

From: Symmes, Brian
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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Haley making several stops during Georgetown trip

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=xBso1Cys

Gov. Nikki Haley is making several stops during a visit to the Georgetown. On Tuesday, her office says the governor is giving an address to the Rotary Club of Georgetown. Later in the day, she's scheduled to give a briefing to the media on the fire that gutted part of Georgetown's Front Street earlier this year. A Sept. 25 fire along the city's waterfront shopping and dining district gutted seven buildings. The fire put 130 people out of work and displaced nearly 10 families who were living in apartments above the buildings. Earlier this month, Haley opened up \$1 million in public funds to help rebuild the area, issuing an executive order declaring an emergency for the city and county in relation to the damage.

Times and Democrat: Firearms importer establishing operations in Summerville

http://thetandd.com/business/firearms-importer-establishing-operations-in-summerville/article_bbd45cce-401a-11e3-91c6-0019bb2963f4.html

American Tactical Imports, a worldwide importer of firearms, ammunition and tactical equipment to the United States, announced Monday that it will open a warehousing and distribution location in Dorchester County. The Eastport Industrial Park location in Summerville also will be the site for limited firearm assembly, as well as the company's headquarters, its customer service center and its sales office. The \$2.7 million investment is expected to generate 117 new jobs.

Note: "Today's announcement is another testament that South Carolina is a destination for job-creating investments," said Gov. Nikki Haley. "We celebrate American Tactical Imports' decision to invest \$2.7 million and create 117 new jobs in Dorchester County."

WLTX: Haley Agreement on Travel Costs Raising New Questions

<http://www.wltx.com/news/article/254447/2/Haley-Agreement-on-Travel-Costs-Raising-New-Questions>

Robert Kittle

An agreement over the costs of Gov. Nikki Haley's security detail when at campaign events was supposed to settle any questions, but has instead raised new ones. She signed the agreement earlier this month with the State Law Enforcement Division and State Ethics Commission. The agreement, for the first time in writing, spells out when a governor will reimburse the state for some of the costs of her state-provided security detail.

Note: Haley campaign spokesman Rob Godfrey says, "Historically, it appears that there has been some confusion with the interpretation of the necessary requirements for a protection detail for the Governor and the equally necessary prohibitions contained in the state's campaign finance statutes with regard to the use of state assets in an election campaign. This MOA (Memorandum Of Agreement) was a collaborative effort between the three agencies to ensure that there is a clear understanding of the statutory requirements regarding the use of the Governor's protection detail while attending campaign related events. This agreement will serve as a benchmark for all future campaign activities and bring clarity to an obvious area of confusion."

Spartanburg Herald Journal (Guest Column): Thank you for a special experience

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20131029/ARTICLES/131029685/0/search>

Josef Kerscher

After seven years serving as president of BMW Manufacturing, it is time to say goodbye. My family and I will never forget our extraordinary experience living in the Upstate of South Carolina. We will especially miss the people and the Southern hospitality. Parallel to my business activities, we learned to appreciate the American way of life and the benefits of living in the South. The local community, especially our neighbors, made it very easy for us to adapt to our new home.

Note: In working with the public sector, I would like to recognize Gov. Nikki Haley, the S.C. General Assembly, the S.C. Department of Commerce, the State Ports Authority, Spartanburg County and all local officials for their strong collaboration with BMW.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Immigration reform now

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131029/PC1002/131029341/1021/immigration-reform-now>

Editorial

Immigration is a national issue. But it's also a state and local issue. And effective immigration reform is an overdue need on all three levels. The misguided notion that comprehensive immigration reform is a purely left-wing cause was debunked again Monday when a diverse coalition of South Carolina business and faith leaders went to Washington to support it. Realists charge, with some validity, that business organizations like the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce support immigration reform in part to assure cheap labor. However, sustaining an available — and yes, affordable — workforce is a legitimate concern for the business community, including the agriculture and construction sectors that have long depended on immigrant labor.

Times and Democrat: Website disaster not only problem for Obamacare

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/editorial/website-disaster-not-only-problem-for-obamacare/article_3540d382-4032-11e3-a14b-0019bb2963f4.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Health care reform; OUR VIEW: Problems with Internet sign-up are unbelievable in this age. If the Republican opponents of President Barack Obama's health care plan had only known how the rollout would go, they may have been quiet and let the entire house of cards come tumbling down. While the GOP has tried repeatedly to repeal Obamacare, the government shutdown should have taught them that Obama and Democrats were not going to yield on his signature achievement. But with the disaster that has surrounded the government website that was supposedly to guide Americans through the difficult process and determining what is best for them and signing up, even Obama's supporters are quiet or calling for change.

Greenville News: Opting out of Medicaid hurts state

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131029/OPINION/310290006/Opting-out-Medicaid-hurts-state>

Editorial

The fruits of South Carolina's decision not to expand its Medicaid program as part of the Affordable Care Act are becoming apparent. Eighty-six percent of poor, uninsured, non-elderly adults in South Carolina will fall into a so-called "coverage gap" in the the Affordable Care Act because the state opted out of the Medicaid expansion, according to a recent report by the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. The coverage gap means those individuals will not be eligible for Medicaid and will not be eligible for federal subsidies to buy insurance. Their income also is so low that it would be all but impossible for them to buy health insurance without a subsidy.

Aiken Standard: International spying a double-edge sword

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131029/AIK0201/131029483/1018/AIK02/editorial-international-spying-a-double-edge-sword>

Editorial

Mass surveillance of American citizens hit the news cycle first. Now, international spying on foreign leaders by the National Security Agency – or NSA – has hit the headlines. This has undoubtedly infuriated individuals overseas, fueling concerns that American officials are indiscriminately collecting vast amounts of mobile phone and email data globally. It's really no secret that our country collects data from sources around the world. So does every intelligence service with such capabilities internationally. They likely also spy on the U.S. or would if they could. However, our security officials need to ensure we're collecting information because we need to, not merely because we can.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

The Florence Morning News: Tea Party candidate Cash talks US heritage

http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article_b4fcb868-403f-11e3-b59b-0019bb30f31a.html

Traci Bridges

Florence County's Tea Party got its first look at U.S. Senate candidate Richard Cash Monday night during a meet and greet at a local business. Cash was the latest guest in a series of public meetings this fall in which the Florence branch of the Tea Party is hosting candidates who are running against U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham next year. State Sen. Lee Bright and Nancy Mace have also announced their candidacy for the seat.

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: Graham demands more Benghazi info

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131029/NEWS03/310290012/Graham-demands-more-Benghazi-info>

Mary Orndorff Troyan

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham said Monday he will block Senate votes on President Barack Obama's nominees until Congress gets more information about the terrorist attack last year on the American consulate in Benghazi, Libya. The South Carolina Republican, who in the past has said presidents are entitled to some deference on their picks for executive and judicial jobs, said he will block Senate confirmation votes until survivors of the deadly attack are made available to Congress. "I'm tired of hearing from people on TV and reading about stuff in books," Graham told the Fox News show Fox and Friends.

The State: SC Congressmen Question Sebelius On Obama Care Rollout

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=2xDIsHUC

Jamie Self

Two Republican S.C. congressmen want answers from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius about this month's problematic rollout of the federal health insurance exchange, healthcare.gov. U.S. Reps. Trey Gowdy, R-Greenville, and Mick Mulvaney, R-Indian Land, joined Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, in sending a letter to Sebelius Monday, asking her to answer questions about the website's delays and technical glitches that have been reported since it launched Oct. 1. They also rebuffed a statement Sebelius made last week. After saying the website needed more testing, Sebelius tied problems with the site's rollout to "a political atmosphere where the majority party, at least in the House, was determined to stop this anyway they possibly could, including shutting down the U.S. government," Sebelius said Friday in Austin, Texas.

The State: SC's Graham, Clyburn On Panel Seeking Budget, Deficit Deal

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=g5wziea2

Jamie Self

South Carolina's two ranking members in Congress – U.S. Rep. James Clyburn, D-Columbia, and U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-Seneca – share some ideas for cutting spending and reducing the nation's \$17 trillion debt. Both, for instance, say they favor making it easier for companies to bring into the United States profits now held overseas. Both want to improve the country's infrastructure and favor replacing across-the-board sequestration budget cuts. They might even be able to agree on increasing the retirement age. But the differences between the two – both on a 29-member congressional committee that starts work Wednesday, charged with drafting a budget and deficit-reduction plan by Dec. 13 – show just how big a challenge members of Congress will face in reaching a consensus.

Associated Press: Rep. Sanford's staff holding office hours

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Xfz5aqk6

Members of U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford's staff are again spending some time meeting with constituents in the Republican's South Carolina district. For several hours on Tuesday, Sanford's staff is holding satellite office hours at the St. Helena Branch Library on St. Helena Island. They'll also be at the Bluffton Community Library and the Hilton Head Island Library. Sanford isn't scheduled to attend the events. His office says the gatherings are set up to make Sanford's staff as accessible as possible to constituents who need help on issues related to the federal government.

Times and Democrat: Sellers plans to prefile domestic violence bill

http://thetandd.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/sellers-plans-to-prepare-domestic-violence-bill/article_e3a2ac6c-4027-11e3-8de0-0019bb2963f4.html

State Rep. Bakari Sellers, D-Denmark, announced Monday that he plans to pre-file legislation to strengthen criminal domestic violence laws in South Carolina.

The State: SC GOP director takes new job with state treasurer

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/10/28/3064961/sc-gop-director-takes-new-job.html#storylink=cpy>

S.C. GOP Party Executive Director Alex Stroman has left his job after nearly 11 months to become a spokesman for state treasurer Curtis Loftis. A replacement was not named. Stroman's responsibilities will be split among several staffers until the job is filled in a few months, said S.C. GOP chairman Matt Moore, who was the state director until January. Stroman led the party while former Gov. Mark Sanford was elected to the Congressional seat he once held this spring.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Loftis talks financial literacy at Spartanburg County schools

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20131028/ARTICLES/131029683/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Loftis-talks-financial-literacy-at-Spartanburg-County-schools>

Felicia Kitzmiller

State Treasurer Curtis Loftis visited Dorman High School on Monday to impress upon students the importance of financial literacy. Loftis also brought the school 15 iPads equipped with personal financial literacy programs, and iTunes gift cards worth \$30 accompanied each device. Loftis said the iPads were donated by an investment firm and no state money was involved. Loftis, who also stopped at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic School, said he will be making similar gifts to several schools, public and private, across the state.

The State: \$1.1 Billion Deal Would Double Plum Creek's SC Timber Land

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=yvZwiM7W

Joey Holleman

A major S.C. landowner, Plum Creek Timber Co., plans to nearly double its Palmetto State acreage by buying 175,400 acres from MeadWestvaco. That property is expected to remain as timber land, according to a Plum Creek news release. But as part of the deal, Plum Creek also would acquire a 50 percent interest in an additional 109,000 acres that MeadWestvaco planned to develop in the Charleston area. Plum Creek also would buy about 325,000 acres of MeadWestvaco land in four other states – Alabama, Georgia, Virginia and West Virginia. The total purchase price is nearly \$1.1 billion – including \$869 million for the timber land, \$152 million for the 50 percent stake in the development-quality land near Charleston and \$65 million for mineral rights and wind-power assets.

Local News:

Greenville News: Voters will get final say on using sales tax for roads

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131029/NEWS/310280073/Voters-will-get-final-say-using-sales-tax-roads>

Rudolph Bell

Strong anti-tax sentiment is one reason Greenville County has never exercised its option to impose a 1 percent sales tax as most South Carolina counties have done. Now, however, with no solution in sight from Columbia or Washington for crumbling and overburdened roads, some county officials are wondering whether Greenville's famously conservative voters are willing to tax themselves as a last resort. County Council took a step in that direction Monday night, voting 8 to 4 to create a special citizens committee to draw up a list of projects that might be funded with the possible sales tax hike.

Island Packet: Rep. Andy Patrick listens to Beaufort County teachers for input on evaluations

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/10/28/2761668/rep-andy-patrick-listens-to-beaufort.html#storylink=cpy>

Sarah Bowman

Students are evaluated nearly every day with tests, homework or class exercises. But questions linger about how best to evaluate the teachers who instruct those students. Some Beaufort County School District teachers told a state representative Monday that being evaluated more often would be a good start. Rep. Andy Patrick met in the Bluffton High School auditorium with about 50 teachers to hear their thoughts on the state's current evaluation system. The meeting was the first of three that Patrick, the chairman of the S.C. House of Representatives committee on K-12 education, will conduct around the state. He said he is seeking feedback before he heads back to Columbia in January for the 2014 legislative session.

Times and Democrat: House 93 voters go to polls today

http://thetandd.com/news/local/house-voters-go-to-polls-today/article_3147981a-4055-11e3-b186-001a4bcf887a.html

Martha Rose Brown

The candidates' message is clear: "Go vote!" Democrat Russell Ott of St. Matthews and Republican Charles "Charlie" Stoudemire Jr. of Woodford are seeking voters' support in today's special election to fill the unexpired term for the S.C. House District 93. There's one year left on the term. The seat was previously held by former House Minority Leader Harry L. Ott Jr., a Democrat who served in the legislature for 15 years before stepping down to become the state executive director of the federal Farm Service Agency. He is Russell Ott's father. The candidates will spend the day soliciting support from voters.

The State: Sypolt Drops Columbia Mayoral Bid, Backs Benjamin

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=xCQ74mbl

Clif LeBlanc

Former Richland County deputy and long-shot mayoral candidate Larry Sypolt withdrew Monday from Columbia's mayoral campaign and threw his support to Mayor Steve Benjamin. "I think it's a disservice to the community for Steve and I to run against each other," Sypolt said in front of police headquarters in downtown Columbia, with Benjamin at his side. Sypolt dropped out eight days before the Nov. 5 election after acknowledging that he has come to agree with Benjamin on public safety and other issues as well as appreciating the incumbent's character.

Post and Courier: College of Charleston's teacher education program receives national reaccreditation

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131028/PC16/131029359/1389/college-of-charleston-x2019-s-teacher-evaluation-program-earns-national-reaccreditation>

The College of Charleston's School of Education, Health, and Human Performance has been reaccredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education after a review of its teacher education program. The college's teacher education program was recognized for meeting all six accreditation standards, and its performance was rated at the highest level for three of those standards. The school received special congratulations for having no areas for improvement.

National News:

Associated Press: U.S. weighs ending spying on allied heads of state

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/revelations-prompt-call-intel-total-review>

Julie Pace and Kimberly Dozier

Faced with a flood of revelations about U.S. spying practices, the White House is considering ending its eavesdropping on friendly foreign leaders, a senior administration official said. A final decision has not been made and the move is still under review, the official said. But the fact that it is even being considered underscores the level of concern within the administration over the possible damage from the months-long spying scandal — including the most recent disclosure that the National Security Agency was monitoring the communications of German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

McClatchy DC: Budget battles will resume soon at a Congress near you

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2013/10/28/206706/budget-battles-will-resume-soon.html#storylink=cpy>

William Douglas

It's hard to say which is less likely to occur: that the House of Representatives and Senate budget conference committee, meeting for the first time Wednesday to cobble together a bipartisan budget plan, will get anything done by its Dec. 13 deadline, or that its final product will be enough to keep the government from lurching from crisis to crisis. But even producing a minimalist plan could prove daunting for the 29-member committee, chaired by House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Senate Budget Committee Chairwoman Patty Murray, D-Wash. The formation of the committee was part of a short-term deal that reopened the partially closed federal government after 16 days and funds the government at \$986 billion until about Jan. 15.

Brian Symmes

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304

Cell: (803) 673-9437