

From: Symmes, Brian
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Subject: Clips - Saturday, December 14, 2013

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Wall Street Journal Photo Journal: Photo of the day

<http://blogs.wsj.com/photojournal/2013/12/13/photos-of-the-day-dec-13-4/>

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Associated Press: Zais not seeking 2nd term as superintendent

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=E6KcHA8r

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina public schools chief Mick Zais announced Friday that he will not seek a second term in 2014, opening the door for a wide field of candidates for the job. The 67-year-old Republican said he made the difficult decision after consulting with his family. Zais and his wife have two children and two grandchildren. "For the last 45 years of my life, my family has made enormous sacrifices to support my careers, moving around the country and the world many times," Zais said in a prepared statement. "They mean more to me than anything on this planet."

Post and Courier: South Carolina Superintendent of Education Mick Zais won't seek re-election in 2014

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131213/PC16/131219748/1389/zais-wont-seek-re-election>

Diette Courrage Casey

Despite initial plans to seeking a second term, S.C. Superintendent of Education Mick Zais announced Friday that he won't enter the 2014 race. Zais said his family has made enormous sacrifices for the past 45 years to support his careers, and they meant more to him than "anything on this planet." They were why he decided not to seek re-election to the state's top schools post. "This was a very difficult decision," he wrote in an online statement. "I was preparing for, and looking forward to, a re-election campaign. I'm confident I would have run a strong campaign and would have been re-elected."

The State: Lt. gov. challenger Pat McKinney receives Mick Mulvaney endorsement

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/13/3157384/election-2014-lt-gov-candidate.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Pat McKinney received his first formal endorsement from an elected official in his GOP bid for S.C. lieutenant governor. U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-Indian Land, endorsed the Charleston developer who is challenging Republican Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell next year. McKinney "is a common-sense conservative whose experience in business and the private sector will allow him to bring a much-needed perspective to state government," Mulvaney said in a statement released by the McKinney campaign. "I'm confident Pat will work to create a pro-business environment and reform state government to make it more efficient and effective. Pat is a leader we can trust."

Post and Courier: Rick Wade seeks Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131213/PC16/131219677/1005/>

Prentiss Findlay

Columbia resident Rick Wade, a senior advisor to Barack Obama's presidential campaigns and a cabinet officer for former Gov. Jim Hodges, said Friday that he is seeking the Democratic nomination next year for the U.S. Senate seat held by Republican Tim Scott of Charleston. "The people of South Carolina understand that Washington is broken. If we are going to solve the big problems we face and get things done, our representatives must be accountable to their constituents," Wade said in a statement released by his campaign.

The State: Former Obama aide sets sights on Scott's US Senate seat

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/13/3158078/former-obama-aide-sets-sights.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Rick Wade, a former U.S. Commerce Department adviser and Cabinet officer under then-Gov. Jim Hodges, will seek the Democratic nomination next year for the U.S. Senate seat held by Republican Tim Scott. "The people of South Carolina understand that Washington is broken," the Democratic Lancaster native said in a statement released Friday night. "If we are going to solve the big problems we face and get things done, our representatives must be accountable to their constituents." The Senate race stands to make history in South Carolina, where an African-American has not won statewide office since Reconstruction.

Greenville News: Bright: Debt disclosure won't impact vote much

http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131214/NEWS03/312140019/Bright-Debt-disclosure-won-t-impact-vote-much?nclick_check=1

Tim Smith

State Sen. Lee Bright of Spartanburg County says he doesn't believe his disclosure of at least \$1.3 million in debt related to his trucking business will have much impact on voters in his campaign to unseat U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham next year in the GOP primary. Bright filed the disclosure with the U.S. Senate this week, listing debts to 29 creditors, including himself, that total between \$1.35 million and \$3.14 million related, he said, to his trucking business he started in 1997. The Senate requires ranges in disclosures rather than exact amounts.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Look for another I-26 solution

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131214/PC1002/131219668/1021/look-for-another-i-26-solution>

Editorial

The state Department of Transportation hasn't been able sell local residents on its plan to virtually clear-cut the I-26 median from Summerville to I-95. But the plan, or something very close to it, got the endorsement of a local Council of Governments committee on Wednesday. There's got to be a better way. No question, the trees present a hazard, particularly to motorists who are speeding, using their cell phones or are otherwise distracted or impaired. We've had plenty of letters to the editor attesting to how commonplace those hazardous activities are along that rural stretch of I-26.

Times and Democrat: Sellers' legislation on domestic violence is good first step

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/editorial/sellers-legislation-on-domestic-violence-is-good-first-step/article_834eaac4-6489-11e3-b257-001a4bcf887a.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Domestic violence; OUR OPINION: Bill would help reduce the plague killing women in the Palmetto State. A bill prefiled in the state House of Representatives would be a good first step in treating domestic violence like the dangerous crime that it is. The bill would increase the maximum penalty for first-offense criminal domestic violence from 30 days to 180 days. This is an absolute necessity. The increase would bring the penalty for domestic violence in line with crimes such as failing to pay a telephone bill or defrauding a hotel.

Post and Courier: The best budget deal available

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131214/PC1002/131219669/1021/the-best-budget-deal-available>

Editorial

The pleasant surprise of the new congressional budget deal is that it covers two years, through September 2015. It is the first time congressional budget negotiators have agreed to look that far ahead in four years. While the agreement increases spending in 2014 and 2015 by \$63 billion, including much-needed relief for the Defense Department, it raises enough money through fees and changes in federal pension plans to make a small contribution to deficit reduction over the next decade. Both liberal and conservative lobbies have find plenty of reasons to object to the deal, which passed the House by a 332-94 margin Thursday.

Island Packet: Beaufort School District gets creative with hiring

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/12/14/2848082/beaufort-school-district-gets.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

When several Beaufort County School District principals were unable to find substitute teachers this fall, district leaders got creative. It's something too rarely seen in S.C. school districts. As a result, the district held its first Substitute Blitz last week to replenish its ranks of substitutes to fill in when classroom teachers

are out. Of more than 100 applicants, 75 passed prescreening, which included a look at their resumes, reference checks and, for the first time ever, a requirement they have a four-year degree. During the blitz, candidates took a writing test and interviewed with district principals, assistant principals and master teachers -- giving school-level leaders input into the hiring process.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

McClatchy DC: Clyburn too conservative? Signs of emerging Democratic divide

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/13/3157897/clyburn-too-conservative-signs.html#storylink=cpy>

James Rosen

U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn is used to political foes calling him liberal. They've been doing it for years. Now, though, prominent liberals are coming after him for being too conservative. Several left-wing groups are criticizing South Carolina's Clyburn, the No. 3 Democratic leader in the House of Representatives, for his relationship with one of the party's influential centrist policy organizations. The founders of that think tank, Third Way, attacked U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., last week for pushing tax hikes for the rich and increases in Social Security benefits, and for taking other stances that they said represented risky fiscal approaches and bad political strategies.

South Carolina News:

Aiken Standard: Aiken leaders go to D.C. to fight for SRS funding

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131214/AIK0101/131219722/1004/aiken-leaders-go-to-dc-to-fight-for-srs-funding>

Derrek Asberry

Aiken leaders discussed Savannah River Site funding issues with members of the Congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., this week but still are unsure of how two senators will vote on two bills related to the issue. David Jameson, president and CEO of the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce, traveled to Washington, D.C. along with Will Williams from the Economic Development Partnership and Rick McLeod from the SRS Community Reuse Organization. The three met with U.S. Reps. Joe Wilson and Jeff Duncan, R-S.C., and Rep. William Clyburn, D.-S.C. They also met with U.S. Sens. Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott, R-S.C. Jameson and Williams said the meetings were productive.

Post and Courier: Charleston School of Law sale to InfiLaw moves forward

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131213/PC16/131219709/1177/charleston-school-of-law-sale-to-infilaw-moves-forward>

Diane Knich

Charleston School of Law founders will move ahead with plans to sell the school to the for-profit InfiLaw System, despite opposition from students, alumni and members of the state's legal community. In an op-ed on today's Commentary page, retired U.S. magistrate judges George C. Kosko and Robert S. Carr, two the three members of the school's board, said they and InfiLaw representatives considered other options for the school's future. But none were viable.

Local News:

Associated Press: SC's largest insurer opening 1st store in Columbia

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

South Carolina's largest insurer is opening a retail store in Columbia where people can get help signing up for health plans it's offering under the federal law. BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina is holding a grand opening from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the store in the Columbiana Station shopping center. The company is among several offering policies for South Carolinians through the federal government's online marketplace, which has been riddled with problems since its Oct. 1 launch.

National News:

Associated Press: GOP struggle widens as Boehner rebukes hard right

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=afYlkzs4

Charles Babington

The Republican establishment's much-anticipated pushback against the tea party wing is underway. House Speaker John Boehner made that clear Thursday, when he renewed his denunciation of groups that try to

defeat GOP incumbents they consider too willing to compromise with Democrats. Some Republican loyalists wonder what took so long. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce recently took steps to help mainstream Republicans in party primaries, but Boehner's high-profile outburst will move the effort to the GOP's front burners.

Associated Press: Politics color governors' decisions on Medicaid

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=3J4rLUPc

Charles Babington

Partisan politics are coloring governors' decisions about whether to expand Medicaid in their states, affecting billions of dollars and thousands of low-income people. The question of whether they receive Medicaid coverage may have little to do with need, and much to do with the way their states vote in governors' races, including primaries. Every Democratic governor has called for accepting larger-than-usual federal subsidies to expand Medicaid, the government health insurance program for the poor. The only three who failed were blocked by Republican state legislators.

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