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To:
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Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, April 23, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

McClatchy: In South Carolina, leaders reconsider drilling along the coastline

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/22/3402410/in-south-carolina-leaders-reconsider.html#storylink=cpy>

Sean Cockerham

The push to start drilling in the Atlantic Ocean is gaining momentum and dividing people along the grand coast of South Carolina, where some local leaders fear what it could mean for tourism.

Note: South Carolina's Republican governor, Nikki Haley, has become a leading voice calling for the Obama administration to allow offshore drilling in the Atlantic.

Greenville News: Lawmakers rapped over school funding

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/education/2014/04/22/lawmakers-rapped-school-funding/8035847/>

Ron Barnett

Money is flowing into state coffers at about the same level as it was before the Great Recession, but the per-pupil funding for schools is still in the dumps, Greenville County Schools officials say.

Note: Poverty is not a factor in the EFA formula, Haley has said. Her plan calls for funding high-poverty districts, while eliminating several "unnecessary weights and redundant programs," and is designed to "improve equity and allow students to receive a more customized education."

The State: Pro-Nikki Haley group continues raising -- and spending -- cash

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/22/3402652/pro-nikki-haley-group-continues.html?sp=/99/132/312/169/#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

The pro-Nikki Haley political group, The Movement Fund, raised \$287,500 during the first three months of the year but spent \$400,000 mostly on a television ad promoting the governor's education plan, according to an IRS filing.

WYFF: Gov. Haley plans to suspend Upstate mayor following arrest

<http://www.wyff4.com/news/upstate-mayor-faces-multiple-charges/25603486#ixzz2zhtwI6RI>

Liz Lohuis

The mayor of Simpsonville was arrested Tuesday on multiple charges including misconduct in office. Mayor Perry Eichor was booked into the Greenville County Detention Center. The warrants said that Eichor, by implied threat, tried to intimidate a municipal judge.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley's spokesman Doug Mayer said once the governor's office receives the indictment they will review it and Eichor will be suspended. Eichor may be removed permanently, pending the outcome of a trial.

DSS News:

Greenville News: Lawmaker accuses DSS of violating law

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2014/04/22/lawmaker-accuses-dss-violating-law/8035651/>

Tim Smith

A Senate Democrat is again taking aim at the director of the state's social services agency, this time with allegations the agency is committing multiple violations of the law in handling cases involving children. But a spokesman for the agency said Sen. Joel Lourie's facts are wrong. And a spokesman for Gov. Nikki Haley labels the charges as "obviously political" and said Haley remains proud of the director.

Post and Courier: Senator involved in DSS investigative panel calls for governor to remove agency head

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140422/PC1603/140429811/lourie-to-haley-its-time-for-you-governor-to-take-action>

Cynthia Roldan

A state Senator said the Department Social Services is in "complete meltdown" and called on the governor Tuesday to remove the head of the agency. Hanak-Coulter also clarified that "initial contact" can be done through face-to-face meetings, by dispatching law enforcement or by contacting the person who reported the incident.

Note: "Senator Lourie can call for Director Koller's resignation every day until the November election if he wants, since his motivation is so obviously political, but it won't change these facts: under her leadership child deaths are down 25 percent, adoptions are up 11 percent, and DSS has provided more services statewide than ever before," Mayer said.

The State: Critics question whether SC agency is cutting child deaths

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/22/3402299/democratic-state-senator-calls.html?sp=/99/132/312/169/#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

A state senator and a child-welfare advocate Tuesday disputed a claim by the state Department of Social Services that fewer children are dying under that agency's care. Social Services deputy director Hanak-Coulter disagreed. Following a report of abuse, caseworkers try to meet with children face-to-face within 24 hours under agency policy, but state law requires only that a thorough investigation begin within that period, she said.

WIS: Senators: Documents show Koller violating state law

<http://www.wistv.com/story/25311628/senators-turn-up-the-heat-on-dss-director-koller>

PJ Randhawa

Senators say a stack of internal reports prove Social Services Department Director Lillian Koller is violating state law through her management of the department. However, a one page response we received from DSS refutes one of the multiple allegations against Koller and the agency.

Note: "Senator Lourie can call for Director Koller's resignation every day until the November election if he wants, since his motivation is so obviously political, but it won't change these facts: under her leadership child deaths are down 25 percent, adoptions are up 11 percent, and DSS has provided more services statewide than ever before. Governor Haley is proud of Director Koller and the work DSS is doing every day to better protect children and families and remains committed to seeing their progress and dedicated efforts continued," said Haley's spokesman Doug Mayer.

WSPA: S.C. Senator Wants DSS Director Fired, Governor Refuses

<http://www.wsav.com/story/25313254/sc-senator-wants-dss-director-fired-governor-refuses>

Robert Kittle

State Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Columbia, wants Gov. Nikki Haley to fire Department of Social Services Director Lillian Koller because he says the agency is breaking four state laws.

Note: "Senator Lourie can call for Director Koller's resignation every day until the November election if he wants, since his motivation is so obviously political, but it won't change these facts: under her leadership child deaths are down 25 percent, adoptions are up 11 percent, and DSS has provided more services statewide than ever before. Governor Haley is proud of Director Koller and the work DSS is doing every day to better protect children and families and remains committed to seeing their progress and dedicated efforts continued."

WLTX: Senator Calls for Haley to Fire DSS Director

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/2014/04/22/senator-calls-for-haley-to-fire-dss-director/8022457/>

Jennifer Bellamy

A state senator wants Governor Nikki Haley to remove Department of Social Services Director Lillian Koller from her job with the agency. Democratic Senator Joel Lourie say Koller has violated state statutes and endangered the lives of children in DSS care.

Note: Doug Mayer: "Senator Lourie can call for Director Koller's resignation every day until the November election if he wants, since his motivation is so obviously political, but it won't change these facts: under her leadership child deaths are down 25 percent, adoptions are up 11 percent, and DSS has provided more services statewide than ever before. Governor Haley is proud of Director Koller and the work DSS is doing every day to better protect children and families and remains committed to seeing their progress and dedicated efforts continued."

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Sen. Vincent Sheheen makes campaign stops in Spartanburg
<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140422/ARTICLES/140429894/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Sen-Vincent-Sheheen-makes-campaign-stops-in-Spartanburg>

Felicia Kitzmiller

State Sen. Vincent Sheheen urged University of South Carolina Upstate administrators to continue to pursue academic freedom in the face of government criticism during a visit Tuesday morning.

Note: "She does not make a habit of weighing in on the budget in a piecemeal fashion as it makes its way through the legislative process," Haley's spokesman Rob Godfrey said. When asked for further comment on the issue Tuesday, Godfrey referred the Herald-Journal back to a video of the March news conference.

Associated Press: SC's adjutant general begins re-election campaign
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Sir9Nxjm

Susanne M. Schafer

Maj. Gen. Robert Livingston, South Carolina's adjutant general, lauded the state's Army and Air Force National Guard as one of the nation's top military organizations Tuesday and asked voters to re-elect him so he can work to keep it that way.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Dubious shift in Harrell case
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140423/PC1002/140429772/1021/dubious-shift-in-harrell-case>
Editorial

One of the biggest shortcomings of ethics laws in this state is that legislators are allowed to make the call on complaints against their colleagues. And that problem would be magnified in a big way if the complaint against House Speaker Bobby Harrell, R-Charleston, is sent to the House Ethics Committee for review and a ruling.

South Carolina News:

Aiken Standard: WorkKeys will reach more students as an HSAP replacement
<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140422/AIK0101/140429767/1007/AIK0101/workkeys-will-reach-more-students-as-an-hsap-replacement>

Rob Novit

One might say that the assessment program WorkKeys would have gotten stuck with a featured role in a television show. Not anymore. ACT WorkKeys has moved up to prime time. The S.C. General Assembly has selected the battery of tests as one of two formal assessments that high school juniors throughout the state will take in 2015.

Associated Press: Audit: SC pension agency doesn't overpay in fees
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=nZLqXNko

Seanna Adcox

The agency investing South Carolina's pension portfolio doesn't overpay in investment fees but rather reports those fees more thoroughly than any other public pension fund in the nation, according to an external audit released Tuesday.

Index-Journal: Former DHEC employee dismisses a cause of action in TB suit against agency
<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/News/News/Article/Former-DHEC-employee--dismisses-a-cause-of-action--in-TB-suit-against-agency/4/40/25062>

Kate Hruby

The ramifications of the tuberculosis scare that shook Greenwood County and Ninety Six School District 52 last spring are far from over. In an ongoing civil suit, Latrinia Richard, a former Department of Health and Environmental Control nurse who filed suit against the agency after being terminated last June, filed a Stipulation of Dismissal on April 8 for one of her causes of action.

Local News:

Associated Press: Simpsonville mayor accused of intimidating judge

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=UVE5ER5w

A grand jury has indicted the Simpsonville mayor after investigators said he threatened a municipal court judge. Prosecutors said 78-year-old Perry Eichor was arrested Tuesday after he was charged with misconduct in office, obstruction of justice and intimidation of a court official.

The State: Columbia's new police chief ready for hiring spree

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/22/3402767/columbias-new-police-chief-ready.html#storylink=cpy>

Clif LeBlanc

The first order of business for the city's new police chief will be filling 31 officer vacancies through an aggressive recruitment campaign. Chief Skip Holbrook told City Council on Tuesday he needs to fill jobs quickly that extend from a deputy chief, three captains and a crime scene specialist to street officers and a business license/zoning inspector who also is an police officer.

National News:

Politico: How Lindsey Graham outmaneuvered the tea party

<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/04/lindsey-graham-south-carolina-tea-party-105928.html?hp=t1>

Manu Raju

Sen. Lindsey Graham recognized the threat years before it had a chance to form — and knew immediately what he had to do. After the tea party wave in the 2010 election, right-wing groups were itching to get one of South Carolina's newly elected conservative congressmen to challenge Graham, the blunt-spoken, deal-making congressional veteran of two decades.

Wall Street Journal: IRS Workers Disciplined For Misconduct Were Awarded Bonuses

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304734304579518113024317536?mg=reno64-wsj>

John D. McKinnon

More than 2,800 Internal Revenue Service employees who recently had been disciplined received performance bonuses totaling more than \$2.8 million between Oct. 1, 2010 and Dec. 31, 2012, a government audit found.

Associated Press: Boogeymen and Shady Deals Define Spin for Senate

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/boogeymen-and-shady-deals-define-spin-senate>

Philip Elliott

To hear party operatives describe the fight for the Senate, it's the boogeyman billionaires against the shifty septuagenarian. For months, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has been pushing an unrelenting string of criticism against Charles and David Koch, the wealthy industrialists who have backed some of the nation's most effective conservative groups.

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