Legalizing Gay Marriage Could Ease Georgia Budget Woes

Gregory J. Brock

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More jobs reported in Savannah area

The Savannah metro area — Chatham, Effingham and Bryan counties — saw an uptick of 1,700 jobs in December 2010 compared to a year earlier, according to state employment officials.

The metro area had 152,500 jobs last month, up 1.1 percent from 150,800 in December 2009. New unemployment benefit claims were down 13.5 percent from 3,119 in December 2009 to 2,697 last month.

Statewide, Georgia’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 10.2 percent in December, up two-tenths of a percentage point from a revised 10 percent in November. The rate was 10.3 percent in December 2009.

It marks the 39th consecutive month Georgia has exceeded the national unemployment rate, which is 9.4 percent.

Former S.C. ports land for sale again

PORT ROYAL, S.C. — Land in Port Royal owned by the South Carolina State Ports Authority is again on the market after a second attempt to sell the property fell through last week.

Port Royal Town Manager Van Willis says concerns about the title to smaller parcels in the site and about a marina plan prompted Charleston developer Ben Grambling to withdraw his offer.

SunTrust reports improved earnings

ATLANTA — SunTrust Banks Inc. (NYSE: ST) on Friday reported net income of $114 million, or $0.23 a share, for the fourth quarter of 2010. This compares to a net loss of $248 million, or $0.64 a share, for the fourth quarter of 2009 and to earnings of $84 million, or $0.17 a share, for the third quarter of 2010.

For the year, SunTrust earned $189 million in net income and reported a net loss to common shareholders of $0.18 a share, an improvement from the net loss per share of $3.98 reported for 2009.

SunTrust operates a number of branches in the Savannah area and in Bluffton and Hilton Head Island, S.C.

Maintain your nonprofit status

The Georgia Center for Nonprofits will host a workshop Thursday, Feb. 10, to review current tax considerations for nonprofit organizations and what criteria are required to maintain tax-exempt status. The program will be presented from 1-4 p.m. at the Goodwill Industrials, 7220 Sallie Mood Drive.

Advance registration is required; no walks-ins permitted. Call 912-234-9868 for more information or to register.

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Legalizing gay marriage could ease Georgia budget woes

As gay couples spend 20 percent more than their straight counterparts and 10 percent more on their marriages, according to PlanetOut (Semuels, 2008), Georgia is losing revenue to other states such as Massachusetts, where such marriages are legal.

As economist Gary Becker pointed out long ago, it is not only the couple who suffer but those supporting the discrimination as well (James & Miel, 2008).

California’s gain of $370 million dollars over a three-year period following legalization (Semuels, 2008) is a lot of money to be spent on services for the people of California.

We know from other countries and antiquity that gay marriage has been around a long time and strengthens the institution of marriage while providing children with loving couples to raise them.

Finally, Georgians should support the bill because it is the right thing to do.

Gregory J. Brock is a professor of economics and director of the Center for Economic Education. He can be reached at gbrock@georgiasouthern.edu.

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