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To:
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Governor Nikki Haley names Bryan Stirling as new director of DOC:

Post and Courier: Haley picks chief of staff Bryan Stirling as prisons chief

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130905/PC1610/130909628/1009/haley-picks-chief-of-staff-bryan-stirling-as-prisons-chief&source=RSS>

Schuyler Kropf

Gov. Nikki Haley picked her chief of staff to lead the S.C. Department of Corrections, appointing Bryan Stirling to be the next director. Stirling, 43, had been with Haley as chief for about a year and comes in with years of experience in the Attorney General's office, working for both Republican incumbent Alan Wilson as well as previous officeholder, Henry McMaster.

Note: "Over the past three years our prison population has decreased and the recidivism rate is now at a 20-year low, proving that our reforms are working," Haley said in her announcement Thursday. "When it came time to think of someone for the Department of Corrections, I wanted someone I knew I could work well with, someone that knows how I feel about our prison system, and someone that I trusted," she added.

The State: New SC prisons chief: prosecutor, defense lawyer, crime victim, too

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/09/05/2961611/haley-names-her-chief-of-staff.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

Bryan Stirling, Gov. Nikki Haley's pick for new state prison director, has defended criminals, helped prosecute them – and he's even been a crime victim. In 2009, Stirling's Columbia house was burglarized at night by a serial burglar, and Stirling went to court in 2012 to make sure the judge and the public knew what effect criminal behavior had on people. Stirling, a Boston native, graduated from the University of South Carolina and is a 1996 USC Law School graduate. His mother's side of the family, he said, includes numerous police officers, including a Boston Police Department chief of detectives. Before moving into Haley's inner circle, Stirling was a deputy attorney general under attorneys general Henry McMaster and Alan Wilson.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Greenville News: Stop threats of government shutdown

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130906/OPINION/309060001/Stop-threats-government-shutdown>
Editorial

A financial crisis again is looming for the United States as the fiscal year is less than a month from ending with no plan in place to fund the government. The crisis is made worse by a looming vote on increasing the debt ceiling shortly after the new budget year begins, the chance that the federal government could default on its obligations if that ceiling is not raised, and the rhetoric from a group of Republicans linking the votes to an effort to defund the Affordable Care Act. When Congress reconvenes next week, it will have little time to put together an agreement that avoids this confluence of crises. How much the tea party wing of the House will add to the gridlock with its threat to shut down government if healthcare reform is not undone will be an important key to what gets done

Aiken Standard: Support by Congress warranted for Syria

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20130906/AIK0201/130909667/1018/AIK02/editorial-support-by-congress-warranted-for-syria>

Editorial

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham has seemingly made up his mind. Mark Sanford, former S.C. governor and current congressman, apparently has too. At this point, they're on different sides of the aisle for U.S. involvement in Syria. Graham has stated there needs to be an effective strike against the country because of Syrian President Bashar Assad's use of chemical weapons against his own people. Sanford said he will

vote against military intervention because he says his constituents are weary of foreign military entanglements. But there's still time for the rest of Congress to decide what the right course of action should be in the Middle East. With President Barack Obama seeking Congressional approval, there can be much-needed public debate on whether U.S. force is warranted in the country.

Florence Morning News: Low-income workers need the hope for brighter days

http://www.scnow.com/opinion/editorials/article_0a0d051e-1689-11e3-8880-001a4bcf6878.html

Editorial

Upward mobility, rising above our station in birth, is rooted in people having access to better education, improved social factors and, yes, better money. In theory, minimum-wage jobs are for unskilled or uneducated workers where they gain new experience and step to better — and better-paying — jobs. But socioeconomic trends have eroded opportunities in the middle — with much of the middle running as fast as they can just to stay in place. As such, there is hardly any room for lower-income workers to get off the ground. Raising the wage floor appeals to our humanitarian side. But there also has to be pragmatic number-crunching: Where is the tipping point, where the costs of paying people for a better way of life outweigh the benefits?

The State: Columbia Voters Should Sign Petition To Put Strong Mayor On The Ballot

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=C8cApZui

Editorial

Columbia is ripe for tremendous economic growth, with the resurgence of downtown, the developing riverfront, the explosion of USC and its research campus, the redevelopment of the State Hospital site on Bull Street, the promise of a much-improved bus system, tens of millions of dollars in infrastructure improvements, and more. Businesses and industry are going to come calling with jobs, tax dollars and new opportunities. But as this editorial board long as noted, the city isn't capable of making the definitive, timely decisions needed to capitalize on this pivotal moment, because it is saddled with a plodding governmental structure that moves at a snail's pace while Greenville and Charleston dart ahead of us.

Rock Hill Herald: Obamacare: get over it

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2013/09/05/5181150/obamacare-get-over-it.html>

Editorial

The effort by some congressional Republicans to hijack funding for the Affordable Care Act is doomed to end either in futility or disaster. Neither outcome would be good for the nation. When lawmakers return to Washington Monday from their five-week summer recess, they face two important fall deadlines. First, Congress needs to pass a continuing resolution to fund the government beyond Sept. 30, the end of the fiscal year. If lawmakers fail to do so by Oct. 1, government shuts down. Then, in late September or early October, lawmakers must vote to raise the national debt limit so the federal government can pay the debts it already has incurred. If they fail to do so, the nation would default on its debt, and the U.S. economy — and possibly the world's economy — would tank as debtors lose confidence in the economic integrity of the United States.

The State: Why The State's Editorial Board Is Pushing So Hard On Strong-mayor Petition Effort

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ZUwrLf6W

Warren Bolton

No doubt you noticed that we took the unusual step today of publishing an editorial on the front page supporting a Columbia referendum on strong mayor, rather than placing it on this page, where it normally would appear. That's because we think it's incredibly important for Columbia's voters to have their say on whether an empowered, full-time mayor should lead our capital city. It's our hope that voters not only place the matter on the ballot but also approve a change from the council-manager form of government to a strong-mayor system. But one step at a time.

Post and Courier: USPS reform beats rate hikes

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130906/PC1002/130909637/1021/usps-reform-not-rate-hikes>

Editorial

With the U.S. Postal Service on the verge of bankruptcy, the agency's Board of Governors was scheduled to begin discussions on an emergency postal rate increase this week. While a rate hike would raise revenue in the short term, it also would have the likely effect of chasing away customers — something that the USPS can ill afford. There has to be a better way, and Congress should follow through on reform measures. Separate bills in the House and Senate would temporarily relieve the Postal Service of a legal requirement

to set aside \$5.5 billion a year to provide for future pension and health insurance obligations established through collective bargaining with the postal unions.

Post and Courier: Good news for bad bridges

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130906/PC1002/130909636/1021/good-news-for-bad-bridges>

Editorial

The state's healthy budget surplus means that South Carolina's economy is picking up, and also that some of its deteriorating bridges will actually get funds for repairs. Good news on both fronts. While the Legislature wasn't willing to approve a long-overdue hike in the state gas tax last session, it did provide extra funding for road and bridge projects, including \$50 million for bridges, assuming a budget surplus. The need is apparent, since the state Department of Transportation lists \$2.9 billion in bridge work that needs be done over the next 20 years.

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: Syria complicates 2014 campaign for Graham

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130906/NEWS09/309060010/Syria-complicates-2014-campaign-Graham>

Mary Orndorff Troyan

On Syria, Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham is both a friend and a foe of the White House. When Graham says that allowing Syria to go unpunished for using chemical weapons would invite nuclear Armageddon, he aligns himself with President Barack Obama's call for military action. But when he blames Obama for allowing Syrian President Bashar Assad to remain in power so long, he becomes one of the president's fiercest critics. During the last week, Graham has made both points in the same speeches, sometimes even in the same breath.

Greenville News: Graham: Doing nothing against Syria will embolden Iran

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130906/NEWS09/309060029/Graham-Doing-nothing-against-Syria-will-embolden-Iran>

Rudolph Bell

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina continued to argue for U.S. military intervention in Syria during a talk in Greenville Thursday, even while acknowledging the position is unpopular with voters and that Congress is not likely to authorize a strike. Graham, whose three opponents in next year's Republican primary are all on record against U.S. action, said he understands Americans are "war weary" and reluctant to battle again in the Middle East. But doing nothing in Syria, he argued, will embolden Iran, a Syrian ally, in its push to develop nuclear weapons — and those weapons could wind up in the hands of Islamic terrorists determined to kill Americans

Times and Democrat: First female graduate of The Citadel presents case for Graham's seat

http://thetandd.com/news/local/first-female-graduate-of-the-citadel-presents-case-for-graham/article_2714ef4e-16a9-11e3-beca-001a4bcf887a.html

Gavin Jackson

As the first woman to graduate from The Citadel, Nancy Mace says she knows what it is like to be on the outside looking in. She was frequently ostracized by the males at the school. Mace, 35, would go on to graduate magna cum laude in three years and has since opened up a consulting business: The Mace Group. Mace says her experience at The Citadel has prepared her for this day. She is now running against incumbent Sen. Lindsey Graham for the Republican nomination for his seat. Richard Cash, a onetime pro-life activist and former congressional candidate, and state Sen. Lee Bright have said they are seeking the position.

Florence Morning News: Collaboration needed for job growth, says Rep. Rice

http://www.snow.com/news/politics/article_9abdfd7a-1698-11e3-92ca-001a4bcf6878.html

Gavin Jackson

U.S. Rep. Tom Rice said Thursday collaboration amongst regional and national assets is a key to helping foster job creation in a district that is consistently above state unemployment rates. Rice, R-S.C., held a forum with roughly 50 economic leaders and regional stakeholders at the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology at Florence-Darlington Technical College. They listened to Rice talk of his interactions with members of Congress and officials abroad about economic competition and the additional resources South Carolina and District 7 need to remain competitive.

Aiken Standard: SRNS finalist for international award

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20130906/AIK0101/130909626/1007/AIK0101/srns-finalist-for-international-award>

Department of Energy contractor Savannah River Nuclear Solutions has been named one of three finalists for the Project Management of the Year award by the internationally-renowned Project Management Institute. Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is being considered for this coveted award due to exceptional project management of the extensive work accomplished through Savannah River Site's \$1.4 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – or ARRA – cleanup, which began in 2009, according to the contractor. Specifically, the contractor is being recognized for managing projects that resulted in a significant reduction of footprint from past operations, ultimately changing the skyline at SRS, according to a press release. Savannah River Nuclear Solutions further reduced risk by preparing legacy plutonium-contaminated waste for removal and disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.

Local News:

Island Packet: Superintendent makes return visit to St. Helena Elementary to tout its turnaround

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/09/05/2667135/state-superintendent-to-visit.html#storylink=cpy>

Sarah Bowman

S.C. schools superintendent Mick Zais didn't have much to say Thursday about Jasper County public schools getting an "F" two years in a row and having the lowest scores in the state on the latest federal report cards. He said the state, by law, cannot take over the district, something some parents are demanding. "What happens in Jasper County depends on what happens in the community, and if the community and its citizens decide that something needs to change and actually makes that change," Zais said during a visit to a charter school in Hardeeville. Parent and community involvement was an important factor for schools that have improved, he said

The State: 5,000-7,500 Gather In Columbia For Trayvon Martin

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=2G75q7vl

Cassie Cope

Participants at Columbia's rally and march for Trayvon Martin said they were angered by a verdict that reminded them of injustices faced by civil rights activists years ago. About 5,000 to 7,500 people gathered at South Carolina's State House on Saturday morning for one of more than 100 vigils held nationwide to remember the 17-year-old Florida teen killed by a neighborhood watchman last year. Many marchers felt the killing could have happened in South Carolina – or even to them.

Sun News: New initiative launches to strengthen Conway schools

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2013/09/05/3690396/new-initiative-launches-to-strengthen.html#storylink=cpy>

Vicki Grooms

Eighth-graders at Whittemore Park Middle School immediately began cheering for their classmate to win an arm-wrestling challenge with Michael Corso, an educator helping introduce a new program at the school. The objective was for one of the competitors to win by pinning his opponent 20 times in 30 seconds. During the contest, Corso and the student each pinned the other 20 times, which Corso explained only could have happened through cooperation. The outcome surprised and upset some students, who expected the challenge to end with one competitor earning a clear victory.

Aiken Standard: Singer listens to concerns about Project Jackson

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20130906/AIK0101/130909648/1007/AIK0101/singer-listens-to-concerns-about-project-jackson>

Amy Banton

An Aiken County Councilman held an informal meeting with residents on Thursday to discuss Project Jackson one-on-one. Councilman Scott Singer, who voted against the County's participation in the extension of the Tax Incremental Financing plan for the project in March, sat down with a handful of residents to hear their concerns in a more casual manner. The meeting took place just a few days before County Council's public hearing that will be held on Tuesday. Council is trying to decide if it will amend its share of the financing mechanism on 457 acres with a 30-year diversion of tax revenue.

National News:

New York Times: White House Looks to Syria Vote as Rudder for Rest of Term

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/06/world/europe/obama-arrives-in-russia-for-g20-summit.html?ref=todayspaper&_r=0

Peter Baker

President Obama and his advisers view the coming decision on military action against Syria as a potential turning point that could effectively define his foreign policy for his final three years in office. As he lobbied world leaders at a summit meeting here in person and members of Congress back in Washington by telephone on Thursday, Mr. Obama argued that a failure to act would be an abdication of the so-called indispensable role played by the United States since the end of the cold war, leaving no one to step in when international bodies fail to.

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