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Subject: Morning Clips – Thursday, April 10, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: Nikki Haley calls proposed broader ethics commission a 'poison pill'

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/09/3378047/nikki-haley-calls-proposed-broader.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Gov. Nikki Haley opposes a House panel's proposal to add oversight of state judges to an enlarged ethics commission, calling it a "poison pill" to sweeping reform proposals. In a letter sent to House members Wednesday night, Haley said she approved the move to end having legislators police themselves with their own ethics committees.

Note: "I believe adding a brand new, controversial element at this stage of the legislative process to a well-debated issue will only serve as a 'poison pill' rather than a sincere effort to fix the problem," Haley wrote. "I ask that the House and the Subcommittee members re-evaluate their independent investigation proposal. It will stymie our ability to give the people of our state what they want and what they deserve this year."

Associated Press: Inventory shows SC agencies own 12,300 assets

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=gL64c56g

Seanna Adcox

State agencies own far too much property in South Carolina, and much of it should be sold, Gov. Nikki Haley said Wednesday. The first statewide inventory of property in at least a decade shows 109 agencies own nearly 12,300 pieces of property, said Budget and Control Board Director Marcia Adams.

Note: "I want to see how much is actually being used. How much is empty? I want to see what we're using it for," Haley said. "This is just a no-brainer. This money does not need to be tied up because somebody forgot they own it."

Associated Press: SC Senate passes 'Read to Succeed' bill

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=76lpSJBL

Seanna Adcox

The Senate passed a bill Wednesday aimed at boosting students' chances of success through an expansion of 4-year-old kindergarten and early intervention in reading. Senators voted 36-6 on a compromise of the "Read to Succeed" bill, which united the agendas of the chambers' Republican and Democratic caucuses.

Note: As for the reading piece, the bulk of that funding is already in the House's budget plan, which adopted Gov. Nikki Haley's education recommendations.

The State: Emma's Law headed to governor's desk

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/09/3377640/emmas-law-headed-to-governors.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

Emma's Law is headed to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk. The Senate passed unanimously the House's version of the law Wednesday that requires alcohol breath testers installed in cars for some offenders convicted of drunk driving for the first time. State Sen. Joel Lourie, a Richland Democrat who was the bill's main sponsor, was happy to see the measure go to the governor after needing a year for final passage.

The State: SC Senate passes reading reforms, 4-year-old kindergarten expansion

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/09/3377843/sc-senate-passes-reading-reforms.html>

Jamie Self

A bill that would expand 4-year-old kindergarten across the state, if lawmakers choose to pay for it, and create a statewide reading program in public schools aimed at getting third graders reading on grade level now moves to the S.C. House after the Senate approved the bill Wednesday.

Note: Those programs also have the backing of Republican Gov. Nikki Haley, who introduced a sweeping education plan before the legislative session this year.

Anderson Independent: Legislature adopts bill to eliminate high school exit exams

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/apr/09/legislature-adopts-bill-to-eliminate-high-school/?partner=RSS>

Sarah Freishtat

State legislators approved two education measures Wednesday that address early childhood education and the state's requirement that students pass an exit exam to graduate. The state Senate linked the expansion of 4K programs to the Read to Succeed Act, the bill requiring third-graders who are not reading at grade level to be held back.

Note: It will go to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk to be signed into law.

The State: Easter Egg hunt at SC governor's house

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/09/3378139/photos-and-video-easter-egg-hunt.html#storylink=cpy>

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

The State: SC Gov. Haley: Opponent's criminal work raises concerns

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/09/3378177/sc-gov-haley-opponents-criminal.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Republican Gov. Nikki Haley said Wednesday that state Sen. Vincent Sheheen's role as a lawyer defending criminals in court raises questions about whether her Democratic opponent in November should become the state's chief executive.

Note: "It is very concerning when we talk about problems with domestic violence, and you have an attorney that goes and defends those criminals," said Haley, a Lexington Republican. "When we have problems with all these criminal activities that we are trying to clean up in South Carolina, and ... he's defended them, it makes you question it."

ColaDaily: State GOP chairman attacks Sheheen's case selection as defense attorney, calls gubernatorial candidate 'hypocritical'

<http://coladaily.com/2014/04/10/state-gop-chairman-attacks-sheheens-case-selection-as-defense-attorney-calls-gubernatorial-candidate-hypocritical/>

Kelly Petty

The South Carolina Republican party attacked state Sen. Vincent Sheheen's case selection as a criminal defense attorney at a news conference Wednesday, calling him "unfit to serve" as the state's governor. The allegations come from reports that Sheheen has represented several individuals charged with assault, domestic violence and child molestation in Kershaw County years ago.

WIS: SC GOP uses same rhetoric to blast democratic gubernatorial candidate second time around

<http://www.wistv.com/story/25207313/sc-gop-uses-same-rhetoric-to-blast-democratic-gubernatorial-candidate-second-time-around>

Jack Kuenzie

The South Carolina Republican Party on Wednesday again ramped up efforts to put Democratic challenger for governor Vincent Sheheen on the defensive. The GOP accused Sheheen, an attorney, of making money by putting violent criminals including a child molester and a domestic abuse defendant back on the streets before they should be.

WLTX: SCGOP Criticizes Sheheen's Record as Lawyer

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/2014/04/09/scgop-criticizes-vincent-sheheen-as-lawyer/7523423/>

The chairman of the South Carolina GOP released court documents Wednesday that he said puts Democratic gubernatorial candidate Vincent Sheheen in a bad light. The documents detail some criminal cases that Sheheen was hired to take during his time as a lawyer.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Florence Morning News: New Delhi might mean new deals for state

http://www.scnow.com/opinion/article_46d4d5fa-c028-11e3-beaf-0017a43b2370.html

Editorial

This fall, Gov. Nikki Haley will head to India for the first time since she was a toddler. News this week of the business recruiting trip probably was met with some skeptical raised eyebrows from those who typically

raise their eyebrows in reaction to almost any taxpayer-funded venture.

Times and Democrat: Laws alone can't make roads safe, but they can help

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/laws-alone-can-t-make-roads-safe-but-they-can/article_bb50f004-c068-11e3-8c0d-001a4bcf887a.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Legislating to save lives; OUR OPINION: Yes to battling DUI, texting while driving and speeding in construction zones. The headlines of late March and early April are enough to scare you off the highway. They involve accidents of just about every type on the roadways of The T&D Region.

Post and Courier: Don't expunge FOI access

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140410/PC1002/140419989/1021/dont-expunge-foi-access>

Editorial

Even as the Legislature was purportedly closing in on a new ethics bill that would give the public more information about their state lawmakers, the House of Representatives passed an unrelated bill that would keep the public in the dark.

Post and Courier: The jobless entitlement

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140410/PC1002/140419988/1021/the-jobless-entitlement>

Editorial

The American economy hit an encouraging milestone last month: The private sector has finally regained all of the jobs it lost during the Great Recession, according to the U.S. Labor Department. So why did the Democratic Senate, by a 59-38 vote that included six Republicans (but neither South Carolina member), pass another extension of unemployment benefits Monday?

Legislative Session News:

The State: Medical marijuana issue on June Democratic Primary ballot

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/09/3378369/medical-marijuana-issue-on-june.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

A Democratic leader in the S.C. House said Wednesday that voters should have a voice in whether South Carolina allows the medical use of marijuana. A non-binding referendum on the issue will be on the Democratic Primary ballot June 10, allowing voters in that primary to tell lawmakers what they think about the issue, said House Minority Leader Todd Rutherford of Richland County.

Associated Press: Senate, House pass versions of texting ban

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=j7wYXJGv

Andrew Coffman Smith

South Carolina is closer to having its first statewide ban on texting while driving, a measure that would eliminate the confusion and conflicts resulting from municipalities and counties having their own separate ordinances. The Senate voted 38-2 Wednesday in favor of a bill that would levy fines starting at \$75 on drivers who text while driving and would also penalize them with points on their licenses.

The State: S.C. House committee advances Common Core resistance bill

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/09/3376879/house-advances-common-core-resistance.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

The House Education and Public Works Committee advanced a proposal Wednesday that would, among other changes, withdraw South Carolina from a group of states working together to develop a test to assess students on the Common Core standards, which outline what students should know and be able to do at each grade level.

Anderson Independent: S.C. House passes alcohol sales on Election Day but not Christmas

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/apr/09/sc-house-passes-alcohol-sales-on-election-day/?partner=RSS>

Kirk Brown

The South Carolina House of Representatives passed a bill Wednesday that would allow alcohol to be sold on Election Day. But the same measure would bar stores from selling alcohol on Christmas. A number of state used to ban alcohol sales on Election Day as a safeguard against vote-buying. But South Carolina is the only state that still has this law on the books.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Greenville News: Scott, Booker say bill will help spur apprenticeship jobs

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/04/09/scott-booker-say-bill-will-help-spur-apprenticeship-jobs/7533137/>

Malia Rulon Herman

Pointing to the high unemployment rate among young Americans, Sens. Cory Booker and Tim Scott teamed up Wednesday to introduce legislation aimed at creating thousands of apprenticeships in all sectors by offering companies new tax credits.

Aiken Standard: Congressional budget hearing leads to talk of MOX facility

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140410/AIK0101/140409343/1004/congressional-budget-hearing-leads-to-talk-of-mox-facility>

Derrek Asberry

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., told Department of Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz that the appropriations committee instructed the government to build the Savannah River Site's MOX facility; not place it in cold stand-by.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Medicare releases data on thousands of South Carolina doctors

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140409/PC16/140409293/1177/medicare-releases-data-on-thousands-of-south-carolina-doctors>

Lauren Sausser

The federal government released an enormous amount of information Wednesday on how much Medicare paid more than 880,000 providers in 2012, including details about several thousand South Carolina doctors. It's been widely considered a watershed effort to improve health care transparency, but how useful all this new data will be for the average patient remains unclear.

Associated Press: Toal: Judges need more info to make bond decisions

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=CN23hQ2G

South Carolina's top judge says her colleagues on the bench need more information when deciding whether to release someone on bond. Supreme Court Chief Justice Jean Toal told lawmakers during an annual address Wednesday that judges need to make sure that they have all pertinent information when making bond decisions.

Post and Courier: Gas prices up in South Carolina, may keep growing this month

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140410/PC05/140419996/1177/gas-prices-up-in-south-carolina-may-keep-growing-this-month>

Abigail Darlington

Filling up the gas tank right now is the most expensive it's been all year for South Carolina drivers, and experts say gas prices won't go back down until the end of the month. A gallon of gas in the Palmetto State was about \$3.36 this week, which is 17 cents more expensive than the same time last month, AAA said in a report released Tuesday.

Greenville News: Industry veteran to lead CertusBank after 3 terminations

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2014/04/09/certusbank-terminates-top-execs-interim-leader-named/7513165/>

David Dykes

CertusBank said Wednesday it terminated three top executives and appointed industry veteran John S. Poelker interim president and chief executive officer. The \$1.66 billion-asset bank, based in Greenville, said Milton Jones, Walter Davis and Angela Webb were terminated from their respective posts as executive chairman, chief executive officer and president.

Local News:

Rock Hill Herald: Carolinas HealthCare asks judge to reconsider decision awarding Fort Mill hospital to Piedmont Medical Center

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/04/09/5855047/carolinas-healthcare-asks-judge.html?sp=/100/101/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Don Worthington

Carolinas HealthCare System has asked an S.C. Administrative Law Court judge to reconsider his decision to give permission to Piedmont Medical Center to build a Fort Mill hospital. Carolinas HealthCare, which operates Carolinas Medical Center hospitals and clinics in the Charlotte region, wants the court to grant its motion for reconsideration "in its entirety" and to issue a stay of the order.

National News:

Associated Press: House panel to hold contempt vote on IRS official

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=nUz5Kkdn

Stephen Ohlemacher

A House committee is voting on whether to hold a former Internal Revenue Service official in contempt of Congress for refusing to answer questions at a pair of hearings. The official, Lois Lerner, previously headed the IRS division that processes applications for tax-exempt status.

Associated Press: Senate hopeful Brown: Health law costs liberty

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

Holly Ramer

Hoping to return to Washington by way of New Hampshire, former Massachusetts Sen. Scott Brown is using a variation of the state's "Live Free or Die" motto to argue against President Barack Obama's health care overhaul law.

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