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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, January 15, 2014

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## Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, January 15, 2014

### S.C. Political News:

**Associated Press:** Rep. Patrick running for state superintendent

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=vJ0sjVxS](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=vJ0sjVxS)

Seanna Adcox

State Rep. Andy Patrick announced Wednesday he's running to be South Carolina's next superintendent of public schools. The U.S. Air Force veteran and former U.S. Secret Service agent became the first Republican to officially get into the race, a month after GOP Superintendent Mick Zais announced he would not seek another term. Patrick, R-Hilton Head Island, said he wants to help transform the educational system. The 44-year-old father of five children, ages 7 to 19, said he understands parents' perspective and the role teachers play in students' success.

### Legislative Session News:

**The State:** House passes bill expanding workers compensation benefits for police officers

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/15/3208951/house-passes-bill-expanding-workers.html#storylink=cpy>

Adam Beam

Police officers in South Carolina who suffer post traumatic stress disorder after shooting someone would be eligible for workers compensation benefits under a bill the state House of Representatives passed on Wednesday. The bill was inspired by Brandon Bentley, a Spartanburg County Sheriff's Deputy shot and killed someone on a call in 2009. Bentley never worked again after the shooting, attempting suicide at least twice, he said.

### DEW Data Breach News:

**The State:** SLED investigating unauthorized data download at state agency

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/15/3208456/sled-investigating-unauthorized.html>

Adam Beam

The Department of Employment and Workforce is notifying more than 4,000 current and former employees that their personal information – including their dates of birth and Social Security numbers – was downloaded onto an unencrypted mobile storage device. The download happened on Dec. 18. DEW officials were alerted to the download by security software. The next day, SLED launched an investigation and the employee – whom DEW officials have not named – was suspended without pay. DEW fired that employee Tuesday and began preparing to notify the 4,658 people affected by the breach.

**Associated Press:** Officials: Employee downloaded personal data

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=pR6EX95e](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=pR6EX95e)

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina's unemployment agency began notifying more than 4,600 people Wednesday that a former employee may have compromised their personal information. The employee who downloaded the data to a personal flash drive was fired Tuesday, said Adrienne Fairwell, spokeswoman for the Department of Employment and Workforce. The unidentified employee in the agency's human resources department had been suspended Dec. 19, when the State Law Enforcement Division began investigating. Security software detected the unauthorized download from human resources files a day earlier.

**The State:** DSS criticized for failures to protect children

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/15/3208683/politics-dss-criticized-for-failures.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

The oversight hearings started last year after Lourie wanted an examination into three Richland County



abuse-related deaths of children involved with DSS in some way. In 2013, 58 children who were involved with DSS died statewide, said Sen. Katrina Shealy, a Lexington Republican who also received complaints about the agency. Hearings expanded into other child-protection issues at the agency that have been raised to lawmakers since a hearing in October. Witnesses during a three-hour hearing told senators about problems DSS has investigating cases and regulating foster-care providers.

## **DSS Investigation News:**

**Greenville News:** Child deaths under DSS protection has dropped, expert says

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140115/NEWS09/301150051/Child-deaths-under-DSS-protection-has-dropped-expert-says>

Tim Smith

The number of children who had some involvement with the state Department of Social Services and died has dropped in recent years, senators were told this morning. Laura Hudson, vice chairman of the State Child Fatality Review Committee, told a panel looking at how DSS protects children, that the number of deaths of DSS-involved children has dropped from 73 in 2009 to 58 last year. Yet others told the panel they saw problems with DSS, from an emphasis on numbers to caseworkers overlooking signs of danger to caseworkers violating the law and making false accusations against parents.

**Associated Press:** SC senators put DSS under major scrutiny

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

Jeffrey Collins

Two state senators usually on the opposite end of most issues are joining together to investigate what they say appear to be major problems at the South Carolina agency that handles the welfare of children and families. Sens. Katrina Shealy and Joel Lourie are part of a subcommittee that heard Wednesday about an alarming number of child deaths where the Department of Social Service was already involved. The lawmakers also heard about a system of goals that encourages social workers to keep children out of or remove them from foster care even if it isn't the best thing to do.

**WLTX:** SLED probes unauthorized download at SCDEW

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140115/NEWS10/301150059/SLED-probes-unauthorized-download-SCDEW>

Tony Santaella

State Law Enforcement Division agents are investigating after an employee at a state agency made an unauthorized download of personal data. The download took place at the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce on December 18th. According to SCDEW officials, a human resources employee downloaded the data to a personal, unencrypted media device, a violation of agency policy.

## **South Carolina News:**

**Associated Press:** SC House Speaker Harrell hospitalized overnight

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=reZabk3m](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=reZabk3m)

South Carolina House Speaker Bobby Harrell says he was hospitalized overnight with a respiratory illness. The Charleston Republican said in a statement he was released from the hospital Wednesday after being monitored overnight. Harrell says he went to the doctor Tuesday after fighting flu-like symptoms for two weeks. He plans to return Thursday to the House after resting. It's been a tough week for Harrell. On Monday, Attorney General Alan Wilson sent a state police review of ethics allegations against Harrell to the State Grand Jury. Harrell repeated Tuesday that he's done nothing wrong.

**Post and Courier:** Berkeley County student tests positive for tuberculosis

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140115/PC16/140119614/1177/berkeley-county-student-tests-positive-for-tuberculosis>

Lauren Sausser

The state health department confirmed Wednesday morning that a Stratford High School student has contracted a case of tuberculosis, prompting more than 1,700 pre-recorded emergency calls to parents this afternoon. Letters will also be sent home with some students that the school believes may have had close contact with the patient. Parents are urged to have their children tested if they are concerned about a possible infection.

## Local News:

**Island Packet:** Beaufort County told to set sights on international business

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/01/14/2893583/beaufort-county-told-to-set-sights.html#storylink=cpy>

Zach Murdock

Businesses in Germany and eastern Canada should be near the top of the recruiting list for Beaufort County and the Lowcountry Economic Alliance, an economic development consultant said Tuesday. Many German businesses are relocating to fend off sky-high electric bills, and businesses in eastern Canada want to be closer to U.S. markets, according to Amy Holloway, president of Avalanche Consulting.

## National News:

**Associated Press:** House approves government-wide \$1.1 trillion budget

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140115/WIRE/140119787/1171/WIRE?Title=House-approves-government-wide-1-1-trillion-budget-#gsc.tab=0>

Alan Fram

Party leaders pushed a massive \$1.1 trillion spending bill for this year through the House on Wednesday, shunning the turmoil of recent budget clashes with a compromise financing everything from airports to war costs and brimming with victories and concessions for both parties. The huge bill furnishes the fine print — 1,582 pages of it — for the bipartisan pact approved in December that set overall spending levels for the next couple of years. With that decision behind them, the measure sailed through the House with no suspense and little dissent — fueled additionally by lawmakers' desire to avoid an election-year replay of last fall's widely unpopular 16-day federal shutdown.

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