

From: Symmes, Brian
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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Times and Democrat: SC development agency allowed to continue bonuses

http://thetandd.com/news/state-and-regional/sc-development-agency-allowed-to-continue-bonuses/article_83a8e112-8fa0-53cd-8e95-cc6c0334f2e3.html

South Carolina's economic development agency can continue its bonus program for employees, following approval Tuesday by the Budget and Control Board. The unanimous vote extends through 2016 an incentive pay program aimed at rewarding Commerce Department staff when the agency meets goals in capital investment, overall job creation and jobs added in rural counties. Eligible employees can earn a bonus of up to 10 percent of their salary. Commerce Secretary Bobby Hitt said the sales incentive pay plan helps recruit, retain and motivate staff.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley, the board's chairwoman, applauded the program. "This really is so much of why we're getting jobs in rural South Carolina," she said.

Associated Press: SC Gov.: Capt. Haley will be home for Christmas

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

Gov. Nikki Haley said Tuesday her husband will be home before Christmas, after spending most of 2013 deployed in Afghanistan. The Republican governor said she's excited about the impending return of Capt. Michael Haley, who left in January for a month of training in Indiana before heading overseas. She expects to be notified of his arrival between 24 to 48 hours in advance.

Note: "It's like having a baby. You know it's going to happen. You're just waiting 'til when," she said. "We're getting really close. It will definitely be before Christmas. We do know that."

The State: SC First Gentleman Michael Haley coming home before Christmas

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/10/3151191/buzz-sc-first-gentleman-michael.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said her husband is expected to come home before Christmas after a nearly year-long S.C. National Guard deployment to Afghanistan. "They said they were going to give us 24 to 48 hours notice," she said Tuesday. "It's like having a baby. You know it's going to happen, you're just waiting til when. We're getting close. Michael Haley, 43, is a captain in the guard serving with an agriculture-training group in Afghanistan. He is believed to be the first spouse of a sitting governor to deploy to a combat zone with the National Guard.

The State: Gov. Nikki Haley, Sen. Hugh Leatherman coy on Boeing 777X bid

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/10/3151172/buzz-nikki-haley-hugh-leatherman.html>

Andrew Shain

Two South Carolina leaders declined to say directly Tuesday if the state is submitting a bid for producing Boeing's 777X jet. Proposed incentive packages are due to the Chicago aircraft maker on Tuesday. More than a dozen states reportedly received requests from Boeing to bid on producing the airliner with several touting their interest. But don't count South Carolina, where Boeing already has a manufacturing plant and received \$570 million in incentives, among the braggards.

Note: "We are always in good talks with Boeing," Gov. Nikki Haley said. "If something gets sent in, you'll know about it."

Greenville News: Effort begins to restore certificate of need program

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013312100055>

Tim Smith

A Democratic senator has pre-filed legislation to restore funding for a program vetoed by Gov. Nikki Haley that issues certificates of need for the creation or addition of hospitals or other health facilities in the state.

Sen. Joel Lourie, a Columbia Democrat who had called for Haley to order a special legislative session this summer to deal with the issue, said the law establishing the state's certificate of need program is still law but no funding exists to operate it.

The State: Lawmakers pre-file legislation today

http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/10/3151386/state-house-lawmakers-pre-file.html?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter&utm_destination=buzzatthestate

Jamie Self

Lawmakers in the state House and Senate can pre-file legislation today, one of two days each chamber's members may introduce bills before returning to Columbia in January. While most bills are not available yet, here's a preview of what some lawmakers are introducing.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley vetoed funding for the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Certificate of Need program earlier this year. Then DHEC chief Catherine Templeton decided that without money to pay for the program, DHEC would not enforce it. In response, hospitals and nursing homes are suing DHEC in the state Supreme Court.

Colleton Today: Mayor to Governor Haley: 'come to Walterboro'

http://www.colletontoday.com/news/mayor-to-governor-haley-come-to-walterboro/article_b48408fe-6115-11e3-a856-001a4bcf887a.html

Brantley Strickland

Walterboro Mayor Bill Young would like to see Governor Nikki Haley visit Walterboro for the first time. He feels so strongly about it, he took the opportunity to invite her in person at a chance meeting in Blythewood last week. Young, who was attending an Association of S.C. Mayors meeting on Wednesday, met the governor for the first time at the event, using his time to lay the groundwork for a potential visit.

Note: "There were about 50 mayors there, and the ones we had represented several hundred thousand South Carolinians," Young said. "I thought it was pretty significant that the governor came to see us and meet with us."

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Associated Press: SC legislator considering run for superintendent

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

A South Carolina House Republican says he's exploring a run for state superintendent next year. Rep. Andy Patrick of Hilton Head Island said Tuesday he expects to make a decision after the holidays. The U.S. Air Force veteran says the job requires leadership skills more than classroom experience. Patrick is in his second House term. He lost a bid for Congress in a 16-way Republican primary in March. The 44-year-old New York native has been a New York state trooper and U.S. Secret Service agent.

Federal Delegation News:

Greer Today: Senators Graham, Scott are keynote speakers at Chamber Celebration

<http://greertoday.com/greer-sc/senators-graham-scott-are-keynote-speakers-at-chamber-celebration/2013/12/09/>

U.S. Senators Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott will deliver the keynote address at the Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce's 76th Annual Celebration on Thursday, Jan. 23. Allen Smith, Greer Chamber President and CEO, made the announcement Friday at the First Friday luncheon at City Hall. The annual chamber event will be at Greenville's Embassy Suites on Verdae Boulevard. A cocktail reception is scheduled for 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and the program at 7. Tickets are \$65 for Chamber members and \$75 for non-members. Order tickets here or call 864-877-3131.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: SC lawmaker proposes teacher evaluation plan

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

Seanna Adcox

A South Carolina Republican lawmaker is introducing his own plan for performance-based pay, even though dozens of schools are already testing Superintendent Mick Zais' proposal for evaluating educators. Rep. Andy Patrick, R-Hilton Head Island, said he's pre-filing a bill for the upcoming legislative session that's aimed at rewarding excellent teachers and providing others targeted training. Tuesday is the last day for

House members to pre-file bills for 2014. Senators have another week. Evaluating educators based on performance is a required part of the state's exemption from the all-or-nothing provisions of the federal No Child Left Behind law.

Associated Press: Jenny Sanford now on Charleston Aviation Board

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

Former South Carolina first lady Jenny Sanford has been appointed to the board of the Charleston County Aviation Authority. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports (<http://bit.ly/18RuQ5P>) that Sanford is the designated appointee of state Sen. Chip Campsen of the Isle of Palms. Campsen says a law that put him on the 13-member airport authority board is unconstitutional and so he appoints a designee in his place. Sanford's ex-husband, former Gov. Mark Sanford, was elected to the 1st District Congressional seat earlier this year. The couple divorced in 2010.

The State: Bakari Sellers weighs bill to disclose schedules of major SC officeholders

http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/10/3151286/buzz-bakari-sellers-weighs-bill.html?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter&utm_destination=buzzatthestate

Andrew Shain

All nine of South Carolina's statewide-elected officers, including the governor, would need to tell the public about their activities under a bill that State Rep. Bakari Sellers said he plans to introduce next year. All statewide elected officers would have to comply if the measure passes -- governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, treasurer, comptroller general, secretary of state, education superintendent, agriculture commissioner and adjutant general.

The State: South Carolina air base mulls holiday display after protest

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/10/3151326/buzz-south-carolina-air-base-mulls.html#storylink=cpy>

From The Associated Press: Officials at Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter are trying to determine what to do about a holiday display after a Nativity scene was taken down last week. Air Force spokeswoman Lt. Keavy Rake said Tuesday a Nativity display was set up Friday by a group of volunteers from the base chapel at a small lake on the installation. The site was near where a tree lighting ceremony was scheduled Friday evening. Rake says the Military Religious Freedom Foundation lodged a complaint about the display through the Air Force in Washington.

Sun News: Hearing soon to ask to exonerate executed SC teen

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2013/12/10/3895205/civil-rights-leaders-rally-for.html#storylink=cpy>

Jeffrey Collins

A hearing that supporters say could exonerate a 14-year-old boy executed in 1944 for the killings of two girls will likely take place in the next month, a prosecutor said Tuesday. Solicitor Ernest A. "Chip" Finney III came to a rally by civil rights groups who want to keep pressure on officials to clear George Stinney of all charges in the deaths of two girls in Clarendon County. Finney told the crowd he has no evidence to argue against a new trial for Stinney. The trial has been requested by a law firm working on behalf of Stinney's supporters. If a judge agrees, Finney said his office will have to review whatever evidence they can find in the 69-year-old case.

Local News:

Charlotte Observer: Man arrested in shooting death of Mayor Benjamin's brother-in-law

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/10/3151255/report-man-arrested-in-shooting.html#storylink=cpy>

Steve Lyttle and Elizabeth Arriero

The man wanted in connection with last Friday's slaying of the brother-in-law of Columbia's mayor was arrested Tuesday morning, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police say. Arthur Givens, 40, was taken into custody without incident at a residence on Echodale Drive, off Nations Ford Road in southwest Charlotte, according to police. Investigators say Givens is charged with murder, possession of a firearm by a felon, assault with a deadly weapon and communicating threats, according to police. Gist, 38, was shot and killed Friday afternoon in the 2100 block of Beatties Ford Road near LaSalle Street in northwest Charlotte. He is the brother-in-law of Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin.

Anderson Independent: Local tax revenue for Oconee schools down, state revenue up

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/dec/10/local-tax-revenue-for-oconee-schools-down-state/>

Ray Chandler

Local tax revenue collections for Oconee County schools fell more than \$630,000 short of projections last year, but state revenue more than covered the loss, according to Oconee school officials. Michael Thorsland, assistant district superintendent, said this week that in some recent years the collections had surpassed projections, sometimes by as much as "seven figures." The 2012-13 budget year, however, fell short. The figures were among those revealed Monday in the audit report of the 2012-13 school year, given by Don Estep, of the Seneca accounting firm of Stancil Cooley Estep and Stamey.

Post and Courier: Mistake with 1997 sex assault warrant sparks larger review at Charleston County Sheriff's Office

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131210/PC16/131219970/1006/charleston-county-sheriff-al-cannon-to-discuss-warrant-that-slipped-through-the-cracks>

Glenn Smith

Charleston County sheriff's deputies are re-checking the status of nearly 29,000 unserved warrants for potential errors after discovering a mistake that helped a sexual assault suspect avoid arrest for 16 years. Assistant Sheriff Mitch Lucas said a team auditing the 28,604 warrants on file at the sheriff's office has discovered 26 warrants for serious felonies, including murder, that were not properly entered into a national database. A team of seven deputies has been assigned to try to track down those wanted suspects, Lucas said.

National News:

McClatchy DC: White House calls in help as Obama ratings tank

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2013/12/10/211156/white-house-calls-in-help-as-obama.html#storylink=cpy>

Lesley Clark

The White House is calling in a longtime Democratic strategist and former chief of staff for President Bill Clinton as President Obama grapples with the worst ratings of his presidency. John Podesta, the founder and former president of the Center for American Progress, has agreed to come aboard for a year, a source familiar with the talks said. Press Secretary Jay Carney said Podesta would be joining as a counselor to Obama, noting that Podesta has already served as an informal advisor to Obama and his chief of staff, Denis McDonough. Carney said Podesta will advise Obama "on a range of issues," with a focus on energy and climate change.

Associated Press: Obama shakes hands with Cuba's Raul Castro

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268777/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=2Z5HRwNR

Peter Orsi

It was the briefest of moments, just seconds, two presidents shaking hands and exchanging pleasantries amid a gaggle of world leaders together to honor the late Nelson Mandela. It would hardly have been noteworthy, except the men locking hands in Johannesburg were Barack Obama and Raul Castro, whose nations have been mired in Cold War antagonism for more than five decades. A single, cordial gesture is unlikely to wash away bad blood dating back to the Eisenhower administration.

Brian Symmes

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304

Cell: (803) 673-9437