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Subject: Morning Clips – Tuesday, November 11, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: Aide to SC Gov. Haley to take over state's Medicaid agency

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/10/3803365/soura-succeeds-keck-at-sc-medicaid.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Five days after saying changes were coming to her cabinet and senior staff, Gov. Nikki Haley announced the first shakeup – a change at the agency that oversees the state's Medicaid program. Health and Human Services director Tony Keck, who helped increase the number of South Carolinians with health insurance while opposing the federal law to expand coverage, is returning to the private sector, Haley said Monday.

Note: As deputy chief of staff, Soura "was deeply involved in everything," Haley said. "You can say he is the finance guy, but truly he was the health guy, the education guy, the restructuring guy. ... He was the man behind the curtain for a long time. People knew he was there, but they did not quite know what he did. I will tell you, he's a problem solver."

Associated Press: Haley names new leader for SC's Medicaid agency

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=x2a1eWDh

Seanna Adcox

Gov. Nikki Haley on Monday nominated her former deputy chief of staff to replace the outgoing director of South Carolina's Medicaid agency. Christian Soura will take over from Tony Keck at the state Department of Health and Human Services starting Nov. 20. The Senate still must confirm his appointment.

Note: "I knew it was a matter of time before the private sector stole him away from us," Haley said.

Note: "He's a genius in his own right and someone, whenever there was a problem, he always knew of a way to fix it," Haley said.

Post and Courier: Nikki Haley's Cabinet shakeup begins

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141111/PC1603/141119888>

Cynthia Roldan

Gov. Nikki Haley said Thursday that just after she was re-elected, she was back at work, speaking with her senior staff and figuring out the next steps for her administration. On Monday, she announced one of the first changes for her second term in office: the naming of Christian Soura as the state's new Medicaid director.

Hindustan Times: Nikki Haley set to visit land of ancestors after 4 decades

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/punjab/amritsar/nikki-haley-set-to-visit-land-of-ancestors-after-4-decades/article1-1284697.aspx>

Aseem Bassi

Almost 40 years after her last visit to India and the holy city, South Carolina governor Nikki Haley is all set her foot on the land of her ancestors again as she reaches Amritsar on November 14. Haley, who was elected as governor of South Carolina for the second successive time, starts her ten-day India tour on Tuesday.

Post and Courier: Timing isn't right for Republican governors leadership post, Haley says

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141110/PC1603/141119925>

Jeremy Borden

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley won't be succeeding her political ally Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey as head of the influential Republican Governors Association. Haley, in an interview Monday with The Post and Courier, said she was approached last summer and asked if she'd be interested in the post, but told the association she doesn't want to be considered anytime soon.

Note: "I told them my focus really needed to be on South Carolina right now and it wasn't something that I'm

interested in," Haley said. "So you're not going to see me attempt, try or want a chairmanship either for this year or next year."

Note: "I'm honored and I appreciate the fact they thought of me, but at the same time I respect them enough to know they deserve better at this point," Haley said. "Everything I want to do is here and I need to be focused on that."

The State: SC will have \$300 million more to spend next year

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/10/3803961/sc-will-have-300-million-more.html>

Cassie Cope

The state will have \$7.5 billion in its general fund to spend next fiscal year, state economists estimated Monday. Lawmakers will begin deciding how to spend that money – \$283 million, or 3.9 percent, more than in this year's budget, which started July 1 – when they return in January.

Note: Republican Gov. Nikki Haley has said she will unveil a plan in January to pay for road repairs. Haley has said she would veto any increase to the state's 16.8-cent-a-gallon gas tax, which has not increased since 1987 and is one of the lowest in the nation.

Associated Press: Judge dismisses Haley from SC gay marriage case

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6qma4bqy

Meg Kinnard

A federal judge has dismissed Gov. Nikki Haley as a defendant in a lawsuit challenging South Carolina's ban on same-sex marriage. But U.S. District Judge Michelle Childs ruled Monday that the case can continue against Attorney General Alan Wilson. A lesbian couple married in Washington, D.C., is challenging South Carolina's ban on same-sex marriage.

The State: Federal judge looks favorably at Lexington same-sex couple's suit

http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/10/3803878_judge-childs-rules-lexington.html?rh=1

John Monk

In an order filed in federal court Monday, U.S. Judge Michelle Childs ruled that allegations by a Lexington couple that they have been harmed by South Carolina's bans on recognizing same-sex marriages are serious enough that their lawsuit can go forward.

Note: Childs also dismissed Gov. Nikki Haley as a defendant in the Bradacs-Goodwin lawsuit, finding that Haley had not taken any specific official action to stop South Carolina from recognizing the out-of-state marriage of the couple. Bradacs and Goodwin were legally married in 2013 in the District of Columbia.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Times and Democrat: Sen. Tim Scott due praise for focus on veterans

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/sen-tim-scott-due-praise-for-focus-on-veterans/article_76280932-6945-11e4-ac52-47376a0c1584.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: History-making lawmaker. OUR OPINION: While election is front and center now, senator puts veterans there with continuing emphasis. Tim Scott is getting a lot of national publicity as the first African-American U.S. senator elected from South Carolina since Reconstruction.

Aiken Standard: Chamber success signals strong business climate

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141111/AIK0201/141119958/1018/AIK02>

Editorial

The recent recognition garnered by the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce is a clear win for our community. The organization was named the large Chamber of the Year by the Carolina Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives – an award that shows we're fostering the right kind of business climate here in Aiken.

The State: 9 reasons I'm celebrating SC election results

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/10/3803821/scope-9-reasons-im-celebrating.html>

Cindi Scoppe

A FAVORITE criticism of our editorial board, for much longer than the 16 years that I've been a member, has been that our endorsement is the kiss of death. So now that the 2014 election is past, I thought it would be worthwhile to review our win-loss record. This year it was 9-2, which most people would be proud to have on any sort of scorecard.

Note: The two candidates we endorsed who ended up on the losing side were Sen. Vincent Sheheen, who lost his rematch in a landslide to Gov. Nikki Haley, and Joe McCulloch, who lost his own rematch to state Rep. Kirkman Finlay.

Rock Hill Herald: Today, we honor our veterans

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/11/10/6513850/today-we-honor-our-veterans.html?sp=/100/105/>

Editorial

On this Veterans Day, many Americans might be asking themselves if a respite from war is too much to hope for. Just last week, the Pentagon announced that up to 1,500 more U.S. troops could be sent to Iraq in the weeks ahead. The troops would assist Iraqi national and Kurdish troops battling Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria.

Post and Courier (Guest Column): Citadel is expanding services for veterans

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141111/PC1002/141119902>

Lt. Gen. John W. Rosa

Veterans Day, originally called Armistice Day, was designated as a time to celebrate the end of World War I. As I reflect on this holiday I am humbled by the service and sacrifices of young men and women who made the selfless decision to serve their country over these past 96 years.

Post and Courier: Thanks for supporting school building needs

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141111/PC1002/141119897>

Editorial

On behalf of the 48,500 students in Charleston County School District and the generations of children who will follow them, I want to thank the voters of Charleston County for approving the continuation of the one penny sales tax to renovate and build new schools.

Post and Courier: Putin's chilling revisionism

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141111/PC1002/141119896>

Editorial

Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev warned recently that the world is headed toward a new Cold War division. But remarks by the current Russian leader, Vladimir Putin, and ambitions attributed to China's leader Xi Jinping suggest something even more dangerous - a new alliance trying to change the current world order and ready to throw its military weight around, backed by nuclear weapons.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Spartanburg delegation passes resolution supporting local governments

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20141110/ARTICLES/141119947/0/search>

Felicia Kitzmiller

Spartanburg County lawmakers pledged to support full funding for local governments at Monday night's delegation meeting, but they split over how to say it. Sen. Shane Martin, chairman of the delegation and a subcommittee on local government matters, proposed a resolution decrying cuts to state funding for counties and cities.

Note: Martin's resolution called the cuts "unlawful" and said they amounted to double taxation. He called on legislators to faithfully follow the statutory formula for allocating revenue to local governments, and asked Gov. Nikki Haley to present a plan for refunding the money cut in past years.

Index-Journal: Senators visit John de la Howe School

<http://www.indexjournal.com/news/Senators-visit-John-de-la-Howe-School>

Three state senators made a visit to the campus of John de la Howe School, which serves at-risk children from across South Carolina. Sens. Wes Hayes of Rock Hill, Shane Massey of Edgefield and Billy O'Dell of Greenwood toured the 217-year-old institution, inspecting facilities and speaking with students, staff and trustees.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: SC expects nearly \$300 million extra next year

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Kj6ng5KV

State economists say South Carolina's government should have nearly \$300 million more to spend next

year. The State newspaper reported (<http://bit.ly/1sw9Kg6>) that the state should have about \$7.5 billion for regular budget expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

Local News:

Sun News: Board of Education throws out approved design plans for 5 new schools

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/11/10/4598015/board-of-education-throws-out.html?sp=/99/134/142/>

Claire Byun

The board voted Monday during their regular meeting to remove the five new schools from current conceptual design plans, leaving six schools ready for remodeling or additions. The board stated they needed time to request and review energy-efficient designs before approving any new construction projects.

Rock Hill Herald: Mourners decry violence at slain Chester councilman's funeral

http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/11/10/6513870_mourners-lament-street-violence.html?rh=1

Andrew Dys

Funerals for retired cops are supposed to be tributes to lives helped, service given, beats walked – not outrage or rage. But Monday's funeral for Odell Williams was different. Williams – a Chester City Council member for 17 years after having served as a Chester police officer for more than 20 years – was shot and killed Nov. 4, just a couple of blocks from his home.

National News:

Associated Press: GOP wave decimates Democratic bench

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_MIDTERM_ELECTIONS_DEMOCRATIC_BENCH?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Michelle Rindels, Nicholas Riccardi

Lucy Flores was a candidate with a life story straight out of Hollywood - one of 13 children who grew up in a rough Las Vegas neighborhood, a former gang member who straightened out, went to law school, became a state legislator and now was running for lieutenant governor. She earned glowing profiles in the national press.

Brian Symmes

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