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Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, April 16, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Times and Democrat: RMC, hospitals win case over Haley's veto

http://thetandd.com/news/rmc-hospitals-win-case-over-haley-s-veto/article_a12e58ae-c51f-11e3-9acf-001a4bcf887a.html

Gene Zaleski

The Regional Medical Center's president says he's pleased the state's highest court has upheld a program that regulates the construction of new medical facilities and the purchase of new medical equipment.

Note: In a statement, Haley spokesman Doug Mayer called the Certificate of Need program "outdated and bad public policy" and said the governor "is determined and will continue working with like-minded legislators to reform a clearly politically driven process that puts additional bureaucracy between South Carolinians and their health care decisions."

DSS Senate Hearing News:

Greenville News: Sheheen, Haley clash over DSS management

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/04/15/sheheen-releases-plan-address-child-safety-issues-dss/7733013/>

Tim Smith

The state's two top candidates for governor are clashing over how good a job the state Department of Social Services has done handling cases of child abuse and neglect as the agency's director prepares to address a Senate panel on the issue for the first time.

Note: "Gov. Haley appointed Lillian Koller from Hawaii, where she had just been named Public Official of the Year," said Doug Mayer, a Haley spokesman. "Since then, South Carolina has seen a rise in adoptions by 11 percent and a decline in child fatalities by 25 percent. She is committed every day to improving the lives of our children."

Note: Rob Godfrey, a campaign spokesman for Haley, accused Sheheen of being a "massive hypocrite" because of his work as a defense lawyer in which he has represented some men charged with criminal domestic violence and child molestation. "He's running around the state talking about family welfare issues, yet he personally made sure that men who attacked women and children spent as little time in jail as possible, and he did it for money," Godfrey said in a statement.

Associated Press: DSS director to testify before Senate panel

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kB1cOq13

Meg Kinnard

The director of South Carolina's Department of Social Services is expected to testify before a Senate subcommittee created to investigate the agency. Director Lillian Koller is scheduled to appear before the panel on Wednesday.

The State: Embattled DSS head to testify Wednesday

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/15/3389950/embattled-dss-head-to-testify.html>

Jamie Self

After months of hearings, state Department of Social Services director Lillian Koller will testify Wednesday before a S.C. Senate panel investigating that agency. The bipartisan panel has heard from child-welfare advocates, former agency employees and coroners who have said the agency has missed cases of abuse and neglect that, in some cases, led to children dying.

S.C. Political News:

The State: Odds of toppling Graham wane

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/15/3390166/odds-of-toppling-graham-wane.html>

Jamie Self

But, in the same three months, the two-term Republican incumbent's ground game started heating up. Graham's campaign spent almost \$1.7 million – more than his six GOP challengers have to spend combined – on television and radio ads, opening six regional campaign offices, and hosting free barbecues and pancake breakfasts for supporters.

The State: Nancy Mace raised \$208,000 in 2014's first three months, has \$223,000 to spend

[http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/15/3389848/nancy-mace-raised-208000-in-2014s.html?](http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/15/3389848/nancy-mace-raised-208000-in-2014s.html?sp=/99/132/312/169/#storylink=cpy)

[sp=/99/132/312/169/#storylink=cpy](http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/15/3389848/nancy-mace-raised-208000-in-2014s.html?sp=/99/132/312/169/#storylink=cpy)

Jamie Self

Charleston PR executive Nancy Mace, the first female graduate of The Citadel, raised \$208,000 from January through March in her bid to unseat U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham in June's Republican primary, her campaign said Tuesday. Tuesday was the deadline for filing campaign finance reports for candidates seeking federal office.

Associated Press: 5 primary challengers to Sen. Graham to debate

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=mU61urj1

Five of the six Republicans running against U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham are meeting in a debate in Aiken. The Aiken Republican Club is sponsoring Wednesday's debate, which will take place after the club's luncheon in downtown Aiken.

Post and Courier: Texas Sen. Ted Cruz: mum on the White House, but against a Democrat going in

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140415/PC16/140419520/1177/texas-sen-ted-cruz-mum-on-the-white-house-but-against-a-democrat-going-in>

Schuyler Kropf

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz adeptly sidestepped questions about how he'd fare among conservative Republicans in a South Carolina presidential primary. But he did say another Democrat in the White House would spell doom and gloom. "Eight more years of this, I don't know it's something this country comes back from," he said.

Associated Press: Sen. Ted Cruz: Too early to worry about 2016

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Z8XQW26A

Bruce Smith

Republican Sen. Ted Cruz says it's too early to be thinking about 2016 and that he's working right now to make sure his party regains control of the Senate this year. Cruz is visiting South Carolina, which hosts the first GOP presidential primary in the South. While considered a presidential contender, he won't say if or when he might make a decision on a race.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

The State: How many more times will Harrell's friends try to quash ethics probe?

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/15/3389321/scoppe-how-many-more-times-will.html#storylink=cpy>

Cindi Scoppe

SILVIO BERLISCONI liked to have sex with underage prostitutes and evade income taxes and, perhaps, launder money and perjure himself and commit extortion and who knows what else. But Mr. Berlisoni was not your ordinary pedophile and tax dodger and who knows what else.

Greenville News: Another warning to secure our data

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2014/04/16/another-warning-secure-data/7751713/>

Editorial

With each new cybersecurity threat it becomes increasingly apparent that our personal data will always be at risk, and protecting it requires care not just by individuals but by everyone who touches their personal information — including local, state and federal governments and private businesses.

Post and Courier: Hear residents on tourism plan

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140416/PC1002/140419532/1021/hear-residents-on-tourism-plan>

Editorial

This is a good time of year to begin reviewing and revising the city's Tourism Management Plan. Flowers are in bloom, houses and gardens have been on tour, the ocean has started warming up and lots of schoolchildren are on spring break and able to travel with their parents.

Legislative Session News:

Associated Press: No discussion on SC anti-domestic violence bills

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=zKmUDFA7

Andrew Coffman Smith

A Senate committee on Tuesday postponed discussion of legislation targeting domestic violence in South Carolina because the Senate session ran late. The Senate Judiciary Committee was supposed to take up a bill that defines dating violence as assaulting, threatening or stalking someone in a current or past relationship.

Post and Courier: S.C. beer law change pitched to attract breweries, jobs

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140415/PC05/140419514/1177/sc-beer-law-change-pitched-to-attract-breweries-jobs>

Abigail Darlington, Glenn Smith

South Carolina lawmakers soon may consider loosening restrictions on breweries in an effort to draw job-producing beer makers like Stone Brewing Co. to the Palmetto State. The Escondido, Calif.-based craft brewery, the 10th largest of its kind in the United States, plans to expand its operation to the East Coast this year.

Post and Courier: Pregnant Women's Protection Act, personhood bills unlikely to pass this year

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140415/PC1603/140419521/1177/pregnant-womens-protection-act-personhood-bills-unlikely-to-pass-this-year>

Cynthia Roldan

A long day on the Senate floor on Tuesday kept a bill aimed at expanding Stand Your Ground laws for pregnant women from being discussed, infuriating the senator who introduced it. The Women's Protection Act aims to allow a woman to use whatever force necessary if she fears a person is trying to cause her or her unborn child harm.

WLTX: Pregnant Women's Protection Bill Draws Criticism

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/2014/04/15/pregnant-womens-protection-bill-draws-criticism/7751123/>

Jennifer Bellamy

A bill aimed at giving pregnant women the right to use deadly force to protect themselves has received an unexpected reaction. Shealy says she proposed the Pregnant Women's Protection Act to defend women in domestic violence situations and clear up a questions that could come up in a Stand Your Ground defense if you live with an abuser.

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: Prison employee disciplines total 4,482

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/04/15/prison-employee-disciplines-total/7762869/>

Tim Smith

More than 4,400 prison employees have been disciplined since 2005, state prison officials say, in actions that range from reprimands to firings. But they have no idea how many of those have been disciplined in cases involving an inmate, even though a spokesman for the Department of Corrections in February told The Greenville News that computer codes showed that 355 cases might involve inmates.

Post and Courier: Documents reveal angst over College of Charleston presidential search process

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140415/PC16/140419537/1177/documents-reveal-angst-over-college-of-charleston-presidential-search-process>

Diane Knich

Some members of the College of Charleston's presidential search committee warned that the consequences could be dire if the Board of Trustees veered from a list of recommended candidates for the school's top post.

Island Packet: Lowcountry doctors collected more than \$42 million in Medicare payments, federal records

show

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/04/15/3061986/lowcountry-doctors-collected-more.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Dan Burley

Four doctors in Beaufort County received more than \$1 million in payments from Medicare in 2012 and 15 physicians collected more than \$500,000, according to data released by the federal government for the first time.

Anderson Independent: Experts urge South Carolina to stick with Common Core standards

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/apr/15/experts-urge-south-carolina-to-stick-with-common/?partner=RSS>

Kirk Brown

South Carolina's school districts have spent too much time and money implementing the national Common Core standards to abandon them now, two education experts stressed Tuesday. School districts across the state have spent between \$58.8 million and \$88.2 million since the South Carolina Board of Education decided to adopt the Common Core standards in 2010

Aiken Standard: Smarter Balanced test assessment remains snagged

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140416/AIK0101/140419577/1004/smarter-balanced-test-assessment-remains-snagged>

Rob Novit

Here's a synopsis of the "Smarter Balanced" education saga: In a letter from the State Department of Education last week, the Aiken County School District and others throughout the state learned the state agency was terminating the Smarter Balanced assessment program.

Greenville News: Protesters rally against tax hike idea

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/04/15/protesters-rally-tax-hike-idea/7763007/>

Anna Lee

Waving signs and wearing stickers, protesters rallied in front of County Square on Tuesday — the deadline to file federal tax returns — to protest a possible 1 percent sales tax for road projects. "We wanted to bring people here because we need an army. We need an army of activists," said Joshua Cook, one of the organizers behind the rally.

Associated Press: Officers train in SC for US-Canadian border patrol

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

Bruce Smith

U.S. Coast Guard and Royal Canadian Mounted Police are training together in South Carolina and then riding along with each other to patrol waterways along the United-States-Canadian border, checking for everything from safety violations to drug and cigarette running.

Greenville News: Clemson studying impact of sports labor ruling

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/education/2014/04/15/clemson-studying-impact-sports-labor-ruling/7762619/>

David Dykes

Clemson University President James P. Clements said Tuesday he and other major college presidents are examining a stunning labor ruling that could revolutionize college sports, but it isn't certain how the decision will change intercollegiate athletics, particularly related to academics.

Rock Hill Herald: Regional housing market improving

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/04/15/5872986/regional-housing-market-improving.html?sp=/100/101/&ihp=1>

Don Worthington

Winter weather slowed housing construction, but it barely put a dent in sales as 2014 continues to show promise, say local real estate agents. For March, and data comparing 2013 to 2014, sales improved in York, Chester and Lancaster counties, according to the S.C. Realtors Association and the Charlotte Regional Realtor Association.

Local News:

Island Packet: Despite cost increases, Beaufort County to stay with Blue Cross Blue Shield

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/04/15/3061937/despite-cost-increases-beaufort.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Zach Murdock

Beaufort County will stick with Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina for at least another year, despite nearly \$2 million in additional health insurance costs, according to county leaders. In recent weeks, officials have considered a switch to Cigna to lessen the blow of those cost increases.

Index-Journal: Council approves Fujifilm deal

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/News/News/Article/Council-approves-Fujifilm-deal/4/40/24933>

Chris Trainor

Acting county attorney Stephen Baggett said Tuesday's resolution, which was approved unanimously, was a "bit of housekeeping" related to Project Rooster, which was a fee-in-lieu of tax agreement the county approved for Fujifilm in January.

Sun News: Ban on beach tents spreads on SC coast

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/16/3390216/ban-on-beach-tents-spreads-on.html#storylink=cpy>

Jason M. Rodriguez

Beachgoers on Horry County beaches no longer will be able to erect tents now that Horry County Council voted Tuesday to implement a ban. The county and area cities have been working for months to address beach tents, which law enforcement officials have said cause a hazard when they are responding to emergencies on the beach.

Anderson Independent: Oconee council restricts use of cellphones while driving

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/apr/15/oconee-council-restricts-use-of-cellphones-while/?partner=RSS>

Ray Chandler

The Oconee County Council has passed an ordinance banning use of a cellphone while driving unless the phone is operated hands free. But drivers will have a grace period before a hard crackdown. "We'll reserve the right to issue tickets, but we'll have a warning period," Oconee County Sheriff Mike Crenshaw said Tuesday.

Florence Morning News: Millage increase on the table for Florence County

http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article_49ac3e8e-c4fc-11e3-844b-001a4bcf6878.html

Gavin Jackson

Florence County Council could approve, for the first time ever, a millage increase above its millage cap to fund next year's budget, a move officials said is necessitated by unfunded state mandates and other needs of the county.

National News:

Associated Press: Court to weigh challenge to ban on campaign lies

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=oUc7F7KQ

Hope Yen, Sam Hananel

Negative campaigning and mudslinging may be a fact of life in American politics, but can false accusations made in the heat of an election be punished as a crime? That debate makes its way to the Supreme Court next week as the justices consider a challenge to an Ohio law that bars false statements about political candidates during a campaign.

Brian Symmes

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