investment. SPF North America, Inc. announced Thursday that it would expand its facility in Hodges.

Note: "It is always great to see a company succeeding in our state - especially one like SPF North America, which is expanding for the second time since locating in South Carolina seven years ago," Haley said.

"SPF's decision to invest \$12 million and create 15 new jobs is great news for the local community and the hardworking people who live there."

Index-Journal: SPF North America Inc. to expand Greenwood County facility

<http://www.indexjournal.com/news/SPF-North-America-Inc-to-expand-Greenwood-County-facility>

SPF North America Inc. will be investing \$12 million to expand its operations in Hodges and add 15 new

jobs, the South Carolina Department of Commerce announced today.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley also weighed in on the announcement, saying "It is always great to see a company succeeding in our state -- especially one like SPF North America, which is expanding for the second time since locating in South Carolina seven years ago. SPF's decision to invest \$12 million and create 15 new jobs is great news for the local community and the hardworking people who live there."

S.C. Same-Sex Marriage News:

Associated Press: SC state agencies begin recognizing gay marriages

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

Bruce Smith

Government agencies in South Carolina began recognizing gay marriages on Thursday, giving health care coverage to the spouses and children of same-sex couples. Residents can also now change their last name on their driver's license to their partner's, as long as, like any couple, they show a marriage license. The offer is extended to all married people in the state health plan.

Post and Courier: Legal same-sex marriage rolls across South Carolina

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141120/PC16/141129958>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

Same-sex marriage cascaded across South Carolina on Thursday, from Charleston out into the most conservative rural swaths of the state, after the U.S. Supreme Court refused to halt it. The justices denied S. C. Attorney General Alan Wilson's request for a stay in a federal lawsuit that found the state's gay marriage ban unconstitutional.

Greenville News: Greenville begins issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/11/20/chief-justice-john-roberts-issues-ruling-in-sc-marriage-case/19320767/>

Lyn Riddle

David Tarpley and Sonny Southerlin have been together for 33 years, and Friday they're going to Falls Park to get married. They were the first couple in Greenville County to apply for a license to marry after the U.S. Supreme Court denied the state of South Carolina's appeal Thursday morning.

The State: SC same-sex couples, denied before, get married as Supreme Court steps aside

http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/20/3824192_same-sex-couples-pick-up-licenses.html?rh=1#storylink=cpy

Sarah Ellis, John Monk

The U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday refused to block same-sex marriages in South Carolina. Practically, though, marriage licenses were being awarded and couples were being wed as early as Wednesday afternoon, after the S.C. Supreme Court allowed state probate judges to issue licenses.

Anderson Independent: 6 Upstate gay couples apply for marriage licenses

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/two-same-sex-couples-apply-for-marriage-in-oconee-county>

Kirk Brown

Brandy and Haleigh Towe smiled broadly Thursday as they walked arm-in-arm. Minutes earlier, they had become the first same-sex couple to apply for a marriage license in Oconee County.

Brandy Towe said several recent court rulings that nullified the state's ban on gay marriages in South Carolina were "fantastic."

Florence Morning News: First same-sex couples apply for marriage licenses in Florence

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_d0ef66e2-710d-11e4-822a-a7792b15a7b3.html

Gavin Jackson, Traci Bridges

Holding hands, Jami Cornwell and her partner, Kim Ellisor, patiently waited in Terri Woods' Probate Court marriage license office Thursday in the Florence County Complex. Cornwell and Ellisor waited patiently, like thousands of other couples across the country have before them and dozens were in courthouses across the state.

Sun News: Horry County issues first same-sex marriage license Thursday

http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/11/20/4619240_horry-county-issues-first-same.html?sp=/99/209/&rh=1

Jason M. Rodriguez

Though Jon Harmon and Mark Pokrant have been together for nearly two and half decades, Thursday's opportunity to finally apply for a marriage license in South Carolina created an overwhelming feeling of nerves and excitement for the two men in their mid- to late-50s.

Seneca Journal: Same-sex couples make history in Oconee

<https://upstatetoday.com/2014/11/same-sex-couples-make-history-in-oconee/>

Carlos Galarza-Veve

It was a historic moment in the annals of Oconee County Probate Court when two same-sex couples walked in around noon Thursday to obtain and sign their marriage licenses. A television news crew, reporters and photographers surrounded Trad Guntar, 46, and David Fretwell, 61, as they walked out of the office of probate judge Kenny Johns, and they were not shy to share their story.

Aiken Standard: Aiken County ties the knot on gay marriage: 'Not just about us; it's a big day for South Carolina'

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141121/AIK0101/141129942/1121>

Maayan Schechter

Never did Kathy Batchelor and Mimi Cullinan believe they would be able to get married in their lifetime; maybe they thought marriage would come for the generation after theirs. But at 12:01 Thursday afternoon, Aiken County joined hundreds of other counties across the United States allowing same-sex couples to apply for marriage licenses.

Times and Democrat: County begins licensing same-sex marriages

http://thetandd.com/news/local/county-begins-licensing-same-sex-marriages/article_c5efb064-7142-11e4-91d6-9bb1827b7eab.html

Gene Zaleski

Orangeburg residents Marteesha Williams, 37, and Yashica Jamison, 24, knew they wanted to marry. But under South Carolina law, they could not do so. Until Thursday morning. The couple became the first in Orangeburg County to apply for a same-sex marriage license on the first day of its court-ordered legalization.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: After ban overturned, gay couples apply for marriage licenses in Spartanburg County

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20141120/ARTICLES/141129983/1083/ARTICLES?Title=After-ban-overturned-gay-couples-apply-for-marriage-licenses-in-Spartanburg-County>

Kim Kimzey

Beth York did not anticipate Thursday would happen in her lifetime. She and her partner of 20 years, Barbara Ester, were the first gay couple to arrive and apply for a marriage license in Spartanburg County Probate Court. They arrived about a half hour before applications were accepted at noon. Five couples had applied by 1 p.m.

Beaufort Gazette: Couple make history with first Beaufort County same-sex marriage license application

http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/11/20/3442561_beaufort-county-probate-judge.html?sp=/99/100/&rh=1#storylink=cpy

Zach Murdock

The result of a little paperwork and an hour wait made Michael Raye Lutz and Alayna Reynolds quite happy Thursday. Wearing rainbow scarves and enormous grins, Lutz and Reynolds strolled arm-in-arm from the Beaufort County Courthouse shortly before 1 p.m., as the first same-sex couple to apply for a marriage license there.

Rock Hill Herald: Legalization of same-sex marriage means Fort Mill moms, children can make their family official

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/11/20/6551515/legalization-of-same-sex-marriage.html#storylink=cpy>

Rachel Southmayd

For two Fort Mill women in the parking lot of the York County Probate Court, Thursday was a day they thought was still decades away. Kristie Nason and Jennifer Carroll, both 38, had resigned themselves to the fact that their non-legal wedding, held in Charlotte six years ago, would be the closest they would get to a legal marriage in South Carolina.

Rock Hill Herald: Love won as same-sex couples in S.C. applied for marriage licenses

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/11/20/6551589/love-won-as-same-sex-couples-in.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Dys

The thermometer read 31 degrees outside the doors to York County's Probate Court before 8 a.m. Thursday. Jim Strickland, 60, and Mike Goforth, 46, proud to have been a couple for 18 years, waited to be first when the doors opened. A beautiful woman walked up.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier (Guest Column): Obama draws divisive line on immigration

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141121/PC1002/141129913>

Congressman Mark Sanford

In reaction to the hallmark elections of 1994, and the so-called Republican Revolution, President Bill Clinton said that the era of big government was over. I happened to be one of the 74 Republican freshmen who came to Congress at that time when Republicans took control of the House for the first time in 40 years.

Aiken Standard: Court ruling doesn't dilute the institution of marriage

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141121/AIK0201/141129956/1018/AIK02>

Editorial

If anything, the decision this week to permit same-sex couples to get married should be viewed not just as a victory for equality, but for marriage itself. South Carolina joins 34 other states where same sex marriage is legal, with other states likely to follow suit in the future. This movement merely strengthens the idea of the partnership that is marriage.

Post and Courier: GOP shouldn't delay NSA reform

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141121/PC1002/141129909>

Editorial

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., who will step up to the majority leader's post in January, got off on the wrong foot Tuesday night when he and most of his GOP colleagues blocked consideration of a bipartisan bill to end bulk collection of Americans' telephone data by the National Security Agency.

Post and Courier: Is Alan Wilson playing politics with gay marriage, or just doing his job?

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141121/PC16/141129919>

Brian Hicks

Alan Wilson need not expect an invitation to a pride parade anytime soon. The South Carolina attorney general has been cast as the villain of the gay community for his continuing - and relentless - efforts to block same-sex marriages in the state. As one court after the other has ruled that such bans are unconstitutional, Wilson has continued to appeal.

Rock Hill Herald: More regulation needed for child-care programs

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/11/20/6551543/more-regulation-needed-for-child.html?sp=/100/105/>

Editorial

Larger, licensed child-care programs already are monitored by the state, with required licensing, background checks of employees, safety devices such as smoke detectors, specific qualifications for those who run them and regular inspections by agents from the Department of Social Services.

Times and Democrat: Nation should demand better from the VA

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/nation-should-demand-better-from-the-va/article_9527a8f4-7149-11e4-9783-bb9803ab1e4f.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Department of Veterans affairs; OUR OPINION: New leader owed chance to fix problems – amid scrutiny of the efforts. The Department of Veterans Affairs' systemic, protracted failure to provide former military members adequate health care is a national outrage.

The State: Upgrades planned for Columbia's Finlay Park are much-needed, worthwhile

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/20/3825234/editorial-upgrades-planned-for.html>

Editorial

COLUMBIA'S Finlay Park is worthy of the much-needed overhaul city officials are planning for it. Despite being worn and neglected, Finlay is still the city's showcase park, and there is no reason it shouldn't be a major attraction for many who visit and frequent downtown.

Island Packet: District to focus on helping its ESOL students

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/11/20/3443463/district-to-focus-on-helping-its.html?sp=/99/342/>

Editorial

Plenty of people are scratching their heads, trying to figure out why the U.S. Department of Education is investigating the Beaufort County School District for possible discrimination against English-language learners.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

McClatchy DC: S.C. GOP miffed over president's immigration action

http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/11/20/6551937_sc-gop-miffed-over-presidents.html?rh=1

Samantha Ehlinger, Daniel Salazar

South Carolina Republicans cried foul about President Barack Obama's decision to act on immigration, calling it an overreaching act that misreads this year's midterm election results. After years of delays and partisan debate, Obama announced on Thursday sweeping changes to immigration policy, bypassing Congress altogether by signing an executive order.

Greenville News: Graham, Gowdy oppose Obama's immigration order

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/11/20/graham-gowdy-oppose-obamas-immigration-order/70028008/>

Mary Troyan

President Barack Obama's decision to issue an executive order granting legal status to millions of undocumented immigrants is an affront to the constitutional power of Congress, Rep. Trey Gowdy, a moderate Republican voice on immigration, said Thursday.

WCSC: President's immigration plan draws strong reaction from SC lawmakers

<http://www.live5news.com/story/27445894/presidents-immigration-plan-draws-strong-reaction-from-sc-lawmakers>

Sujata Jain

South Carolina lawmakers reacted to President Barack Obama's immigration speech Thursday night. The President detailed a plan that would shield five-million undocumented immigrants from deportation. Republican Rep. Mark Sanford says the President is making a mistake by taking executive action, and he says the timing of his decision is suspicious.

Associated Press: Duncan holding congressional hearing on disasters

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=rXaWv6D9

U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan is hosting a congressional field hearing in South Carolina on how states are prepared to deal with disasters ranging from hurricanes and storms to Ebola and cyberattacks. The hearing is scheduled for Friday in Clemson.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Local Latinos, lawmakers react to immigration order

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141120/PC16/141129916>

Adam Parker

As President Barack Obama prepared to deliver his speech explaining the executive order he is issuing to provide millions of undocumented immigrants with work permits, local Latinos expressed measured gratitude and cautious optimism while the state's Republican lawmakers cried foul.

Post and Courier: Attorney General Alan Wilson backs stiffer domestic violence penalties, weighing gun issue

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141120/PC1603/141129921>

Jeremy Borden

Attorney General Alan Wilson backed stiffer penalties for dangerous domestic abusers in testifying Thursday before a House committee working on reforms, but, afterward, stopped short of joining the call to take away their guns.

Greenville News: Michelin executive: Tweel not ready for passenger car market

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/11/20/michelin-executive-tweel-ready-passenger-car-market/70026218/>

Rudolph Bell

The president of Michelin North America says air-filled tires still perform better on passenger cars in some respects than do Michelin's new airless tires, but the airless technology, called Tweel, is still evolving and no one knows what the future holds.

Anderson Independent: Airless tires being made at \$50 million Piedmont plant

http://www.independentmail.com/business/airless-tires-being-made-at-50-million-piedmont-plant_34640683

Mike Ellis

Combining wheel and tire, the tweel has dozens of polyurethane spokes that flex and deform on the bottom as the tire goes over rough terrain. At roughly \$50 million, the 135,000 square foot Piedmont plant was built in Greenville County near Augusta Road in about 13 months and recently started producing the tires.

Post and Courier: Charleston port volume keeps growing, but climb gets steeper

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141120/PC05/141129927>

John McDermott

Business at the State Ports Authority continued to grow at a double-digit clip last month, but that pace will be tough to match next year, the maritime agency's top executive said. Dock workers at the Port of Charleston handled the equivalent of 164,672 20-foot-long shipping containers in October, up 17 percent from the same month last year.

The State: Gold mine owner freezes hiring as legal challenge continues

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/20/3824626/gold-mine-owner-puts-hiring-on.html>

Sammy Fretwell

Diane Garrett, the Canadian company's chief officer, said in a conference call Thursday that the company has received 3,500 resumes from people seeking to work for the mining company at its proposed gold-digging operation near the town of Kershaw.

S.C. General Assembly News:

WOLO: Operation Lost Trust: 24 Years Later

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/news/local/Operation-Lost-Trust-24-Years-Later--283403681.html>

Crandall Sims

The year was 1990 and the Federal Government was in Columbia to clean house. By the time Operation Lost Trust was over 27 people, the majority state Representatives, a state Senator turned Judge and lobbyists, were convicted for vote selling.

Local News:

Florence Morning News: Florence County Council OKs grant for Project Cowgirl

http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article_08829492-7106-11e4-a3d6-4f90259ecd2e.html

Gavin Jackson

The Florence County Council unanimously approved a \$300,000 grant for the downtown Florence economic development Project Cowgirl. The project will create 153, well-paying jobs for the Med-Enroll company. The company assists other companies with finding health insurance savings. County council also unanimously approved the second reading of a few-in-lieu-of-tax agreement.

Post and Courier: Former S.C. first lady Jenny Sanford calls Charleston airport staffer's firing by letter "callous"

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141120/PC05/141129918>

Warren Wise

Notifying longtime Charleston airport spokeswoman Becky Beaman by mail that she was fired over a videotaping incident was "callous," former South Carolina first lady Jenny Sanford said Thursday. Airports Director Paul Campbell said Beaman's dismissal by letter was handled "according to the recommendation of our counsel" so as to not embarrass her by doing it at the office.

National News:

New York Times: Obama, Daring Congress, Acts to Overhaul Immigration

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/21/us/obama-immigration-speech.html?smid=nytcore-iphone-share&smprod=nytcore-iphone&_r=0

Michael D. Shear

President Obama chose confrontation over conciliation on Thursday as he asserted the powers of the Oval Office to reshape the nation's immigration system and all but dared members of next year's Republican-controlled Congress to reverse his actions on behalf of millions of immigrants.

Brian Symmes

Cell: 803-673-9437

Office: 803-734-0304