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Subject: Morning Clips – Tuesday, September 16, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Greenville News: Gas tax won't cover cost to fix roads

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/09/15/gas-tax-cover-cost-fix-roads/15679943/>

Tim Smith

The chairman of the House road funding committee says he believes his panel will ultimately recommend a "hybrid" bill of funding measures that will pay for road repairs using a combination of sources but not increases to the gas tax alone.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley has long threatened a veto of any gas tax increase and said she will unveil her plan to fund roads in January.

The State: Seating new Richland elections board to take weeks

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/15/3683940/seating-new-richland-elections.html>

Dawn Hinshaw

The new Richland County election board likely won't be seated until mid-October, meaning their involvement in upcoming elections will be minimal, county officials said Monday.

Note: The paperwork was mailed to the governor's office Thursday, Janha said. Doug Mayer, a spokesman for the governor's office, said Monday morning it typically takes three to four weeks to do criminal background checks and credit checks to finalize appointments.

Note: Mayer said the governor's office received the names of the appointees by mail Monday. Just to make sure, Smith said, he walked the names to Gov. Nikki Haley's office in hopes the governor would sign off in days, not weeks.

Seneca Journal: Plastics company bringing 25 new jobs to Oconee

<https://upstatetoday.com/2014/09/plastics-company-bringing-25-new-jobs-to-oconee/>

Steven Bradley

A plastics company is expanding its operations into Oconee County and bringing with it a \$4.1 million capital investment and 25 new jobs. Michigan-based thermoplastics processor and recycler ACI Plastics, Inc., announced Monday it has purchased a former textile warehouse on U.S. Highway 123 and will remodel the 88,000-square-foot facility for its operations.

Note: The company already has a location in Anderson, and according to Gov. Nikki Haley, its expansion sends "a message to other companies" that South Carolina is a place where industry can thrive. "We celebrate ACI Plastics' decision to invest \$4.1 million and create 25 new jobs — something that will have a very positive impact in Westminster and beyond," Haley said in a news release.

Times and Democrat: 'Turn trials into triumphs': Speaker shares message of survival at infant mortality awareness event

http://thetandd.com/turn-trials-into-triumphs-speaker-shares-message-of-survival-at/article_cf826c5e-3d51-11e4-83f4-774671fe5f17.html

Dionne Gleaton

Kyle A. Greene of Columbia was keynote speaker for Family Solutions of the Low Country's seventh annual Infant Mortality Awareness Luncheon at Edisto Fork United Methodist Church's Family Christian Center. More than 100 people attended.

Note: S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley signed a proclamation declaring September as Infant Mortality Awareness Month in the state.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Associated Press: NJ Gov. Chris Christie visiting South Carolina

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=gNwsHUT3

Bruce Smith

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is the latest possible presidential contender to visit South Carolina, the home of the GOP's first presidential primary in the South. Christie was visiting Tuesday as chairman of the Republican Governors Association, attending a pair of fundraisers for Gov. Nikki Haley and a governor's association event in Charleston.

Post and Courier: New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie to visit Charleston on Tuesday

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140915/PC1603/140919634>

Schuyler Kropf

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a potential GOP candidate for president in 2016, will make his first visit of the election season to South Carolina on Tuesday, stopping in Charleston for a tour that includes joint appearances with Gov. Nikki Haley.

Note: Later in the day, he and Haley will attend closed RGA events locally. There's also a Nikki Haley for Governor/S.C. Republican Party event scheduled Tuesday night on Kiawah Island.

Associated Press: Ervin's call for DSS session called unrealistic

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=2TQLdCIH

Seanna Adcox

Independent gubernatorial candidate Tom Ervin has asked the Legislature to return to Columbia for a special session to take the Department of Social Services out from under Gov. Nikki Haley's control - a request rejected Monday as unrealistic grandstanding 50 days before the election.

Rock Hill Herald: Sheheen looks to get college students in Rock Hill to vote

http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/09/15/6326716_sheheen-looks-to-get-college-students.html?rh=1

Bristow Marchant

The Democratic nominee for South Carolina governor was back in Rock Hill on Monday to rally students at Winthrop University, little more than a week after his last appearance to address York County Democrats. State Sen. Vincent Sheheen of Camden also promised to return as soon as the fall campaign enters the final seven weeks before Election Day.

Post and Courier: Independent candidate Tom Ervin pushes message with new advertising buy

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140916/PC1603/140919619>

Jeremy Borden

Independent gubernatorial candidate Tom Ervin has kicked off a \$500,000 statewide television advertising buy that seeks to emphasize two of his campaign's central messages. The campaign is continuing to run two advertisements as part of the buy, one that focuses on a plan to improve South Carolina's economy and another that promises reforms for a more ethical government.

Florence Morning News: "Independent Republican" Tom Ervin introduces himself to the Pee Dee

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_20262116-3d41-11e4-9879-001a4bcf6878.html

Gavin Jackson

In his first foray into the Pee Dee, "Independent Republican" gubernatorial candidate Tom Ervin held three town hall meetings in three counties Monday, giving him a chance to hear from people like those at Takis Diner in Darlington.

SCRN: Cruz talks borders, retaking the Senate at SCGOP fundraiser

<http://www.southcarolinaradionetwork.com/2014/09/15/cruz-talks-issues-at-sc-gop-fundraiser/>

Tom Hayes

U.S. Senator Ted Cruz visited the Palmetto State on Monday to headline a fundraiser for the South Carolina Republican Party. Cruz is traveling the country drumming up support for GOP candidates in an attempt to flip the U.S. Senate from majority Democrat to majority Republican.

Deputy Joseph Matuskovic Funeral:

Post and Courier: More than 1,000 officers, residents give final salute to slain Deputy Joseph Matuskovic

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140915/PC16/140919662>

Andrew Knapp

As hundreds of cars with flashing blue lights passed them Monday, people on roadsides throughout West

Ashley took off their hats. Some put their right hands over their hearts. As motorcycles rumbled by the blue ribbons tied to trees, residents walked from their homes and watched. They said nothing.

Note: Sheriff Al Cannon led a group of deputies in wide-brimmed hats away from the church. Gov. Nikki Haley and local mayors followed closely behind.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Aiken Standard: Harrell indictment an opportunity for legislature

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140916/AIK0201/140919662/1018/AIK02/editorial-harrell-indictment-an-opportunity-for-legislature>

Editorial

Rethinking the way South Carolina lawmakers do business has been needed for years, but a clear opportunity now exists in the wake of House Speaker Bobby Harrell's indictment. As we move closer to the start of the legislative session in January, it's imperative legislators see ethics reform as a way to strengthen the public's trust.

The State: The deception of Harrell's 'wrong date' defense

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/15/3683615/scoppe-the-deception-of-harrells.html>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

But as galling as it was for him to claim he was "proactively" suspending himself from office for the good of the House, when in fact state law required his suspension, and as self-serving as it was for him to claim to be protecting the taxpayers by paying for his travel with his campaign account, I don't think any of that compares to his "wrong date" defense.

Aiken Standard (Guest Column): Building an inclusive economy in our state

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140916/AIK02/140919661/1018/AIK02/column-building-an-inclusive-economy-in-our-state>

Tom Ervin

South Carolina began with the promise of opportunity. In 1670, Charleston was settled with the goal of becoming "a great port town," and to this day, Charleston is still a gateway of commerce to the world. But rather than cultivate and strengthen this promise of prosperity and hope, our governor has allowed much of South Carolina to descend into economic collapse.

Post and Courier (Guest Column): Uber deserves chance to compete in S.C.

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140916/PC1002/140919611>

Editorial

Matt Moore

Uber, the personal car service, allows users to contact a driver from their smartphone to pick them up and go almost anywhere. It's as simple as pressing a button on your phone and dropping a pin for your location on a map. And it's often cheaper than a traditional taxicab.

Post and Courier: Protect a free and fair Internet

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140916/PC1002/140919615>

Editorial

If there is one last bastion of totally unfettered free speech, an arena completely unbound by guidelines of civil behavior, political correctness or even decency, for better or for worse, it's the Internet. But as anyone who tried to use websites like Netflix, Twitter or Tumblr last Wednesday is probably aware, that freedom of speech is under significant threat.

Fort Mill Times (Guest Column): Mulvaney is wrong to oppose marriage equality

http://www.fortmilltimes.com/2014/09/16/3726251_mulvaney-is-wrong-to-oppose-marriage.html?sp=/99/231/230/&rh=1

James Thompson

I read with great interest the front page article in the Aug. 27 issue of the Fort Mill Times where South Carolina 5th Congressional District candidate Tom Adams has voiced his support for marriage equality and says he believes the people of District 5 are past the point of deciding elections based on a candidate's stand on marriage equality.

Rock Hill Herald: Let teen wear makeup for license photo

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/09/15/6326369/let-teen-wear-makeup-for-license.html?sp=/100/105/>
Editorial

Surely the S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles has bigger fish to fry than harassing a teen-aged male who likes to wear makeup. The DMV was sued this month after refusing to take a driver's license picture of a 16-year-old who was wearing makeup. Chase Culpepper, the male in question, said he wears makeup and androgynous or women's clothing every day.

S.C. Agency News:

The State: Authorities ask for silence on slain Lexington County children at Tuesday's DSS hearing

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/15/3683789/authorities-ask-for-silence-on.html>

Jamie Self

When a panel of senators investigating the state's child-welfare agency convenes Tuesday, members do not plan on asking for details on the agency's involvement with five Red Bank children found dead in Alabama last week. On Monday, S.C. SLED Chief Mark Keel, Lexington County Sheriff Lewis McCarty and 11th Circuit Solicitor Donald Myers wrote the senators a letter, asking them not to discuss the case.

S.C. General Assembly News:

The State: Lucas names panel to study making House more open, democratic

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/15/3683938/lucas-names-panel-to-study-making.html>

Cassie Cope

The acting leader of the S.C. House signaled Monday that he would be willing to give up some power formerly held by the speaker. Acting S.C. House Speaker Jay Lucas, the leading contender to become the House's next speaker, created a committee Monday to study the way the House operates.

Post and Courier: Could Bobby Harrell's departure impact Charleston's road money?

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140915/PC1603/140919621>

Diane Knich, Jeremy Borden

The controversial plan to extend Interstate 526 across Johns and James islands already was wavering when House Speaker Bobby Harrell announced last week that he was suspending himself after being indicted on nine ethics and misconduct charges, some local leaders say.

Associated Press: Legislative committee looking as SC roads meets

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=db6WEmx9

A legislative committee created to figure out a way to fix South Carolina's crumbling roads is scheduled to meet for the first time. The 13-member bipartisan committee meets Tuesday afternoon at the Statehouse. It was created by Senate and House leaders. The committee will hear from state Department of Transportation Secretary Janet Oakley and several other DOT employees.

Associated Press: SC lawmakers discuss recent FOI rulings

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=u1kzQ2fp

Meg Kinnard

A special legislative panel has scheduled a meeting to examine the fallout from two South Carolina Supreme Court decisions dealing with the state's Freedom of Information Act. Members of the state Senate's FOIA Study Committee are meeting Tuesday at the Statehouse.

Aiken Standard: S.C. Rep. Roland Smith honored in Jackson

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140916/AIK0101/140919634/1004/sc-rep-roland-smith-honored-in-jackson>

Derrek Asberry

S.C. Rep. Roland Smith, R-Warrentonville, was honored Monday by the City of Jackson during his last Aiken County Legislative Delegation meeting in office and used the meeting to announce that he'll be receiving the Order of the Palmetto from Gov. Nikki Haley on Oct. 1.

Island Packet: Legislators seek stoplight to halt Berkeley Hall, Beaufort County dispute

http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/09/15/3315169_legislators-seek-stoplight-to.html?sp=/99/100/&rh=1

Zach Murdock

Local legislators made a formal request Monday for a traffic signal that might help end a dispute between

the county and the Berkeley Hall community over a frontage road at St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Post and Courier: Sen. Tim Scott, Carly Fiorina talk gender pay gap

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140915/PC1603/140919628>

Robert Behre

The first speaker U.S. Sen. Tim Scott invited for his new Women in Leadership series blasted Democrats' "fallacious and insulting" attempts to describe Republicans as waging a "War on Women." The question of equal pay was the first one posed Monday from the mostly female audience of about 300 at Trident Technical College in North Charleston.

Greenville News: SC lawmakers secretive about military academy nominations

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/09/15/sc-lawmakers-secretive-military-academy-nominations/15696005/>

Mary Troyan

South Carolina's two Upstate congressman and two senators follow starkly different approaches in deciding which high-school students to nominate to the nation's service academies. The four lawmakers also vary in how much they disclose about the nominations. Those differences are typical of Congress as a whole, according to a USA TODAY analysis.

Politico: 4 contenders for Republican Study Committee post

<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/09/lummis-gohmert-flores-mulvaney-republican-study-committee-110988.html>

Lauren French

Four Republicans will appear on the ballot to chair the conservative Republican Study Committee next Congress, but the group's founders opted against endorsing a single candidate. Reps. Cynthia Lummis of Wyoming, Louie Gohmert of Texas, Bill Flores of Texas and Mick Mulvaney of South Carolina will all appear on the ballot, Chairman Rob Woodall (R-Ga.) announced Monday.

Post and Courier: Mark Sanford divorce issues heading to mediation

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140915/PC1603/140919653>

Schuyler Kropf

The continuing divorce feud between U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford and ex-wife Jenny Sanford is heading to mediation. A hearing on the case was scheduled for Monday morning but was continued at the request of both parties.

Post and Courier: Wonkette.com: 2012 court transcript paints Rep. Mark Sanford as 'deadbeat dad'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140915/PC1603/140919617>

A family court hearing transcript paints U.S. rep. Mark Sanford as a "deadbeat dad" who cared more about protecting financial assets than about the safety of his family farm following the deaths of two children at Coosaw Plantation, according to Wonkette.com, a political gossip website.

South Carolina News:

The State: Shipping at Charleston port reaches pre-recession levels

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/15/3684035/shipping-at-charleston-port-reaches.html>

Jeff Wilkinson

Also, the authority is spending \$2 billion over the next decade for improvements to terminals, the harbor and transportation systems to grow business and prepare the port to better handle a new generation of super-sized cargo ship, Ellenberg told members of the Columbia Rotary Club on Monday.

The State: Prayers, tears and lighted candles as community mourns Jones children

http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/15/3682946_prayer-vigil-planned-at-red-bank.html?rh=1

Carolyn Click

They wept and hugged each other as they filled the pews at Red Bank Baptist Church, drew their children close, and took comfort from the ancient words of the old Testament prophet Isaiah: "The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. For those who dwell in the land of gloom, a light has shown."

Post and Courier: Uber hearing with South Carolina agency canceled after ride-sharing service files for license

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140915/PC05/140919620>

Abigail Darlington

A public hearing scheduled for Thursday that would have determined Uber's fate in South Carolina has been put on hold while state regulators figure out how to handle the latest curveball from the ride-sharing service.

Sun News: Potential conflict could derail former Rep. Thad Viers' defense in money laundering case

http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/09/15/4475944_potential-conflict-could-derail.html?rh=1#storylink=cpy

David Wren

Former state legislator Thad Viers has dropped his high-profile criminal defense lawyer and now wants to be represented by a public defender in his federal money laundering case, but a potential conflict of interest could leave Viers — at least temporarily — without legal representation.

Anderson Independent: S.C. kids among most obese nationally

http://www.independentmail.com/news/local-news/sc-kids-among-most-obese-nationally_75190980

Abe Hardesty

Every year, more South Carolina children eat themselves into the obese category. According to the newest annual survey, 17 percent reached that stage in 2013, the second-highest rate in the nation. Another 14 percent are overweight. Only the numbers in Mississippi are worse.

Local News:

Greenville News: Greenville makes list of best places to live

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/09/15/greenville-makes-list-best-places-live/15666103/>

Eric Connor

Another list, another set of high marks for Greenville. The website Livability.com has ranked Greenville 33rd on a list of America's Top 100 Best Places to Live. "One of the fastest growing cities in America is Greenville, a community that continues to attract numerous young professionals for careers in high-tech sectors," the organization's second-annual report states.

The State: Owens fans, foes spar over patronage at West Columbia City Hall

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/15/3683935/owens-fans-foes-spar-over-patronage.html>

Tim Flach

Fans and foes of West Columbia Mayor Joe Owens sparred Monday over whether putting him in charge of City Hall again will open the door to too much patronage. The disagreement came at the first – and possibly only – debate over a proposal that will be decided at a Sept. 30 referendum.

The State: Testimony ties ex-sheriff's computer account to phony fraud reports

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/15/3683886/witness-williamsburg-sheriffs.html>

John Monk

The computer user name of suspended Williamsburg County Sheriff Michael Johnson was used to create or edit numerous incident reports alleging phony crimes of identity theft, a top county sheriff's lieutenant testified Monday in federal court.

National News:

New York Times: U.S. to End Coverage Under Health Care Law for Tens of Thousands

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/us/us-to-end-coverage-under-health-care-law-for-tens-of-thousands.html?_r=0

Robert Pear

The Obama administration said on Monday that it planned to terminate health insurance for 115,000 people on Oct. 1 because they had failed to prove that they were United States citizens or legal immigrants eligible for coverage under the Affordable Care Act. It also told 363,000 people that they could lose financial aid because their incomes could not be verified.

Politico: House Republicans say yes to Obama

http://www.politico.com/story/2014/09/house-republicans-say-yes-to-obama-110987.html?hp=t3_3

Jake Sherman, John Bresnahan

The party that's acted as a bulwark against President Barack Obama's agenda suddenly looks like it will quickly agree to some of his biggest demands. House Republicans are poised to extend the Export-Import Bank's charter well into next year, despite decrying the agency as an antiquated vestige of crony capitalism.

Brian Symmes

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