

From: Symmes, Brian
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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Times and Democrat: 26 new jobs coming; 200 could follow

http://thetandd.com/business/new-jobs-coming-could-follow/article_53f1d24e-6c57-11e3-8a1c-0019bb2963f4.html

Gene Zaleski

Santa arrived two days early for Orangeburg County in the form of two industrial announcements that could bring a total investment of \$27.5 million and 226 new jobs over the next five years. Quality Model South Carolina Inc. announced Monday it plans to invest \$3 million into a new product line at its facility in the Orangeburg County/City Industrial Park. It will add 26 new jobs. In addition, Orangeburg County Council approved incentives for a company which officials are only calling "Project Compute" for now.

Note: "We are thrilled another international company is expanding in our state," Gov. Nikki Haley said. "We applaud Quality Model for continuing to grow their business in Orangeburg County, investing \$3 million and creating 26 new jobs."

Greenville News: Plan would provide funds to repair roads

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013312240010>

Tim Smith

Six months after state lawmakers approved funding to leverage more than \$600 million for road and bridge repairs, a senator said he will introduce amendments to a pending bill that could amount to \$900 million more for the state's crumbling infrastructure. Sen. Ray Cleary, a Georgetown County Republican who championed road funding earlier this year in the Senate, told The Greenville News that he has prepared 17 amendments to a House bill on the Senate calendar that include raising fees and fee-like taxes such as the state's sales tax on cars, increases in driver's license fees and vehicle registration and indexing the state's gas tax for inflation.

Note: It doesn't include any bonding proposal, which he said "doesn't solve the problem," and doesn't contain, he believes, any tax increase, which might allow Gov. Nikki Haley to sign the bill or at least not oppose it.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Obamacare's sinking ship

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131224/PC1002/131229739/1021/obamacares-incurable-ailments>
Editorial

Another day, another delay in the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. OK, so that's a bit of an exaggeration. But only a bit. And Monday's news that the sign-up deadline for new federal health insurance policies under Obamacare had been extended should have come as no surprise. Simply put, the Obama administration has developed a seemingly unbreakable habit of adjusting the overreaching law's big-government mandates. Last June, the White House announced a one-year postponement in the requirement that businesses with 50 or more employees provide health insurance for them.

The State: SC Legislature Shouldn't Discourage Solar

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

Editorial

The decision by electricity giant SCE&G to build five solar energy facilities should put to rest the notion that solar is a boondoggle, embraced only by politicians seeking to curry favor from leftist Cassandras. Utilities are among the most powerful lobbying groups in our state, and our state is among the most politically conservative in the nation - in both the good and the bad ways. So you can be sure that a S.C. utility company would not make such an investment for purely political purposes.

Greenville News: Improve safety for sensitive data

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013312240004>

Editorial

As if South Carolinians needed it, there was another reminder earlier this month that it is critical for all of us to not only take steps to protect our confidential information, but also to be diligent about checking to make sure our personal information — such as credit card numbers — has not been compromised. This time, the breach came at the Target retail chain, though where it happened is infinitely less important than the fact that someone was able to obtain the data from the magnetic strips of up to 40 million credit cards.

South Carolina News:**Associated Press:** House Ethics dismisses case on state plane use

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=iejGe55

Seanna Adcox

A legislative panel on Monday dismissed allegations that Rep. Bill Chumley inappropriately used state aircraft when he shuttled a conservative commentator from the Washington area to testify on his bill. The House Ethics Committee voted unanimously after hearing from Chumley and his attorney for more than an hour. Following closed-door deliberations, the panel found insufficient proof that Chumley knowingly violated state law or economically benefited from the trip. "I think justice was served," Chumley, R-Woodruff, said after the vote. "It's the right thing to do. I think the committee was extremely fair."

The State: SC House Panel Dismisses Ethics Charges Against Obamacare Critic

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=p3RaRx9K

Adam Beam

The House Ethics Committee said earlier this year it was not "an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and resources" to use a state-owned airplane to fly witnesses to Columbia to testify about bills before the Legislature. But Monday, the committee unanimously dismissed a complaint against state Rep. Bill Chumley, who used a state plane to fly conservative commentator and economist Walter Williams to Columbia from Washington to testify in favor of a bill that would nullify the federal Affordable Care Act. State Rep. Kenny Bingham, R-Lexington, said the committee's earlier stance — issued in the form of an advisory opinion — was "inartfully drafted" and likely will be revisited.

The Item: Shooting underscores bill's urgency

http://www.theitem.com/news/local_news/shooting-underscores-bill-s-urgency/article_e0e72c31-38fc-520f-9864-4a668e7eb9e7.html

Bristow Marchant

Just one week after announcing a new bill to impose harsher sentences on offenders who commit new crimes while out on bond, Sen. Thomas McElveen got a new example to cite when his proposal comes up for a hearing. If passed, the Sumter Democrat's proposal would impose a longer sentence in the case of Yahchanan Christopher Reames, who allegedly shot and injured two Lee County sheriff's deputies during a traffic stop Thursday while he was out on bond for other offenses. "You hear about the more high-profile cases around the state, but these crimes happen even in a community like ours," said McElveen, whose district also includes much of Lee County.

Post and Courier: Boeing's flight line could more than double

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131223/PC05/131229743/1177/boeings-flight-line-could-more-than-double>

Warren Wise

Boeing could more than double its Dreamliner production and nearly triple the building space it occupies now in North Charleston, according to a regulatory filing to offset the loss of wetlands as the airplane-maker expands. The Chicago-based aerospace giant provides a glimpse of what it intends to do with the nearly 500 acres it recently leased beside Charleston International Airport in a wetlands mitigation plan filed through the Army Corps of Engineers and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control.

The State: State's First Solar Farm Up And Running

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=TJ7vciUC

Sammy Fretwell

South Carolina's first solar farm is complete and producing energy from a site in Colleton County, three

months after state utility interests announced their initial foray into larger-scale sun-powered projects. The plant went on line for commercial use Friday, marking what solar energy proponents say is a milestone for South Carolina. Utilities in the Palmetto State have been reluctant to embrace solar energy, saying it is a less reliable power source than other energy forms – despite growing interest nationally in solar's economic and environmental benefits.

Post and Courier: Duke Endowment awards more than \$1 million for MUSC's telemedicine program
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131223/PC16/131229755/1006/-1m-grant-to-muscs-telemedicine-program>

Lauren Sausser

The Duke Endowment will invest \$1.4 million in the Medical University of South Carolina's emerging telemedicine-ICU program this month. This is particularly good news considering MUSC administrators worried this fall that the institution may be ineligible for grant money from the endowment with no permanent president at the helm. Historically, the Duke Endowment has not awarded new grants to organizations in between leaders, said Jim Fisher, vice president for development and alumni affairs, during the MUSC Board of Trustees' October meeting.

Associated Press: Advocates push for new Atlantic offshore drilling
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=o1NXkAKR

Emery P. Dalesio

Southern politicians and energy industry groups are increasing the push to allow drilling off the U.S. Atlantic Coast for oil and gas deposits that could be puny or mean big cash to a part of the country where it's now largely absent. Although drilling, refineries and the jobs that could accompany them are at least a decade away, the Obama Administration is weighing a decision expected to be announced in the next three months on whether to take an important early step: to allow seismic testing of the sea bottom. The tests could firm up estimates of how much hydrocarbon deposits may be out there.

Associated Press: Convicted RI sex offender found in South Carolina
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=RWHuFTF6

A convicted sex offender who fled Rhode Island has been found working at a hotel in Columbia, S.C. The Providence Journal reports (<http://bit.ly/1gE23RO>) that Luis Ortiz was convicted in 2000 of sexually assaulting a 16-year-old girl in Pawtucket and was sentenced to 10 years, with 42 months in prison. When he was released he was to have registered as a sex offender but failed to do so. Deputy C.J. Wyant, who leads the U.S. Marshals Service's sex offender task force in Providence, says the 40-year-old Ortiz was arrested in January for failing to register as a sex offender. Wyant says he disappeared when he was released on bail.

Local News:

Associated Press: Company adding 26 jobs in Orangeburg
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=mrzdqJkV

A Canadian company is expanding its operations in Orangeburg, adding 26 jobs. Quality Model is a plastic injection modeling company that plans to spend about \$3 million in the expansion. Quality Model of Ontario opened in Orangeburg in 2005 and has invested more than \$13 million and created 75 jobs. The company serves the power sports, industrial, automotive and lawn and garden industries.

Aiken Standard: City of Aiken reverses stance on withholding juvenile documents
<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131224/AIK0101/131229752/1004/city-of-aiken-reverses-stance-on-withholding-juvenile-documents>

Maayan Schechter

The City of Aiken has resumed the release of incident reports involving juvenile defendants to the public, according to City Manager Richard Pearce, reversing a suspension of those releases announced last week. Despite that dramatic turn of events, questions remain about the City's ongoing compliance with state law. Although the City says it has now "returned" to the prior policy of routinely releasing such documents, it has yet to verify the report involving a September sex crime at Aiken Middle School was actually handled in that manner.

Associated Press: Colleton officials: Wounded suspect pointed gun
http://www.scnw.com/news/state/article_47163fa0-6c8f-11e3-8efa-0019bb30f31a.html

Colleton County sheriff's officials say a 17-year-old shot and wounded by a deputy had pointed a gun at the officer. Officials say the deputy had tried to pull over the teen shortly after 2 a.m. Sunday for making an improper turn. A sheriff's report says the driver did not stop and the deputy chased the suspect. Officials say Kareem T. Risher of Smoaks pointed a gun at the deputy after stopping and running from the car. The deputy fired three times, hitting Risher in the buttocks. He was taken to the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston for treatment. He was listed in stable condition.

National News:

Associated Press: House foe of health overhaul still top GOP target

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=HnwRgyo1

Laurie Kellman

Listen carefully when Republicans say they can blame almost every House Democrat for the flaws of the health care overhaul. Rep. Mike McIntyre, D-N.C., is the exception. He's never voted in favor of President Barack Obama's signature health care law. It's a key reason the nine-term Democrat is still in Congress. It might be enough in 2014, although he barely won last year. In a district redrawn by Republicans for Republicans, McIntyre is the GOP's top Democratic target in the battle for control of the House. Instead of Obama at the top of the ticket as he was in 2012, the state's marquee race next year is Democratic Sen. Kay Hagan's battle for re-election.

Associated Press: NSA leaker: 'Mission's already accomplished'

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

National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden said his "mission's already accomplished" after leaking NSA secrets that have caused a reassessment of U.S. surveillance policies. Snowden told The Washington Post in an interview published online Monday night that he was satisfied because journalists have been able to tell the story of the government's collection of bulk Internet and phone records, an activity that has grown dramatically in the decade since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. "For me, in terms of personal satisfaction, the mission's already accomplished," he said. "I already won."

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