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## Clips - Wednesday, February 6, 2013

### Governor Nikki Haley News

**Sun News:** A new GOP emerging? First Haley in South Carolina, now Cantor in Washington (Opinion [http://thesunnews.typepad.com/a\\_different\\_world/2013/02/a-new-gop-emerging-first-haley-in-south-carolina-now-cantor-in-washington.html](http://thesunnews.typepad.com/a_different_world/2013/02/a-new-gop-emerging-first-haley-in-south-carolina-now-cantor-in-washington.html))

Issac J. Bailey

Maybe it is coincidence, or maybe the 2012 elections have really forced the Republican Party to look at how it did things the past 4 years. If so, that would be an extremely welcome change.

**Note:** First Gov. Nikki Haley bravely, I think, began a long-overdue public discussion about the inequities in the South Carolina public school system. She knows that's been the case for as long as she and I can remember.

**Associated Press:** Democrats slam cuts set for SC unemployment help

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6FESFD9E](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6FESFD9E)

Seanna Adcox

Democratic legislators on Tuesday called the removal of in-person unemployment help from 17 offices an attack on rural South Carolina. Lawmakers made the accusations a day after the Department of Employment and Workforce announced plans to reduce its offices for unemployment services from 56 to 39 statewide. The face-to-face help ends at those 17 offices - all in rural areas - on Feb. 15.

**Note:** Haley's spokesman, Rob Godfrey, fired back that the governor has a war on unemployment, not the unemployed. The state's unemployment rate was 8.4 percent in December, down from a high of 12 percent three years earlier. Both the state and national jobless rates hit four-year lows in November. "Gov. Haley measures success by how many South Carolinians have jobs, not by how many unemployment offices we have," Godfrey said.

**The State:** Dems rip Haley for waging war on poor

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/06/2620356/dems-rip-haley-for-waging-war.html#storylink=cpy>

Andy Shain

S.C. Democratic leaders said Tuesday that Gov. Nikki Haley has declared war on the poor and African-Americans by cutting off in-person unemployment claims help at 17 rural offices statewide.

**Note:** Haley's office said she supports rural South Carolinians, including her efforts that have won jobs in all but one of the state's counties and her personal foundation that has held health and education clinics.... "Governor Haley has a war on unemployment," Haley's spokesman Rob Godfrey said. "Governor Haley measures success by how many South Carolinians have jobs, not by how many unemployment offices we have."

**Post and Courier:** Democrats: Haley declaring war on rural S.C. with unemployment office moves

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130206/PC16/130209562/1005/democrats-haley-declaring-war-on-rural-sc-with-unemployment-office-moves>

Stephen Largen

A collection of Statehouse Democrats on Tuesday accused Gov. Nikki Haley of "declaring war" on unemployed, rural South Carolinians. The charge came a day after the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce announced it would end face-to-face unemployment assistance at 17 rural offices, forcing residents in those areas to drive to another office for personalized help.

**Note:** Haley's office said the war the governor is engaged in is one against unemployment. "That's why our economy is roaring back and unemployment in our state has gone down to its lowest level in four years," spokesman Rob Godfrey said in a statement. "Gov. Haley measures success by how many South Carolinians have jobs, not by how many unemployment offices we have." The state's unemployment level hit a four-year low in November, mirroring a decline in the national unemployment rate. Godfrey also

highlighted the fact that the state has announced new jobs in 45 of 46 counties since Haley took office in January 2011, she has held charity events in rural counties through her foundation, and the administration has taken on other financial and health initiatives in rural counties.

**WLTX:** \$18M sought to improve safety for officers at state prisons

[http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130205/NEWS/302050041/-18M-sought-improve-safety-officers-state-prisons?nclck\\_check=1](http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130205/NEWS/302050041/-18M-sought-improve-safety-officers-state-prisons?nclck_check=1)

Robert Kittle

Gov. Nikki Haley wants South Carolina lawmakers working on next year's state budget to come up with an additional \$18 million for the state Department of Corrections to improve safety for state corrections officers and the public. She included the money in her budget proposal after two hostage situations at Lee Correctional Institution in Bishopville last year. A corrections officer was stabbed during one of them.

**Note:** In her State of the State address on January 16th, Haley said, "As a legislator, it was always my belief that giving money to corrections was giving money to criminals, and that there were better, more noble places our tax dollars should go." Now, she says, she realizes the money isn't going to prisoners; it's going to the officers and protecting them.

**The State:** To see inside SC prisons is to support more funding (Opinion)

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/06/v-print/2620161/ozmint-to-see-inside-sc-prisons.html>

Jon Ozmint

In her State of the State address, Gov. Nikki Haley presented a candid and, for many, eye-opening description of what goes on inside South Carolina's prisons. "As a legislator, it was always my belief that giving money to corrections was giving money to criminals, and that there were better, more noble places our tax dollars should go," she said. "Warden McCall will tell you that's not true. Twice in the past year the Warden has had the prisoners take control of parts of his prison. He has seen one of his guards viciously beaten and left for dead in a janitor's closet. "Yet Lee Correctional has no towers, no wands, and few cameras. I've been there. I've seen it."

**Note:** Gov. Haley should be commended for honestly admitting what many of us have known for too long: Legislators too often fail to fund corrections, for all the wrong reasons. She also should be commended for actually touring a state prison. To my knowledge only two other governors have done so.

**The State:** Medicaid: the clash of public health, economic reality (Opinion)

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/06/v-print/2620163/scoppe-medicaid-the-clash-of-public.html>

Cinidi Ross Scoppe

Tony Keck makes a good point when he says the medical system in our state and nation is "producing way too much cost and way too little outcome." He points, for example, to a study that found that 85 percent of the people in the United States whose blood pressure is out of control have health insurance and a regular physician. Although the insured fare better than the uninsured — 50 percent of hypertension patients with insurance have their blood pressure under control, compared to just 30 percent of those without insurance — neither number is impressive. Or healthy.

**Note:** Although it feels a lot like Gov. Nikki Haley and others oppose expanding Medicaid simply because it's President Obama's idea and because South Carolina would have to pick up part of the cost, which could possibly require higher taxes, Mr. Keck builds his case around the "insurance-doesn't-equal-health" argument. He acknowledges that having health insurance is beneficial, but he contends that how healthy someone is depends much more on "social determinants" than on access to health care.

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## South Carolina News

**Post and Courier:** Woman with history of mental illness showed up at Charleston school intending to kill, police say

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130206/PC16/130209557/1165/woman-showed-up-at-charleston-school-intending-to-kill-police-say>

Dave Munday

The woman arrested with a loaded pistol outside a downtown private school Monday was trying to kill people, but she couldn't get the gun to fire, according to Charleston police. Alice Boland, a 28-year-old Beaufort woman with a history of mental illness, was arrested at Ashley Hall on Rutledge Avenue.

**Associated Press:** Sen. Lindsey Graham says Hagel 'seems clueless' on Iran

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=eIASbPi9](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=eIASbPi9)

Donna Cassata

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham said Tuesday Chuck Hagel "seems clueless" on U.S. policy toward Iran and he urged the Obama administration to reconsider its defense secretary nominee. In a statement, the South Carolina lawmaker stopped short of saying he would filibuster the choice if the president pushes forward as expected. No Democrat has come out in opposition to Hagel and he picked up more support on Tuesday as Sen. Kay Hagan, D-N.C., announced that after meeting with Hagel, that she would vote for the former two-term Republican senator and decorated Vietnam combat veteran.

**The State:** Tax hike advances in SC Senate

Measure to conform with U.S. tax law advances after relief amendment fails

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/06/2620367/tax-hike-advances-in-sc-senate.html#.URJml2fFzdU>

Jamie Self

A state Senate bill that would raise taxes for the state's wealthiest earners advanced Tuesday after an attempt to negate effects of the hike failed. The bill would update the state's tax code to reflect recent changes in federal law – a process the state goes through every year as a way to simplify the completing returns for taxpayers and preparers.

**The State:** State Medicaid agency doesn't ask for expansion funds

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/06/v-print/2620407/sc-political-briefs-state-medicaid.html>

Joey Holleman

"When you look at the money we are spending and would have to spend on health insurance and the outcomes we would get, it's a bad decision," said Keck, whose agency handles Medicaid for the state. Despite the expanding of public health care dollars in recent years, the country is growing less healthy, a sign that insurance isn't the answer, Keck said.

**Associated Press:** Bill on sweepstakes machines advances in SC House

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=FKinRAqX](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=FKinRAqX)

Staff Report:

A bill specifying that sweepstakes machines are illegal gambling is advancing in the South Carolina House. The Judiciary Committee voted Tuesday to move the bill to the House floor. The Senate approved the measure last month. The bill is designed to close any loophole business owners cite to operate so-called sweepstakes cafes.

**Greenville News:** Get serious about funding roads (Opinion)

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130206/OPINION/302060010/Greenville-News-editorial-Get-serious-about-funding-roads>

Editorial

It is becoming increasingly obvious that there is little will in the South Carolina Legislature to raise the state's 16.7 cents per gallon gasoline tax that hasn't increased in more than 25 years. It is also painfully clear that the state's infrastructure is nearing a point of crisis and is in serious need of increased and stable funding.

**Greenville News:** Burns wins House District 17 runoff

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130206/NEWS03/302060015/Burns-wins-House-District-17-runoff>

Ron Barnett

Mike Burns, who missed winning the vacant state House District 17 seat outright by one vote in a five-man race two weeks ago, claimed a 249-vote victory over Chris Sullivan in Tuesday's Republican primary runoff, according to the unofficial results.

**Associated Press:** DeMint founding new South Carolina think tank

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=xHfXE5tG](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=xHfXE5tG)

Staff Report

Former U.S. Sen. Jim DeMint is launching a conservative think tank in South Carolina. DeMint said Tuesday he's investing \$300,000 from his campaign account to establish the Palmetto Policy Forum to conduct research and push for conservative ideas in state government. DeMint will serve as founding chairman.

**Associated Press:** DHEC shows HIV, AIDS impact on black community

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=HWIAsKkF](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=HWIAsKkF)

Staff Report

South Carolina health officials are marking the 13th annual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day with a series of events. The Department of Health and Environmental Control is partnering with community-based organizations to host events around the state Thursday to highlight the impact of the disease on black communities.

**Associated Press:** AT&T in SC to show texting and driving dangers

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8GaXTLlE](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8GaXTLlE)

Staff Report

AT&T is spending some time at the South Carolina Statehouse to talk about the dangers of texting while driving. The company on Wednesday is offering lawmakers the opportunity to test a simulator that officials say shows how dangerous it is to try to send a text message while behind the wheel.

**Post and Courier:** School bus drivers' union, Durham to resume negotiations tonight, union promises not to strike Wednesday

<http://postandcourier.com/article/20130205/PC16/130209623/1165/school-bus-drivers-union-durham-to-resume-negotiations-tonight-union-promises-not-to-strike-wednesday>

Diette Courrégé Casey

Negotiations between the school bus drivers' union and Durham School Services will resume tonight and likely will continue on Wednesday. L.D. Fletcher, president of the local drivers' union, said that even if a deal is not reached Tuesday night, the union would not strike on Wednesday.

**Associated Press:** USC alumni advocate at Statehouse for 8 campuses

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=EIYJH8d7](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=EIYJH8d7)

Staff Report

Alumni, students and advocates of the University of South Carolina and its eight regional campuses are heading to the Statehouse to advocate on behalf of public higher education. The Carolina Alumni Association is hosting the 10th annual Carolina Day at the Statehouse on Wednesday.

**Greenville News:** South Carolina's public college get high marks for value

Clemson, USC, College of Charleston make Princeton Review's list of 75

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130206/NEWS/302060014/South-Carolina-s-public-college-get-high-marks-value>

Staff Report

Clemson University, the University of South Carolina-Columbia and the College of Charleston were among 75 top-rated public undergraduate schools in the nation for best value, according to "The Princeton Review Best Value Colleges: 2013 Edition" announced Tuesday by The Princeton Review and USA Today.

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## Hyperlocal News

**Associated Press:** Charleston County asks teachers to work more days

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Eg6Y6tc1](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Eg6Y6tc1)

Staff Report

Charleston County is working to improve the academic performance in four schools by keeping teachers in school longer. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports (<http://bit.ly/VDCEf2>) that teachers in four poor performing schools will be asked to work about a month longer next academic year.

**The State:** Columbia City Council moves to cut utility bills

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/06/2620600/columbia-city-council-moves-to.html>

Clif LeBlanc

SCE&G customers in Columbia are to see a reduction in their monthly utility bills before the taxman starts collecting an extra penny-on-the-dollar sales tax this spring. But when ratepayers will see the break is unclear. Columbia City Council on Tuesday cast the first of two votes to lift a 2 percent "franchise fee" it imposed two years ago as a way of sustaining the struggling metropolitan bus system.

**Greenville News:** SLED starts inquiry into alleged Simpsonville impropriety

Ex-chief, councilwoman deny mayor's allegations

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130205/NEWS/302050017/SLED-starts-inquiry-into-alleged-Simpsonville-impropriety>

Staff Writer

The State Law Enforcement Division said Monday it is conducting a “preliminary inquiry” into allegations of impropriety in the city of Simpsonville. Simpsonville Mayor Perry Eichor said he has asked SLED Chief Mark Keel to investigate what Eichor alleges was an effort between former Police Chief Keith Grounsell and City Councilwoman Geneva Lawrence to fire an officer to make room for her relative on the force — allegations that Grounsell and Lawrence denied.

**The State:** Richland rounds out panel on road plans

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/05/2620618/richland-rounds-out-panel-on-road.html>

Dawn Hinshaw

The citizen committee that will oversee the expenditure of more than \$1 billion in public money to modernize Richland County’s transportation system is in place. Tuesday, it took Richland County Council nearly 11/2 hours and four ballots to choose seven representatives – out of 43 applicants – for the Transportation Penny Advisory Committee, or TPAC.

**The State:** Lexington weighs \$1 million neighborhood road repairs

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/05/2619063/lexington-weighs-neighborhood.html>

Tim Flach

Lexington Town Hall is looking at nearly \$1 million in repairs on neighborhood streets. About 70 projects in 19 areas are on the drawing board, mostly repairing cracks and replacing small sections of crumbling pavement. It’s the first package of repairs proposed in five years for the 30 miles of town-maintained roads.

**Post and Courier:** Charleston Water System awards \$50.8 million contract for sewer tunnel

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130206/PC16/130209552/1005/charleston-water-system-awards-508-million-contract-for-sewer-tunnel>

Staff Report

Start of construction for the fifth and final phase of replacing the deep tunnel system that collects raw sewage — not street level storm water — and delivers it to Charleston Water System’s wastewater treatment plant will begin shortly. Charleston Water’s Board of Commissioners recently approved a \$50.8 million contract with Southland Renda JV, to build what is being called the new West Ashley Tunnel.

**The State:** Tangle of bureaucracy allowed Richland County strip club to operate without scrutiny from public officials

Neighbors frustrated that Richland strip club operated so long without scrutiny from public officials

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/05/2620117/tangle-of-bureaucracy-allowed.html#.URJmsGfFzdU>

Noelle Phillips

When police burst through the doors of Crush Nightlife last month, area residents were exasperated that a club could operate with so many problems for so long without any government agency intervening sooner.

**Associated Press:** Speeds up for drivers at Darlington tire test

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=jxhnkKni](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=jxhnkKni)

Pete Iacobelli

Carl Edwards and several other Sprint Cup stars gave the new, faster Gen-6 race car a thumbs-up after a Goodyear tire test Tuesday at Darlington Raceway. Edwards said the digital speedometer on his Ford Fusion hit 193 mph right before entering turn three, a typically unheard of speed at the ultra-tricky track.

**Associated Press:** Iowa editor to lead The Post and Courier

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Ehrlgkb8](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Ehrlgkb8)

Staff Report

An editor in Iowa who helped his newspaper get national recognition for print and online journalism has been chosen as the new editor of The Post and Courier of Charleston. Post and Courier Publisher P.J. Browning said (<http://bit.ly/11n1xDM>) that Mitch Pugh led a team at the Sioux City Journal that used a digital-first approach to covering breaking news, weather and other core topics.

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## National News

**Associated Press:** Postal Service to cut Saturday mail to trim costs

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/06/2620883/postal-service-to-cut-saturday.html#.URJmi2fFzdU>

Pauline Jelinek

The U.S. Postal Service will stop delivering mail on Saturdays but continue to deliver packages six days a week under a plan aimed at saving about \$2 billion, the financially struggling agency says. In an announcement scheduled for later Wednesday, the service is expected to say the Saturday mail cutback would begin in August.

**Greenville News:** Japan 787 probe finds thermal runaway in battery

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/viewart/20130206/BUSINESS/302060019/Japan-787-probe-finds-thermal-runaway-battery>

Elaine Kurtenbach

An investigation into a lithium ion battery that overheated on a Boeing 787 flight in Japan last month found evidence of the same type of “thermal runaway” seen in a similar incident in Boston, officials said Tuesday.

**Associated Press:** Groups oppose air guns offshore in Atlantic

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=aPnKhrXR](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=aPnKhrXR)

Bruce Smith

Conservation groups Tuesday urged the federal government not to permit the use of air guns if energy companies are allowed to search for oil and natural gas off the nation's East Coast. The guns fire compressed air into the water and researchers use the echoes to map oil and natural gas deposits beneath the ocean floor. Opponents say the devices can also lead to loss of hearing in marine mammals and affect other sea creatures.

**Associated Press:** Memphis renames 3 parks that honored Confederacy

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=gklwsiNA](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=gklwsiNA)

Adrian Sainz

The City Council voted Monday to change the names of three parks that honor the Confederacy and two of its notable members. The council passed a resolution to immediately rename Confederate Park and Jefferson Davis Park in downtown Memphis and Nathan Bedford Forrest Park, which lies just a few miles away. The vote was 9-0 with three members sitting out the vote.

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