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## Afternoon Clips – Thursday, September 19, 2013

### 2014 Campaign Cycle News:

**Greenville News:** GOP worker filed 'frivolous' ethics complaints, Sheheen says

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130919/NEWS/309190054/GOP-worker-filed-frivolous-ethics-complaints-Sheheen-says>

Tim Smith

Democratic gubernatorial hopeful Vincent Sheheen today alleged a GOP worker filed three “frivolous and nuisance” ethics complaints against him that have been dismissed by the State Ethics Commission. Matt Moore, chairman of the state GOP, called Sheheen’s comments “the height of hypocrisy” because he said Sheheen and other Democrats have spent four years calling Haley names.

**Note:** Rob Godfrey, a spokesman for the Haley campaign, and Moore stood outside the state Democratic Party headquarters passing out flyers to reporters arriving to hear Sheheen. Godfrey issued a statement alleging that Sheheen filibustered an ethics reform bill “so he can hide his trial lawyer income.”

**The State:** Sheheen accuses GOP of ‘desperate accusations’ in dismissed ethics charges

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/09/19/2989546/sheheen-accuses-gop-of-desperate.html>

Jamie Self

State Sen. Vincent Sheheen Thursday called ethics complaints filed against him -- and later dismissed -- “desperate accusations” meant to distract voters from Gov. Nikki Haley’s own ethics record. Sheheen, the likely Democratic candidate for governor, said three ethics complaints were filed against him with the S.C. Ethics Commission by a paid worker of the S.C. Republican Party. S.C. GOP chairman Matt Moore later said that person was a paid party intern acting on his own.

**Note:** Moore called Sheheen’s comments the “height of hypocrisy. This campaign for governor is about issues, and unfortunately Sheheen is on the wrong side of the issues,” he said.

### South Carolina News:

**Associated Press:** SC congressional delegation invites Moniz to SRS

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=9F0hARwB](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=9F0hARwB)

Meg Kinnard

A bi-partisan group of South Carolina's representatives in Washington want the U.S. Energy Department's top official to come see for himself what projected cuts would mean to a nuclear site in the state. On Thursday, both of the state's senators and six of its seven congressmen wrote to Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz asking him to visit the Savannah River Site near Aiken. The site used to produce bomb components, but work there is primarily focused on environmental cleanup.

**Post and Courier:** Settlement discussions ongoing at Oklahoma courthouse in Veronica adoption case

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130919/PC16/130919227/1177/settlement-discussions-ongoing-at-oklahoma-courthouse-in-veronica-adoption-case>

Andrew Knapp

Mediation discussions continued today in the adoption dispute over 4-year-old Veronica, and a judge told the Tulsa World newspaper that no settlement had been reached. Matt and Melanie Capobianco of James Island and Dusten Brown were seen for the fourth consecutive day at a downtown Tulsa courthouse where multiple sources told The Post and Courier that mediation was ongoing. The sources refused to be named because of a gag order. A settlement judge in the case said that no deal had been reached, the Tulsa World reported around midday Thursday. The newspaper did not name the judge.

**Post and Courier:** Town of Mount Pleasant wants Francis Marion University to open satellite campus

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130919/PC16/130919245/1177/town-of-mount-pleasant-wants->

## [francis-marion-university-to-open-satellite-campus](#)

Diane Knich

Mount Pleasant Mayor Billy Swails says he was tired of hearing from parents that the area lacked a local public option for their children to earn bachelor's degrees. So he's courting Francis Marion University in Florence to open a satellite campus there. The upscale community east of the Cooper River is the fourth largest city in the state, Swails said, but many students have to leave to earn a four-year degree. And he doesn't think that's right. If Francis Marion officials accept his invitation, the satellite campus could open as early as the fall of 2014, he said. And it likely would start by offering only a few degrees including several business degree options and a special program for students who already are registered nurses but want to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing.

### **Florence Morning News:** FMU considers Mt. Pleasant satellite campus

[http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article\\_405c1c88-2163-11e3-811d-0019bb30f31a.html](http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_405c1c88-2163-11e3-811d-0019bb30f31a.html)

Ellen Meder

Francis Marion University could soon have a satellite campus in the Low Country if it accepts a pitch from Mt. Pleasant. FMU President Dr. Fred Carter confirmed he and his staff are researching the pitch and speaking with interested parties in order to make a recommendation on the partnership offer to the full Board of Trustees at their quarterly meeting in November. The mayor and town council of Mount Pleasant, a bedroom community of Charleston, are looking for a four-year college or university to serve students. Mt. Pleasant Town Administrator Eric DeMoura said two years ago Mayor Billy Swails and the council successfully recruited Trident Technical College to open a campus in Mount Pleasant, but a four-year program was still a big priority.

### **Associated Press:** Mount Pleasant wants Francis Marion campus

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=3Uxa5I23](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=3Uxa5I23)

Mount Pleasant is the fourth biggest municipality in South Carolina but young people have to leave home to get a bachelor's degree. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports (<http://bit.ly/16hXlfd>) that Mayor Billy Swails is courting Francis Marion University in Florence to open a satellite campus in Mount Pleasant. Francis Marion President Fred Carter says he's studying the plan and will likely make a recommendation to the college board of trustees in November.

### **Local News:**

#### **Greenville News:** Rising interest rates help spike August home sales

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130919/BUSINESS/309190055/Rising-interest-rates-help-spike-August-home-sales>

Angelia Davis

Buyers trying to beat rising interest rates pushed homes sales up in August to the highest level in more than six years. Sales of existing family homes surged 13.2 percent from a year ago and were 1.7 percent higher than last month, the National Association of Realtors said Thursday. Nationwide sales are at the highest pace since February 2007, when they hit 5.79 million, and have remained above year-ago levels for the past 26 months, NAR said. The pace of sales is above what the NAR is projecting for 2014, which is 5.2 million, said NAR spokesman Walter Molony.

#### **Times and Democrat:** Orangeburg County farmers can get loans for June tornado damage

[http://thetandd.com/business/orangeburg-county-farmers-can-get-loans-for-june-tornado-damage/article\\_c8fb382c-214e-11e3-abc8-0019bb2963f4.html](http://thetandd.com/business/orangeburg-county-farmers-can-get-loans-for-june-tornado-damage/article_c8fb382c-214e-11e3-abc8-0019bb2963f4.html)

A June tornado has led the U.S. Department of Agriculture to make farmers in Orangeburg and four other counties with damage from the storm eligible for USDA disaster assistance, announced Deborah DeLorme, county executive director of the Farm Service Agency. The disaster designation is a result of losses caused by a tornado that occurred on June 4. The decision makes all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low-interest emergency loans from FSA. The disaster areas were designated on Sept 11. Farmers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses.

#### **Post and Courier:** Lowcountry Leadership Charter School using former Schroder Middle building, could prompt other changes in state

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130919/PC16/130919219/1389/lowcountry-leadership-charter-school-using-former-schroder-middle-building-could-prompt-other-changes-in-state>

Diette Courrage Casey

This wasn't the opening that School Leader Mache Larkin envisioned for Lowcountry Leadership Charter, but she's grateful to have finally started classes in the former Schroder Middle School building. Students' first day at the Hollywood charter school was last Thursday, more than three weeks after Charleston County students returned to school. Construction on the charter school's new building is behind schedule, and the charter school didn't have an immediately available back-up plan. The county school board agreed to rent the former middle school building to the charter, but a lease wasn't signed until Friday.

**Island Packet:** Parents speak out on options to address overcrowding in Bluffton schools

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/09/18/2691640/parents-speak-out-on-options-to.html#storylink=cpy>

Sarah Bowman

Just as the number of students in Bluffton-area schools is growing, so, too, are the options for dealing with the problem. Superintendent Jeffrey Moss added a third proposal at a special Board of Education meeting Wednesday night -- adding a wing to Bluffton High School. Under the proposal, students in grades six through eight would move to Robert Smalls Middle School. Grades nine through 12 would attend Battery Creek High School. Bluffton students previously sent to Hilton Head schools would return to Bluffton schools.

**Rock Hill Herald:** Expert: SC gas prices still dropping, could reach \$2.75

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2013/09/19/5224857/expert-sc-gas-prices-still-dropping.html#storylink=cpy>

Don Worthington

South Carolina gas prices should continue to drop, reaching \$2.75 a gallon, predicts a national gasoline analyst. The lowest price currently in Rock Hill is \$2.87. The South Carolina average price is \$3.13 and the national average is \$3.49. Tom Kloza of Gas Buddy.com predicts that gas prices will return to 2010 levels next year as supply of gasoline from the Gulf Coast remains high and the cost of refining gasoline, even the 10 percent ethanol blend, continues to drop. Typically, gas prices drop in the fall when demand is less and refineries are not making more blends of gasoline required during the summer.

**Rock Hill Herald:** 10 percent electricity hike hammers York County poor

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2013/09/19/5223069/10-percent-electricity-hike-hammers.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Dys

A week ago, the poor in York County got poorer. They sure knew it, even though the story of Duke Energy's raising rates 10 percent over the next two years received barely a mention. But the raising of rates for people who already struggle to pay their bills is well known at PATH in York. The proper name is People Attempting to Help. More than half of all the donations that come in to PATH go to help the poor in York keep the lights on, and a week ago everybody at PATH knew bills were ready to go up again. Kimberly Mullinax, mother of three, sat at PATH Wednesday with a Duke bill that showed a disconnect date of Sept. 17.

**Florence Morning News:** Carolinas Hospital System diabetes education program merits ADA recognition

[http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article\\_77069076-215c-11e3-9aaf-001a4bcf6878.html](http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_77069076-215c-11e3-9aaf-001a4bcf6878.html)

The prestigious American Diabetes Association Education Recognition Certificate for a quality diabetes self-management education program was recently awarded to Carolinas Hospital System's Diabetes & Nutrition Center. ADA thinks this program offers high-quality education that is an essential component of effective diabetes treatment. The Association's Education Recognition Certificate assures that educational programs meet the National Standards for Diabetes Self-Management Education Programs. These Standards were developed and tested under the auspices of the National Diabetes Advisory Board in 1983 and were revised by the diabetes community in 1994, 2000 and 2007.

**National News:**

**Associated Press:** Here's the truth: The government doesn't shut down

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=2B4XHptV](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=2B4XHptV)

Andrew Taylor

Here's the truth about a government "shutdown." The government doesn't shut down. So the world won't end if a dysfunctional Washington can't find a way to pass a funding bill before the new budget year begins on Oct. 1. Social Security checks will still go out. Troops will remain at their posts. Doctors and hospitals will get their Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements. In fact, virtually every essential government agency, like the FBI, the Border Patrol and the Coast Guard, will remain open. Furloughed federal workers probably

would get paid, eventually. Transportation Security Administration officers would continue to man airport checkpoints.

**Reuters:** Obama asks leaders to push Congress to raise debt limit

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/18/us-usa-economy-obama-idUSBRE98H0BT20130918>

Mark Felsenthal and Roberta Rampton

President Barack Obama appealed to business leaders on Wednesday to urge Congress to approve an increase in the U.S. debt limit without any conditions attached and avoid a default that is possible as early as mid-October. "It is going to be important for all of you over the next several weeks to understand what's at stake and to make sure that you are using your influence in whatever way we can to get back to what used to be called regular order around here," Obama told the Business Roundtable. The president's speech to about 100 top corporate executives was part of an effort to focus on domestic budget and economic issues after a month dominated by foreign policy, mainly the conflict in Syria.

**The State:** Pope Bluntly Faults Church's Focus On Gays And Abortion

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=jiAa9ff1](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=jiAa9ff1)

Laurie Goodstein

Pope Francis, in the first extensive interview of his 6-month-old papacy, said that the Roman Catholic Church had grown "obsessed" with preaching about abortion, gay marriage and contraception, and that he has chosen not to speak of those issues despite recriminations from some critics. In remarkably blunt language, Francis sought to set a new tone for the church, saying it should be a "home for all" and not a "small chapel" focused on doctrine, orthodoxy and a limited agenda of moral teachings.

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