

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
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Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, September 10, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: Gov. Nikki Haley cancels NY fundraising trip

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/09/3670803/gov-nikki-haley-cancels-ny-fundraising.html>

Andrew Shain

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley canceled a plans to attend a New York fundraiser on Wednesday so she could remain in the state after five Lexington County children were found dead in Alabama and a Charleston County sheriff's deputy was shot and killed, her campaign said.

Note: "With the horrific tragedy in Lexington and the shooting of law enforcement officials in Charleston last night, the governor believes her place is with the people of South Carolina and decided not to travel out of state," Haley deputy campaign manager Rob Godfrey told The State.

Sun News: Myrtle Beach proposes nightly 40-mile loop during Memorial Day weekend to 'regain control of the streets'

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/09/09/4462271/myrtle-beach-to-reveal-some-memorial.html#storylink=cpy>

Maya T. Prabhu

One-way traffic on Ocean Boulevard, a 40-mile traffic loop and moving the Military Appreciation Days parade all are plans proposed to deal with crime and congestion in Myrtle Beach on Memorial Day weekend.

Note: The violence that occurred in May caused Gov. Nikki Haley to call for an end to Bikefest though Atlantic Beach town officials say they have no plans to do so. Myrtle Beach officials traveled to Columbia on Sept. 3 to meet with Haley.

DSS Statewide Plan News:

Greenville News: DSS makes changes to increase transparency

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/09/09/dss-makes-changes-increase-transparency/15335635/>

Tim Smith

The moves are among a series of reforms announced by the state Department of Social Services aimed at improving the handling of abuse and neglect cases at the agency, which was heavily criticized earlier this year in legislative hearings over its handling of such cases, some of which ended in death.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley stepped in to help improve things at the Richland County DSS office, announcing in May that a 20-member team of caseworkers from other parts of the state was being loaned to the Richland County office to help cut caseloads and that a second shift for caseworkers would be initiated.

Post and Courier: DSS announces agency improvement plan

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140909/PC1603/140909406>

Cynthia Roldan

Incremental pay increases for caseworkers and disclosing information about children who have died because of neglect or abuse are among the series of reforms that management at the Department of Social Services outlined Tuesday in their effort to improve the agency.

Note: Both said few of the ideas presented Tuesday were in the works when then-Director Lillian Koller was at the agency. The bulk of upcoming changes started to surface after Gov. Nikki Haley announced in May she'd be intervening at the Richland County DSS office.

Associated Press: Social services officials talk improvement efforts

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

Seanna Adcox

Officials at the Department of Social Services said Tuesday that the agency's steps to improve include working more closely with South Carolina law enforcement, creating a second shift of child welfare workers and sharing caseloads between adjacent counties.

Note: The Cabinet agency has become a central issue in Gov. Nikki Haley's re-election bid, as a Senate panel investigating the department focused on the deaths of several children in DSS care.

The State: SC to post information on child-abuse deaths

http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/09/3671061_sc-to-post-information-on-child.html?rh=1

Andrew Shain

As legislative watchdogs prepare to issue an audit of the state Department of Social Services, that agency said Tuesday it will start sharing some information with the public about abused and neglected children who are killed. The secrecy surrounding child deaths has been questioned by a special state Senate panel that is investigating Social Services.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Anderson Independent: Haley, Sheheen dueling with crickets

http://www.independentmail.com/news/haley-sheheen-dueling-with-crickets_26642396

Kirk Brown

Crickets have been thrust into the spotlight in the South Carolina governor's race. Republican Gov. Nikki Haley's campaign came out with a TV ad on Tuesday called "Crickets." The 30-second spot focuses on Haley's outrage about a 2011 National Labor Relations Board complaint over Boeing's decision to build a nonunion airplane-production plant in North Charleston.

Post and Courier: Social workers association endorses Vincent Sheheen

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140909/PC1603/140909410>

Cynthia Roldan

Marjorie Hammock, of the South Carolina chapter of the National Social Workers Association, said during a press conference that the association's Political Action for Candidate Election Committee endorsed Sheheen because of the things he will do to promote activities for the clients social workers serve.

Post and Courier: S.C. social services plans improvements, national group endorses Democrat

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140910/PC1603/140919969>

Jeremy Borden

A national social work organization endorsed the Democrat in South Carolina's gubernatorial race on the same day that the Department of Social Services announced changes to improve the embattled agency.

The State: ELECTIONS 2014: Ervin: State government not working for South Carolinians

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/10/3671453/elections-2014-ervin-state-government.html>

Cassie Cope

When Tom Ervin, the Greenville Democrat-turned-Republican-turned-petition candidate for governor, walked into the dining room at the Irmo Lizard's Thicket on Tuesday night, he shook every hand. Then, Ervin asked the roughly 40 people in the room how many think state government is working for them.

The State: ELECTIONS 2014: 2 GOP lawmakers call on McMaster to quit club

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/09/3671033/elections-2014-2-gop-lawmakers.html>

Cassie cope

Two Republican lawmakers are calling on fellow Republican Henry McMaster, the GOP's candidate for lieutenant governor, to give up his membership at Forest Lake Club, citing the club's all-white history. State Reps. Doug Brannon of Spartanburg and Kris Crawford of Florence said the former S.C. attorney general should not be a member of an all-white club.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Times and Democrat: Domestic violence deserves priority of S.C. lawmakers

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/domestic-violence-deserves-priority-of-s-c-lawmakers/article_f3352bf8-38a3-11e4-9d77-0019bb2963f4.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: South Carolina's record of domestic violence; OUR OPINION: Committee's work to strengthen

laws to punish offenders should get high priority in January. Once domestic violence may have had a narrow definition regarding violence involving husbands abusing wives, but today seems to produce abuse in all types of relationships.

Post and Courier: Charleston County needs more guardian ad litem - right now

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140910/PC16/140919981>

Brian Hicks

Not too long ago, there was a little girl - just 5 years old - who was sexually abused by her family. It probably happens more than anyone wants to imagine. Some of the girl's relatives went and took her away from her family.

The State: A reflection on a quarter-century of political policy progress in South Carolina

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/09/3670629/scoppe-a-reflection-on-a-quarter.html#storylink=cpy>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

HOW DIFFERENT is South Carolina today than 25 years ago? And how is it different? If anyone should be able to answer those questions, it's a public policy researcher who moved to South Carolina 25 years ago, and spent the past quarter century taking the pulse of our state.

The State: SC needs a real ethics-reform law

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/10/3670589/crangle-sc-needs-a-real-ethics.html>

John Crangle

The State's readers were treated recently to the musings of a pair of rookie legislators, Rep. Kirkman Finlay and Sen. Thomas McElveen, joined by JoAnne Day of the League of Women Voters, a newcomer to ethics reform, who praised House bill 3945 and ridiculed legislators who opposed the purported ethics-reform bill as "perfectionists," "concerned" or "unwilling".

Post and Courier (Guest Column): 'Petty' editorial misses the point on C of C

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140910/PC1002/140919976>

Representative Jim Merrill

I read Sunday's editorial addressing the Commission on Higher Education's (CHE) "decision" to allow the College of Charleston to offer "doctoral programs" in astonishment. The starting point of that editorial was that virtually every person in the Legislature is ignorant and that issues are addressed only for purposes of self-enrichment.

Greenville News: Save a life, don't text and drive

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2014/09/09/editorial-save-life-text-drive/15347387/>

Editorial

Teenagers can save the life of a friend by delivering one simple message: Don't text and drive. They can even save their own life by resisting the temptation to fire off a dozen or so words or read an incoming message while they are behind the wheel.

Post and Courier: A new low in the IRS scandal

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140910/PC1002/140919973>

Editorial

Some Senate Democrats are trying to defend the Internal Revenue Service in a staff report that alleges the tax agency was equally severe with left-leaning and right-leaning groups seeking tax exemptions in 2010 and 2011. And they contend that the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration erred in his 2013 report saying the agency wrongly targeted conservative ones.

Missing Lexington Children Case:

Associated Press: Charges expected against father of 5 dead children

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

Jay Reeves, Brynn Anderson

Authorities expect to charge a South Carolina man in connection with the deaths of his five children after he led them to a secluded dirt road in Alabama where their bodies lay wrapped in individual garbage bags. Timothy Ray Jones Jr. has been charged with child neglect and police expect to lodge additional charges against him.

The State: Bodies of five missing Lexington County children found in Alabama, father to be charged
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/09/3670293/five-lexington-county-children.html#storylink=cpy>

Rachael Myers Lowe, Harrison Cahill

The bodies of five Lexington County children, ages 1-8, have been found in Alabama and their father, Timothy Ray Jones, 32, of Lexington County will be charged, Lexington County Sheriff Lewis McCarty said Tuesday night.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Federal grant to help pay for Port of Charleston terminal upgrades

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140909/PC05/140909414/1177/federal-grant-to-help-pay-for-port-of-charleston-terminal-upgrades>

John McDermott

The federal government is chipping in to help pay for a major overhaul of the State Ports Authority's busiest container terminal. South Carolina is receiving \$20 million for two transportation-related improvement projects, including nearly \$11 million for the maritime agency's Mount Pleasant shipping hub, U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., announced Tuesday.

Associated Press: SC senators discussing teacher dismissal process

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=NVGM2mmr

Seanna Adcox

A Senate panel is considering whether changes are needed to make it easier to get rid of incompetent teachers. Sen. Paul Thurmond contends the formal evaluation process for dismissing teachers in "continuing contract" status can take several years, essentially robbing children of a good education.

Times and Democrat: \$187.4 million impact: Without S.C. State, Orangeburg a 'ghost town,' professor claims

http://thetandd.com/news/local/million-impact-without-s-c-state-orangeburg-a-ghost-town/article_fe547f3e-389e-11e4-aa59-001a4bcf887a.html

Gene Zaleski

South Carolina State University contributed \$187.4 million to the state and local economy in 2012, according to an economic impact study the university released Tuesday. The economic contribution points to the need for the university to remain viable into the future, says Joseph Onyeocha, an S.C. State assistant professor of accounting and one of the authors of the study.

Local News:

Greenville News: Voters will decide on a sales tax hike for road improvements

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2014/09/09/voters-will-decide-sales-tax-hike-road-improvements/15370071/>

Rudolph Bell

County voters will decide during a November referendum whether to impose the tax, which would raise more than \$673 million over eight years to pay for a long list of road improvements compiled by a special citizens committee.

The State: Columbia receives major, \$10 million transportation grant

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/09/3670487/columbia-receives-major-transportation.html>

Bertram Rantin

The \$10 million grant will provide funding for the city's Seamless City Revitalization Project to revitalize a 1.27 mile project of North Main Street between Anthony and Fuller avenues to support of the city's extensive downtown streetscaping initiative.

National News:

Washington Post: Obama ready to strike at Islamic State militants in Syria, he tells policy experts

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/obama-prepared-to-order-airstrikes-in-syria-as-part-of-strategy-against-islamic-state/2014/09/09/058199e2-3834-11e4-bdfb-de4104544a37_story.html

Juliet Eilperin

President Obama is prepared to use U.S. military airstrikes in Syria as part of an expanded campaign to

defeat the Islamic State and does not believe he needs formal congressional approval to take that action, according to people who have spoken with the president in recent days.

Associated Press: Obama outlining mission to fight Islamic militants

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_OBAMA_ISLAMIC_STATE?](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_OBAMA_ISLAMIC_STATE?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-09-10-03-09-20)

[SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-09-10-03-09-20](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_OBAMA_ISLAMIC_STATE?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-09-10-03-09-20)

Julie Pace

In an address to the nation, President Barack Obama will outline an expanded military and political effort to combat Islamic State militants in Syria and Iraq, possibly including airstrikes in Syria, officials said. The president will also urge Congress to quickly give him authority to arm moderate Syrian opposition forces fighting President Bashar Assad.

Brian Symmes

Cell: (803) 673-9437

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304