

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 1/18/2014 10:34:02 AM
Subject: Clips – Saturday, January 18, 2014

Clips – Saturday, January 18, 2014

Governor Nikki Haley News:

WHNS: SC lawmakers want to see increase in teacher pay

<http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/24486061/sc-lawmakers-want-to-see-increase-in-teacher-pay>

PJ Randhawa

Last week, Governor Nikki Haley introduced plans to reform education in South Carolina with a \$160 million cash infusion. But critics of her plan from both parties say one crucial component was missing from the proposal: teacher salaries. South Carolina has some of the lowest teacher salaries in the nation according to the national education association.

Note: "Last year they got pay increases, I think the year before there may have been some pay increases," Haley said. "So it's not a given, it's not every year we have to do it."

The State: Nikki Haley talked to Horry County missing girl's family

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/17/3213313/politics-nikki-haley-talked-to.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Gov. Nikki Haley told The (Myrtle Beach) Sun News on Friday that she has spoken with the family of a missing 20-year-old Horry County woman and received updates from state authorities investigating the case. Heather Elvis has not been heard from since Dec. 17.

Note: "I have been in contact with the family," Haley said. "I have been in contact with [South Carolina Law Enforcement Division] during the entire investigation, as well as with the police department here on the ground. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family, and we're going to do everything we can to help this family find their daughter."

Times and Democrat: CHOMARAT North America to add 20 new jobs at Anderson County facility

http://thetandd.com/business/chomarat-north-america-to-add-new-jobs-at-anderson-county/article_cc7b19d8-7fc0-11e3-ae71-0019bb2963f4.html

CHOMARAT North America, a manufacturer of reinforcement materials for the composite and building industries and subsidiary of the CHOMARAT Group, is expanding its current operations in Anderson County. The \$10 million investment will bring 20 new jobs along with new equipment and additional manufacturing space.

Note: "CHOMARAT believes that South Carolina is the place to advance their company and grow into new ventures, and we couldn't be happier or agree more," said Gov. Nikki Haley. "We congratulate CHOMARAT on their \$10 million investment and the creation of 20 new jobs in Anderson County."

Clinton Chronicle: Legislature will deal with education, new revenue; but also roads, bridges and Dept. of Transportation

http://www.clintonchronicle.com/articles/2014/01/16/top_stories/doc52d7eae75ea8447021497.txt

Vic MacDonald

Funding education and figuring out ways to spend a projected \$429 million of new revenue coming into South Carolina - the result of an improving economy - will be major issues for the SC General Assembly. But when the state legislature convenes this week, 2014 also could be the year lawmakers shake up the state's transportation administration, and possibly let go of opposition to Medicaid expansion.

Note: Haley will be front and center with the legislature, also. In addition to last week's announcement of her major education initiative, the Governor will release an executive budget - her blueprint for spending state money - and make her constitutionally-required State of the State address.

S.C. Political News:

Associated Press: 2nd Republican jumps into SC superintendent's race

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=L7W7B1IY

Seanna Adcox

Republican activist Sheri Few announced Friday that she's running for South Carolina schools superintendent on a platform of blocking education standards known as Common Core. Few, 61, said as schools chief she would "use every resource available at my disposal to make sure we uproot Common Core." "I will hire - I'll contract with lawyers that know the issues and find ways that we can get our state out of this federal overreach," she said, adding later that she'd use attorneys within the agency.

The State: Former Tea Party leader drops out of Lexington County Council race

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/17/3213204/election-2014-former-tea-party.html#storylink=cpy>

Tim Flach

Allen Olson of Irmo, one-time leader of the Columbia Tea Party, has given up plans to seek a post on Lexington County Council. Personal and business demands made the race impractical, he said. Olson promises to be active in civic groups, saying "I believe I can give back more that way instead of being a politician." He was among several candidates testing his chances for the seat of retiring Councilman Brad Matthews in the Irmo-St. Andrews area.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Greenville News: Bassmaster Classic returning to Upstate

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014301180011>

Editorial

Thumbs Up to the Bassmaster Classic for returning to the Upstate next year, and another Thumbs Up to our region for having what it takes to land what is called the Super Bowl of bass fishing after a six-year absence. This is a huge event that will bring tons of exposure to our area, fill up area hotels and have restaurants hopping.

Note: The announcement about the tournament's return was made Thursday at a press conference at the Bon Secours Wellness Arena that was attended by Gov. Nikki Haley as well as Greenville and Anderson officials. Gov. Haley is so right: When it comes to tourism, the Upstate is a major player now.

Legislative Session News:

Florence Morning News: Leatherman gives update on penny sales tax projects

http://www.scnw.com/news/article_a47d44cc-7fea-11e3-a0d5-0019bb30f31a.html

Gavin Jackson

With nearly half a billion in funds secured, state Sen. Hugh K. Leatherman said Friday that road projects from the first penny sales tax are progressing and construction will begin soon after "battling to get permits" from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Speaking to the media during a press conference on Friday, Leatherman said that once the roads funded by the first Capital Projects Sales Tax (known as the penny sales tax) are complete, they will benefit residents of the county by attracting companies to the area as well as increase safety for drivers.

Florence Morning News: Area representatives tout personal legislative goals for 2014

http://www.scnw.com/news/politics/article_deacd518-7fea-11e3-8779-001a4bcf6878.html

Gavin Jackson

They've been talking about topics that are expected to be addressed, in some cases, during this second session of the 120th General Assembly of South Carolina, but area lawmakers have legislation of their own they would like to see passed. While some bills get passed, others will get bogged down in committee and die at the end of session. At that time the Morning News will take an in-depth look at just how many bills were proposed by area lawmakers, how important those bills were and what didn't get passed.

Seneca Journal: Legislators react to Senate passage of guns in bars and restaurants

<https://upstatetoday.com/2014/01/legislators-react-to-senate-passage-of-guns-in-bars-and-restaurants/>

Greg Oliver

Local legislators feel positive that the guns in bars and restaurants bill that passed the State Senate Thursday will receive the same outcome when it goes before the State House of Representatives next week. "I expect they will concur and then the bill will go before the governor for final approval," said State Sen. Larry Martin, of Pickens. Although the Senate made what Martin describes as "some very minor technical changes" to the bill, he said the policy of allowing people possessing a concealed weapons permit

to carry guns into a restaurant that has an ABC license remains.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Spartanburg Herald Journal: U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy to students: Focus on education

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140117/ARTICLES/140119662/-1/kongjie213.if520.cn?Title=U-S-Rep-Trey-Gowdy-to-students-Focus-on-education#gsc.tab=0>

Zach Fox

U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy made a visit to his old high school Friday, speaking to students from the Spartanburg High School Freshman Academy about some of the difficulties of his job. Gowdy, a Spartanburg High graduate, said being back at the school brings up his greatest regret: Not appreciating education as much as he should have while he was a student. "This is the time to learn. Their job now is to become educated," he said.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Ex-DEW employee suing agency director over data

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=3kQcWRrL

Meg Kinnard

A former employee of South Carolina's unemployment agency says in a lawsuit filed this week that the department's director fabricated allegations that she improperly downloaded personal information to force her out. Kerry Paul was fired Tuesday from her post as human resources director at the Department of Employment and Workforce, or DEW. Agency officials say she downloaded personal data of thousands of current and former employees and their children and beneficiaries onto a personal flash drive.

The State: Fired SC employee sues agency, its chief

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/17/3213610/fired-sc-employee-sues-agency.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

A state employee who was fired this week after being accused of downloading the personal information of agency employees without authorization, is suing that agency and its director. Kerry Paul, a former human resources director of the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce, filed a defamation lawsuit in Richland County Circuit Court against the department and its director, Cheryl Stanton, accusing Stanton of fabricating allegations of an unauthorized data breach as part of a scheme to get rid of Paul.

Greenville News: SC agencies to evaluate water resources

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014301180023>

David Dykes

Officials with the Department of Health and Environmental Control and the Department of Natural Resources said they plan a statewide water assessment so South Carolina can make better decisions on how to handle its resources. The officials said they intend to file a request with the state Budget and Control Board Procurement Office for environmental contractors to bid on the project. Clemson University will take the lead on creating the work plan, the officials said.

Aiken Standard: Study: Area will need 10,000 nuclear workers in 10-year span

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140118/AIK0101/140119455/1004/study-area-will-need-10000-nuclear-workers-in-10-year-span>

Derrek Asberry

A study from a local organization shows the local area will need nearly 10,000 new nuclear workers over a 10-year period. Mindy Mets, with the Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization, presented this information on Thursday during an American Nuclear Society Savannah River Section meeting. Mets said the reuse organization conducted the study, which included eight nuclear employers and 57 different job classifications in areas such as engineering, technician work and various professional areas.

Associated Press: SC tea party holding convention in Myrtle Beach

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

Activists are gathering along the coast this weekend for a South Carolina tea party convention. The three-day event starts Saturday in Myrtle Beach. Organizers say they expect more than 600 people to attend. National security, health care reform and the role of the county sheriff are topics expected to be discussed. Organizers say there will also be a debate among candidates seeking to replace U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham.

Greenville News: Flu risk prompts more hospitals to seek limits on visits
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014301180021>

Liv Osby

In an attempt to reduce the spread of flu and other respiratory illnesses, hospitals in the Upstate are asking that children under 18 not visit patients until further notice. The hospitals include AnMed Health in Anderson, Baptist Easley, Bon Secours St. Francis Health System, Cannon Memorial Hospital in Pickens, Greenville Health System and County Memorial Hospital. The flu has claimed 30 lives around the state since Sept. 29, according to the state Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Local News:

Sun News: North Myrtle Beach gets another \$1.25 million for beach project

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/17/3213923/north-myrtle-beach-gets-another.html#storylink=cpy>

Steve Jones

The city of North Myrtle Beach has gotten \$1.25 million from the state Department of Health and Environmental Control to go toward the \$9.5 million cost of the Main Street ocean outfall project. State Rep. Tracy Edge, R-North Myrtle Beach, said in an email late Thursday afternoon that his efforts were critical in getting the money. The city has the money in hand, and city spokesman Pat Dowling said it will be added to another \$3 million in state money for the project. Edge said he snagged the first state funding for the city in 2008.

Aiken Standard: What population growth means for county's infrastructure

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140118/AIK0101/140119461/1004/what-population-growth-means-for-countys-infrastructure>

Amy Banton

South Carolina ranked 24th in the United States for population growth, with an estimated year-to-year increase of 51,000 people. Aiken County has seen its own growth spurt over the past 10 years, with nearly 20,000 more people added to the census. In 2002, Aiken County's population was about 144,700, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. That number jumped to 162,812 by 2012. Both the populations of the cities of Aiken and North Augusta increased by more than 3,000 people between 2002 to 2012.

The Item: Tuomey: Feds forced Cox, Martin out

http://www.theitem.com/news/local_news/tuomey-feds-forced-cox-martin-out/article_24c63719-4044-55cb-800f-7fce8502996c.html

Braden Bunch

Federal prosecutors made it a precondition of any settlement of their lawsuit with Tuomey Healthcare System for the local hospital to separate itself from both its former chief executive officer and one of its vice presidents, lawyers for Tuomey pointed out in their latest filing in the ongoing legal battle.

Rock Hill Herald: Health care roll-out gathering steam with local residents

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/01/17/5592055/healthcare-roll-out-gathering.html#storylink=cpy>

Jie Jenny Zou

Wayne Clegg spent Christmas Eve clicking through www.healthcare.gov with his sister in Rock Hill. Three hours and a phone call later, he successfully enrolled in a silver-level health insurance plan, which will cover 70 percent of his medical costs. "I finally got through," said Clegg, 44, who will gain coverage for the first time in nearly a decade. "I'm excited." Clegg is one of more than 24,000 state residents who signed up for insurance on the federal health exchange website from Oct. 1 to Dec. 28, according to statistics released recently by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Post and Courier: Last-minute push on to redesign S.C. 41 bridge

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140117/PC16/140119424/1006/last-minute-push-on-to-redesign-sc-41-bridge>

Robert Behre

State highway officials say the new S.C. Highway 41 bridge over the Wando River will be designed so pedestrians and bicyclists also can use it. But Lowcountry cycling advocates and other elected officials say there's a big difference between the bike and pedestrian access currently envisioned for the bridge — and what should be built. That issue — and the lingering debate over whether the new bridge should be 55 feet tall or only 35 feet tall — is coming to a head right as the state Department of Transportation prepares to

sign a design-build contract next month.

Associated Press: Citi laying off hundreds in Fort Mill

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/jan/17/citi-laying-hundreds-fort-mill/?partner=RSS>

Citi is closing a unit at its Fort Mill operation, eliminating hundreds of jobs. The financial company is closing its default mortgage service unit, which could affect up to half of its approximately 850 employees in the Fort Mill area, The Herald of Rock Hill reported. Citi public affairs director Mark Rodgers says about 200 workers will be laid off during the first quarter of this year. Affected employees were told this week, the same time it was announced that Citi had sold its mortgage servicing rights for about 64,000 Fannie Mae residential mortgage loans, with an outstanding balance of about \$10 billion.

Brian Symmes

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304

Cell: (803) 673-9437