

From: Symmes, Brian
To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips - Tuesday, September 10, 2013

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Haley asks board to weigh lottery aid for summer

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=A3e5ZHi8

South Carolina college students may soon be able to use lottery-backed scholarships for summer classes too. Gov. Nikki Haley has asked the Commission on Higher Education to consider the idea, saying it's a way to help make college more affordable and reward schools for trying innovative ways to cut costs. The State newspaper reported Tuesday (<http://bit.ly/18KJOVH>). The Commission on Higher Education decided to study the proposal after receiving Haley's letter. The push comes after the University of South Carolina expanded its summer session to redefine the school year as three full semesters. University president Harris Pastides says the "on your time graduation" initiative lets students earn a college degree in three years for less money, since the shorter summer session costs less.

Note: The Commission on Higher Education decided to study the proposal after receiving Haley's letter.

Post and Courier: Sending deputies, SLED agent to Oklahoma for Veronica case cost Charleston County taxpayers \$9,356

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130910/PC16/130919961/1009/sending-deputies-sled-agent-to-oklahoma-for-veronica-case-cost-charleston-county-taxpayers-9356&source=RSS>

Glenn Smith

Charleston County spent \$9,356 in taxpayer money to send two sheriff's deputies and a State Law Enforcement Division agent to Oklahoma for nine days to provide assistance in the cross-country custody dispute for 3-year-old Veronica, records show. When the team left on Aug. 29, it appeared some resolution in the case might be imminent, and Sheriff Al Cannon said he felt a responsibility to have deputies on hand to help. But a series of legal maneuvers created further delays, and the team returned home Saturday without Veronica or her biological father, Dusten Brown. He is wanted on a Charleston County warrant for custodial interference for failing to turn over the girl to her adoptive parents, Matt and Melanie Capobianco of James Island.

Note: "It's a very clear situation," Haley said. "The courts ruled that Baby Veronica should be back with her parents. ... I will continue to make sure we do everything we can until we can get her back on South Carolina ground. I will tell you, I completely feel for all of the parents involved and for everyone that's involved but at some point you have to take the emotion out and look at what the courts said and that is that she should come back to her parents in South Carolina. We're going to continue to work with the parents and with Gov. Fallin to make sure that happens."

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

The State: Attack Websites For 2014 SC Governor's Race Go Live

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Q4oSjt6E

Andrew Shain

The battle of the 2014 S.C. gubernatorial attack websites is set. The S.C. GOP unveiled a site slamming the stances of Democratic Sen. Vincent Sheheen on Tuesday, vincesheheen.com. S.C. Democrats have their own site with rebukes about the tenure of Republican Gov. Nikki Haley, nikkihaleyfacts.com. The sites go along with Facebook pronouncements by the campaigns and bickering tweets between party operatives about the candidates expected to meet in a rematch of their 2010 race next year. Haley won by 4.5 percentage points three years ago. Undecided voters are the targets of these sites, which Citadel political scientist Scott Buchanan called inexpensive 21st-century attack ads.

South Carolina News:

The State: SC college to cut tuition by 43%

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/09/10/2971741/sc-college-to-cut-tuition-by-43.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Converse College, one of two women-only colleges in South Carolina, will cut its tuition by 43 percent starting next year. The Spartanburg school said Tuesday it is cutting its price tag to make college more affordable for students. College tuition rates nationwide have outstripped inflation in recent years. Converse will charge \$16,500 for undergraduate programs next year -- down \$12,624 from its \$29,124 price tag for tuition this year. Room and board, which is separate, cost an additional \$9,120 this year. Converse had the fourth-highest tuition among S.C. private schools in 2012-13, according to data from the S.C. Independent Colleges and Universities. The school would have ranked 14th with its new rate, but it still would have cost more to go to Converse than the in-state tuition rate at the state's priciest four-year public college, Rock Hill's Winthrop University at \$13,026.

Post and Courier: Sanford defends bringing fiancé on congressional trip to Israel

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130910/PC16/130919911/1177/sanford-defends-bringing-fiance-on-congressional-trip-to-israel>

Schuyler Kropf

U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford defended getting an ethics waiver so he could bring his fiancé on a congressional trip to Israel by saying most of the freshman Republican caucus was going and most brought their spouses along as well. Democrats said the trip is further evidence of Sanford's penchant to travel while in elected office. Sanford, R-S.C., is the subject of a National Journal story today that says he took mistress-turned-fiancée, María Belén Chapur, to Israel in August on a trip paid for by the American Israel Education Foundation. The privately funded trip, usually limited for relatives, was cleared by a waiver granted by House ethics officials. Sanford asked for and received a special exemption to take Belén Chapur along, the National Journal said. Sanford gave a two-word answer on the congressional travel form when asked why he wanted to participate in the Israel trip.

Associated Press: Mega ships, lines and ports challenge shippers

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

Bruce Smith

Companies that ship goods by sea face challenges brought on by new shipping alliances and the rise of massive container ships, and the ports that serve them must help address those issues, industry officials said Tuesday at the South Carolina International Trade Conference. Bigger ships require more time to unload goods, the rise of shipping alliances means fewer shipping options and the growth of mega ports means more congestion and delays in moving goods, representatives of major companies that ship worldwide said.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Upstate colleges named among nation's best in US News and World Report rankings

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20130910/ARTICLES/130919989/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Upstate-colleges-named-among-nation-8217-s-best-in-US-News-and-World-Report-rankings>

Drew Brooks

The latest U.S. News and World Report education rankings, released Tuesday, include several local and state colleges and universities. Among local schools, the 2014 "America's Best Colleges" report includes Wofford College, Converse College, the University of South Carolina Upstate and Limestone College. Wofford is ranked as the 65th best national liberal arts college, according to the report. While Converse is the 20th best regional university in the 12-state "south" region and USC Upstate is ranked as the 29th best regional college in the same region. Limestone College is listed as the 56th best regional college and USC Upstate is the 2nd best public college in its category, according to the report. USC and Clemson also featured repeatedly in the report.

Associated Press: UN official: Consider Cherokee girl's rights

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

Kristi Eaton

A United Nations official who focuses on the status of indigenous peoples called on state, federal and tribal authorities Tuesday to ensure that the rights of a nearly 4-year-old girl in the middle of a custody dispute are considered. James Anaya said in a statement that authorities should consider Veronica's rights to maintain her "cultural identity" as a member of the Cherokee Nation. Veronica's father, Dusten Brown, who is a member of the Cherokee Nation, has been fighting for custody of the girl with a South Carolina couple who

adopted her.

Rock Hill Herald: SC's Mulvaney: I won't vote for military action in Syria

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2013/09/10/5194971/scs-mulvaney-i-wont-vote-for-military.html#storylink=cpy>
U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-Indian Land, said today he will not support U.S. military action in Syria. He released this statement: "Over the past two weeks, I have spent a considerable amount of time considering all of the facts presented about the situation in Syria. I have attended two classified briefings, met with the Secretaries of State and Defense, and talked at length to members of Congress from both parties. My staff has also spoken directly with the White House. I can assure everyone that we have given this matter the attention that it deserves."

Associated Press: Former S.C. prosecutor chosen as federal judge

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/sep/10/former-sc-prosecutor-chosen-federal-judge/>

Former prosecutor Jerry Peace of Greenwood has been selected as a federal judge. The Index-Journal of Greenwood reported Tuesday that Peace has been picked to serve as a federal administrative law judge. Peace starts work later this month in Greenville hearing disability appeals for the Social Security Administration. The 62-year-old Peace served two terms as the chief prosecutor for Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens and Newberry counties. He lost last year's Republican primary to David Stumbo, who went on to win the general election.

Greenville News: Graham, Gowdy, Chafetz scheduled to discuss Benghazi in Furman lecture

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130910/NEWS/309100029/Graham-Gowdy-Chafetz-scheduled-discuss-Benghazi-Furman-lecture>

Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Reps. Trey Gowdy of South Carolina and Jason Chaffetz of Utah will guest lecture a political science class at Furman on Friday morning, Gowdy's office announced yesterday. The lecture, which will cover the Congressional investigation into the 2012 Benghazi attacks and other recent news, will take place in Dr. Danielle Vinson's "The American Congress" class. Only students will be allowed to participate in the discussion. The lecture will take place at 9:30 a.m. Friday and last until 10:20.

Local News:

Forbes: The Best And Worst Cities For Jobs This Fall

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/jacquelynsmith/2013/09/10/the-best-and-worst-cities-for-jobs-this-fall-2013/2/>
Jacquelyn Smith

Tied for the No. 2 spot are the Cape Coral-Ft. Myers, Fla. area, and the Greenville-Mauldin-Easley, S.C. area. The Greenville-Mauldin-Easley, S.C. metro area is also enjoying a 21% net employment outlook (23% plan to increase their payrolls, 2% anticipate a decrease, 73% won't make any changes, and 2% are unsure of their hiring plans). "The hiring environment is strong and positive," says Cindy Hopkins, president of the Greater Easley Chamber of Commerce. "In the past year, several of our local manufacturing companies have experienced expansions with new job creation—and the retail sector has experienced much growth, with the opening of several national chains, including Academy Sports, Kohl's, Marshalls, Tractor Supply, Sam's Club and QuikTrip."

Associated Press: Columbia agrees to sewer upgrades costing \$750M

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=N7QsLSNM

Federal and state officials say the city of Columbia has agreed to upgrade its sewer system at an estimated cost of \$750 million to stop raw sewage from spilling into waterways. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Justice Department and the state's health agency jointly announced Tuesday that Columbia also has agreed to spend about \$1 million to improve water quality and reduce flooding in waterways that run through poor, minority neighborhoods. The city also pledges to manage the sewer system to prevent future overflows. U.S. Attorney Bill Nettles says Columbia officials are taking responsibility for the city's aging sewer treatment system. The \$750 million cost includes projects already under way. The proposed consent decree has been filed in federal court, beginning a 30-day public comment period.

Associated Press: EPA, Timmons ville sewage reach deal in sewage suit

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ClcLio9u

Meg Kinnard

The federal government and the town of Timmons ville have reached an agreement to settle allegations that

the town has been risking residents' health by improperly discharging sewage and wastewater, according to documents filed in court this week. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sued Timmonsville in June, asking a federal court to order the town to address what it said were Clean Water Act violations. Problems included failing to properly clean sand filters, which officials said caused partially treated wastewater to overflow and, ultimately, flow into surrounding swamps and rivers. According to the lawsuit, a collapsed downtown sewer line caused untreated sewage to back up into several buildings and eroded some streets.

Post and Courier: Charleston home sales volume jumps 24% in August

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130910/PC05/130919909/1177/charleston-home-sales-volume-jumps-24-in-august>

John McDermott

August marked another period of strong home sales gains for the region. The Charleston Trident Association of Realtors said today that 1,278 homes sold at a median price of \$217,462 last month, respective increases of 24 percent and 9 percent from a year ago. The figures are preliminary. So far this year, 8,706 homes have sold at a median price of \$205,417. Compared to this point in 2012, sales are up 24 percent and median price is 7.6 percent higher. "As we expected, the minimal increases in mortgage rates have not soured the demand for residential real estate in Charleston" said Owen Tyler, the association's president. Days on market have declined by an average of 27 days, meaning homes are selling nearly a month faster than a year ago.

Island Packet: Beaufort County Council election uncontested thus far; could save county money

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/09/10/2676027/beaufort-county-council-election.html#storylink=cpy>

Zach Murdock

The special election to fill a vacant Beaufort County Council seat remains a one-man race, which could save the county money, according to election officials. No one filed as a write-in candidate by the Monday deadline, which means there will be no primary, said Marie Smalls, interim director of the Beaufort County Board of Elections and Registration. Not having to hold a primary saves money, though it's not yet clear how much, Smalls said. County officials initially estimated the election for the county seat could cost between \$24,000 and \$36,000. Retired banker Steve Fobes is the only candidate to file for the council's District 10 seat, which represents part of Hilton Head Island and was left vacant when Steve Baer, a Republican, resigned at the end of July.

Island Packet: Superintendent to discuss building Bluffton schools tonight

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/09/10/2676323/superintendent-to-discuss-building.html#storylink=cpy>

Sarah Bowman

A proposal to build two new Bluffton schools will be the topic of a special Beaufort County Board of Education meeting tonight. Bluffton-area residents are invited to the 6 p.m. meeting in the auditorium of Bluffton High School at 12 H.E. McCracken Circle. The meeting will focus on Superintendent Jeffrey Moss' recommendation to build two schools aimed at accommodating rapidly growing enrollment. On Aug. 20, Moss proposed a new elementary school to serve kindergarten through eighth grades and a new combination middle-high school to serve grades six through 12. They would be "schools of choice," where students could attend regardless of their attendance zones, and the curricula would be driven by the desires of parents and the community.

National News:

Reuters: Obamacare exchanges seen headed for 'rocky' enrollment start: expert

<http://news.yahoo.com/obamacare-exchanges-seen-headed-rocky-enrollment-start-expert-170411383--finance.html>

David Morgan

Obamacare is likely to have a "rocky" enrollment start on October 1 in some U.S. states, because of ongoing technology challenges facing new online health insurance exchanges, a leading expert told U.S. lawmakers on Tuesday. At this moment, not a single state appears to be completely ready," W. Brett Graham of the Salt Lake City-based consulting firm Leavitt Partners said in testimony to a Republican-controlled oversight panel in the House of Representatives. He said states should be capable of providing "baseline functionality" when enrollment begins in three weeks. But he cautioned about the potential for delays: "Most, if not all, exchanges will experience a rocky enrollment period as they work to overcome both known and unknown operational challenges."

National Journal: Syria Accepts Russia's Chemical Weapons Plan, Setting Up a Long Day for Obama
<http://www.nationaljournal.com/national-security/syria-accepts-russia-s-chemical-weapons-plan-setting-up-a-long-day-for-obama-20130910>

Matt Berman

Bashar al-Assad's government in Syria has agreed to a Russian plan to hand over its chemical weapons to international control, according to Syria's foreign minister. The minister, Walid al-Moallem, said the agreement was quick and intended to "uproot U.S. aggression." Russia's foreign minister, Sergey Lavrov, said Tuesday that his government is working with Syria to come up with a detailed plan, which will be revealed soon. But that's not all that's happening this morning. France is now looking to take a chemical-weapons handover plan to the United Nations Security Council. Under the plan, the chemical-weapons arsenal would eventually be dismantled. France says that its U.N. resolution would require "extremely serious consequences" if the deal is broken. The Security Council's permanent members—the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, China, and France—all seem to be supportive of the idea, with China's foreign ministry offering late backing for the possible deal.

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