

From: Symmes, Brian
To:
Date: 12/18/2013 5:12:09 PM
Subject: Afternoon Clips - Wednesday, December 18, 2013

Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, December 18, 2013

Governor Nikki Haley Receives Honorary Black Belt:

USA Today (Video): Whack! S.C. Gov. Haley shows off karate moves

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/onpolitics/2013/12/18/nikki-haley-black-belt-south-carolina-governor/4114563/>

Catalina Camia

South Carolina residents can now say, "My governor has a black belt. Does yours?" Gov. Nikki Haley's office posted a video Wednesday of the Republican breaking a board with an open hand and receiving an honorary black belt. "I loved that. That was awesome," Haley says in the video and raises her arms to celebrate. She was presented with the black belt with her name in English and Korean, and you can hear voices in the background saying, "that's so cool."

TPM (Video): S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley Smashes Wood After Getting Honorary Black Belt

<http://talkingpointsmemo.com/livewire/s-c-gov-nikki-haley-smashes-wood-after-earning-honorary-black-belt>
Hunter Walker

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley (R) was given an honorary fourth-degree black belt in tae kwon do Wednesday and marked the occasion by posting a video online showing her breaking a wood board with her hand. "I earned an honorary 4th degree Black Belt today! Check out this video. We are fans of Tae Kwon Do in South Carolina," Haley wrote on her Facebook page. Donna Smith, co-owner of Ray Smith Tae Kwon Do, which presented the belt to Haley told TPM with the belt the governor has now achieved the title of "Master Haley."

The State (Video): Nikki Haley goes Karate Kid

http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/18/3165869/buzz-nikki-haley-goes-karate-kid.html?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter&utm_destination=buzzatthestate

Andrew Shain

Just call her G.I. Nikki. Here's a video posted by her office today of Gov. Nikki Haley breaking a board and receiving an honorary black belt. "I loved that. It was awesome," the gov said after her open-handed punch. This summer, Haley showed off her shooting abilities during a tour of a Columbia arms maker.

Politico (Video): Nikki Haley chops her way to a black belt

<http://www.politico.com/story/2013/12/nikki-haley-black-belt-101291.html>

Jose Delreal

You better think twice before messing with Gov. Nikki Haley; she's a black belt. On Wednesday the South Carolina governor was presented with an honorary black belt. She was also shown breaking a board with an open-handed punch in a video released by her office. "I loved that! That was awesome!" the governor said after the stunt.

Post and Courier (Video): Gov. Nikki Haley vs. a piece of wood

<http://blog.postandcourier.com/palmetto-politics/2013/12/18/gov-nikki-haley-vs-piece-wood/>

Gov. Nikki Haley posted this video to her YouTube channel today and we think it's awesome.

Governor Nikki Haley News:

Fox News: Governor Nikki Haley and her husband Captain Michael Haley go ON THE RECORD at 7pm tonight

<http://gretawire.foxnewsinsider.com/2013/12/18/governor-nikki-haley-and-her-husband-just-back-from-military-duty-in-afghanistan-go-on-the-record-at-7pm-tonight-watch/>

Associated Press: Capt. Haley addresses his deployment in Afghanistan; governor is thankful he is at home

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/f6d648dd29444fd3a2450d28c1b26f3b/SC--Haleys-Interview>

Seanna Adcox

Capt. Michael Haley says improvised explosive devices hit his convoy twice during his deployment to Afghanistan, but thankfully no one on his team was seriously injured. Gov. Nikki Haley and her husband talked to The Associated Press on Wednesday, a week after he and his fellow South Carolina Army National Guard soldiers returned home. It was the first time Capt. Haley addressed his service in Afghanistan's Helmand province.

Charleston Business Journal: Boeing to narrow 777X proposals

<http://www.charlestonbusiness.com/news/49901-boeing-to-narrow-777x-proposals-to-lsquo-a-handful-rsquo>

Liz Segrist

The Boeing Co. is narrowing site proposals for the 777X work from 54 sites to a handful this week, Boeing Commercial Airplanes President and CEO Ray Conner said in a letter to employees. Boeing has not disclosed which sites are making the cut during the elimination process. Boeing plans to announce the 777X site or sites early next year.

Note: "Boeing is a company that we will always support. They are family. We are partners ... We always stay in talks of just making sure we're helping them to be successful, and we will continue to do that," Haley said during a visit to Daniel Island on Tuesday.

Live 5 News: Lumber company expanding in Darlington creating jobs

<http://www.carolinalive.com/news/story.aspx?id=984791#.UrlIrrPRDt8F>

A Darlington lumber company is expanding, and the move is expected to create 50 new jobs. Canfor Southern Pine is seeing an increase in demand for their yellow pine lumber, so they're adding a second shift at the Darlington facility. It's an \$8 million investment, according to a news release from Governor Nikki Haley's office.

Note: "A great test for a state's economic development success is whether its business environment fosters the growth of companies that they already have," said Gov. Nikki Haley. "Canfor Southern Pine's commitment is a great example of growing our existing industry, and we applaud their investment of \$8 million and creation of 50 more jobs for Darlington County."

The State: 'Medical issue' forces DSS director Lillian Koller to work from home

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/18/3165582/state-house-medical-issue-forces.html>

Adam Beam

DSS director Lillian Koller is working from home until after the new year because of an illness. "Director Koller has experienced a medical issue and is working from home while she recuperates," DSS spokeswoman Marilyn Matheus said. "She looks forward to returning to the office after the first of the year with some limited activity." Koller is the second cabinet director to have medical issues. Former Department of Corrections director Bill Byars missed a few months of work after suffering a stroke. Byars retired in September. Gov. Nikki Haley replaced him with Bryan Stirling, her former chief of staff.

S.C. Political News:

The State: John McCain 'prays' Sarah Palin stays out of Lindsey Graham primary

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/18/3165822/election-2014-john-mccain-prays.html#storylink=cpy>

Adam Beam

U.S. Sen. John McCain told The New York Times that he is praying Sarah Palin stays out of U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham's Republican primary this summer. When I read Cruz's quote about owing his success to Palin, McCain shrugs. Palin has suggested, too, that she might support Tea Party primary challengers to the Senate Republican leader, Mitch McConnell, in Kentucky and to Lindsey Graham in South Carolina, whom McCain has likened to a son. "Oh, I pray she wouldn't do that," he says of Graham. "And you know, I find it hard to believe that she would."

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

The State: U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham opposes veterans cuts in budget deal, planning post-vote presser

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/18/3166021/politics-us-sen-lindsey-graham.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

eterans groups joined Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-Seneca, and others on Tuesday in Washington, D.C., to urge senators not to approve a budget deal that includes about \$6 billion in cuts to retirement benefits for military retirees. Graham will hold another news conference with the veterans' groups after the U.S. Senate is expected to vote on the budget deal today. The cuts, which the senators said in a letter would reduce cost-of-living benefits for "many military retirees under age 62" by one percent, were included in the budget deal passed last week by the U.S. House with bipartisan support, including votes from Assistant Democratic Leader Jim Clyburn, D-Columbia, and U.S. Reps. Joe Wilson, R-Springdale and Tom Rice, R-Myrtle Beach.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Sanford, Templeton favor splitting DHEC into separate agencies

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131218/PC16/131219415/1006/>

Lauren Sausser

U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford, R-S.C., said he agrees that the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control should be split into two agencies that deal separately with public health and environmental regulation. Sanford, speaking during a tour of a midwife birth center in North Charleston on Wednesday, echoed similar statements made by DHEC Director Catherine Templeton this fall that the department is too unwieldy to do its job very well. "It covers so much territory in South Carolina that it becomes very difficult to deal with all the parts," Sanford said.

The State: Midlands Tech president retiring

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/18/3165607/midlands-tech-president-retiring.html>

Andrew Shain

Midlands Technical College president Sonny White will retire at the end of 2014, the school announced Wednesday. The college's commission will launch a nationwide search for White's successor and hopes to have a new president in place before he leaves, the school said. White started in education after retiring as a senior executive with pharmaceutical firm Ciba-Geigy. He was executive vice president of Guilford Technical Community College in Jamestown, N.C., before becoming president at Midlands Tech in 2006.

The State: Pinson attorney: Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin was original target of FBI

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/18/3165852/pinson-attorney-columbia-mayor.html>

John Monk

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin and former city employee Tony Lawton were among the original targets of what has become a broad federal public corruption investigation, a defense attorney said in federal court here Wednesday. Attorney Jim Griffin of Columbia said the FBI improperly redirected its case toward his client, Greenville businessman Jonathan Pinson, making the evidence gathered about Pinson illegal because it was gained through wiretaps aimed at Benjamin and Lawton and the city of Columbia.

Post and Courier: Wiretap evidence in, racketeering charge stands in public corruption case involving former S.C. State board chairman Jonathan Pinson

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131218/PC16/131219407/1177/wiretap-evidence-in-racketeering-charge-stands-in-public-corruption-case-involving-former-sc-state-board-chairman-jonathan-pinson>

Diane Knich

Wiretap evidence can be used in the public corruption case against former South Carolina State University board chairman Jonathan Pinson and his business colleague Eric Robinson. U.S. District Judge David C. Norton also decided today that a racketeering charge against Pinson will stand. And he denied a motion made by Robinson's attorney Shaun Kent to try Robinson separately from Pinson. Kent argued that Pinson is charged with many more crimes than Robinson and that trying them together could unfairly and irreparably prejudice his client and deprive him of the right to due process.

Associated Press: Judge won't toss wiretaps in SC State case

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/viewart/20131218/NEWS10/312180070/Judge-won-t-toss-wiretaps-SC-State-case>

A federal judge won't throw out wiretap evidence against a former South Carolina State University trustee. U.S. District Judge David Norton on Wednesday also denied a request by Jonathan Pinson's attorneys that a racketeering charge against him be dismissed. Pinson is accused of taking kickbacks in exchange for arranging business deals involving S.C. State. That includes trying to get the Orangeburg school to buy land from a Florida developer in exchange for a Porsche SUV as a "thank you" gift for Pinson.

The State: S.C. GOP jumps in fight against Common Core

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/18/3165807/sc-gop-jumps-in-fight-against.html>

Jamie Self

The executive committee of the S.C. Republican Party has joined an already political fight against Common Core education standards. This week, the committee passed a resolution rejecting the K-12 education standards and urging state lawmakers to do the same. The resolution calls Common Core a "national scheme" that will lead to national education standards, "obliterat(ing) South Carolina's constitutional autonomy over education in English language arts and mathematics, placing control in the hands of the federal government and unaccountable private interests in Washington, D.C."

The State: SC activist's push for criminal trial dismissed in open-records case

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/17/3164750/sc-activists-push-for-criminal.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

An open-government activist says S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson should have criminally prosecuted the director of a state agency for failing to answer a public records request on time. Instead, an attorney with Wilson's office last week dismissed the criminal allegation against Department of Health and Human Services director Tony Keck. Ned Sloan, a retired Greenville construction contractor, accused Keck and the health agency of violating state law by failing to respond on time to Sloan's request for public records related to the hacking of the agency's data.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Area law enforcement officers attend identity theft summit in Spartanburg

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20131217/ARTICLES/131219716/1083/ARTICLES?p=1&tc=pg>

Jenny Arnold

The FBI and an identity protection company joined forces to teach area law enforcement officers how thieves steal personal information. The identity theft summit was presented by FBI-Law Enforcement Executive Development Association and Arizona-based LifeLock on Tuesday at Spartanburg Community College. The law enforcement group provides leadership and management training to law enforcement across the country. About 40 officers from 12 law enforcement agencies across the Upstate, including Spartanburg County, Newberry and Pickens, attended the summit.

Local News:

The Item: Clarendon 2 awarded \$25M

http://www.theitem.com/news/local_news/clarendon-awarded-m/article_1c768b3f-b8d4-5384-880e-eefc296d78a8.html?_dc=218319140840.32178

Braden Bunch

A public school consortium led by Clarendon School District 2 has received a nearly \$25 million grant in the 2013 Race to the Top-District program, the U.S. Department of Education announced Tuesday. Coupled with the schools from Orangeburg 5, Richland 2 and Williamsburg County, the winning grant will allow the Manning-based school district to equip each of its students with electronic learning devices - such as laptops or tablets - to allow the district to change its teaching methodology to a more personalized approach.

Greenville News: Southwest eliminating Nashville flights from GSP

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013312180067>

David Dykes

Southwest Airlines said Wednesday it is cutting its nonstop flights from Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport to Nashville. A Southwest spokesman told GreenvilleOnline.com the change is effective June 8. The cut will leave Southwest with four flights from GSP, down from seven when the airline started service to Greenville in 2011. "All of our decisions are based on customer demand," said the Southwest spokesman, Dan Landson. "With every new schedule, there's always some tweaking and adjustments here or adjustments there."

Island Packet: School district wants elementary school site annexed into Bluffton

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/12/18/2854821/school-district-wants-elementary.html#storylink=cpy>

Dan Burley

A town of Bluffton panel Wednesday night will discuss the Beaufort County School District's request to have 52 acres of property planned for a new elementary school annexed into the town. Located on Davis Road, the elementary school would house about 1,400 students from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, and the projected construction cost is \$23,458,342. The school has a budget of \$25 million, paid for with money

set aside from a February bond issue. Right now the property is the school district's only one in the area not incorporated into Bluffton.

The State: Two children killed in Irmo apartment fire Wednesday

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/18/3165871/two-children-killed-in-irmo-apartment.html#storylink=cpy>

Anne-Kathryn Flanagan

A brother and sister died in a fire at the Saint Andrews Apartments off 1-26 Wednesday, officials said. Jarmaion Martin, 5, and his sister Reghin Stevens, 1, were pronounced dead at the scene from injuries sustained in the fire, according to Lexington County Coroner Harry Harman. Irmo Fire Chief Michael Sonefeld said firefighters were notified of the fire just before 10 a.m. Wednesday. Firefighters from Columbia and Lexington County were called in to assist.

The State: Former Richland jail guard pleads guilty in beating homeless man

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/18/3165614/former-richland-county-jail-guard.html#storylink=cpy>

Tim Flach

Former Richland County jail guard Robin Smith awaits sentencing after pleading guilty Wednesday to beating a homeless man classified as mentally ill who was handcuffed. Smith, 38, probably will be sentenced in about two months after U.S. District Court Judge Joe Anderson accepted the plea of a civil rights violation in an agreement reached with prosecutors. Prosecutors are recommending a sentence of up to two years. Anderson took the recommendation under consideration pending required pre-sentencing checks on Smith. A decision will come "two months or so down the road," the judge said.

National News:

Associated Press: Insurers allow more time to pay under health law

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=KA26p3XC

Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar

Consumers anxious over tight insurance deadlines and lingering computer problems during the holidays will get extra time to pay their premiums under President Barack Obama's health care law, insurers announced Wednesday. The board of the industry's biggest trade group - America's Health Insurance Plans - said consumers who select a plan by Dec. 23 will now have until Jan. 10 to pay their first month's premium. That's 10 extra days beyond a New Year's Eve deadline set by the government.

Associated Press: Task force urges limit on NSA snooping

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4ANxgz1U

Julie Pace and Kimberly Dozier

A presidential advisory panel has recommended sweeping limits on the government's surveillance programs, including requiring a court to sign off on individual searches of phone records and stripping the National Security Agency of its ability to store that data from Americans. It was unclear how the changes, if enacted, would impact the scope of the vast government surveillance programs.

Brian Symmes

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304

Cell: (803) 673-9437