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Subject: Morning Clips – Tuesday, August 5, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The Sumter Item: Report: Sumter children struggle in education

<http://www.theitem.com/stories/report-sumter-children-struggle-in-education,229315?>

Raytevia Evans

The Annie E. Casey Foundation recently released statistics on the well-being of South Carolina's children, and Sumter County ranks in the bottom quarter of the state's counties of teen dropouts.

Note: This year, state legislators also passed Gov. Nikki Haley's K-12 Education Reform Initiative - which has a number of components focusing on equal educational opportunities for all students in South Carolina public schools and providing funding for resources to improve technology in schools.

WPDE: Show me the money: How much did Atlantic Beach actually make from Bikefest?

http://www.carolinalive.com/news/story.aspx?id=1079238#.U-DFk_IdV1Y

April Baker

Atlantic Beach still hasn't released how much money it made from this year's Atlantic Beach Bikefest, which ended in May. The town's year-end financial report was on the agenda for Monday night's town council meeting, but council voted to postpone the discussion to a later date.

Note: After several shootings in Myrtle Beach which left three people dead over Memorial Day weekend, Governor Nikki Haley called for an end to Bikefest.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

The State (The State): Woman credits Haley, welfare-to-work in new campaign ad

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/08/05/3601521/new-haley-ad-touts-welfare-to.html?sp=/99/132/312/169/>

Jamie Self

Republican Gov. Nikki Haley touts moving 20,000 S.C. residents from welfare-to-work in a new campaign ad, featuring a woman who credits Haley's program with helping her get a job. The 30-second television spot, released first to The State, is called "Paychecks" and features Paula Martin, a Spartanburg resident and Adidas employee, who credits Haley's welfare-to-work program for helping her get a job.

Associated Press: Sheheen education plan focuses on 4K, teacher pay

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=3Bn4BT8Y

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina's Democratic gubernatorial candidate released a plan Monday for improving the state's public schools that includes further expanding access to kindergarten for 4-year-olds, increasing teacher salaries and reducing class sizes.

Note: "Gov. Haley developed a sweeping education reform package which won widespread praise from educators and bipartisan support for its passage this year," said spokesman Chaney Adams. "The Haley education reforms will lift up students in all parts of our state, especially in traditionally overlooked rural and poor areas. Governor Haley has proven that she makes a difference."

The State: SC teacher pay, tax reform among Sheheen's education priorities

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/08/04/3600619/exclusive-teacher-pay-tax-reform.html>

Jamie Self

The Democratic candidate for governor says he wants to pay South Carolina teachers more and overhaul a controversial 2006 tax law that, critics say, hurt many schools. State Sen. Vincent Sheheen of Camden also wants to expand 4-year-old kindergarten statewide and increase taxpayer funding of public colleges in exchange for a cap in tuition costs.

Note: In response to Sheheen's proposal, Haley campaign spokeswoman Chaney Adams focused on the

Republican's "sweeping education-reform package, which won widespread praise from educators and bipartisan support for its passage this year." Haley's proposals will "lift up students in all parts of our state, especially in traditionally overlooked rural and poor areas, with a critical focus on reading skills and technology," she said.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Aiken Standard: Don't let ethics reform fail in the next session

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140805/AIK0201/140809790/1018/AIK02/editorial-don-t-let-ethics-reform-fail-in-the-next-session>

Editorial

It will be a monumental failure if South Carolina lawmakers don't pass ethics reform in the next legislative session. There seems to be a serious push in Columbia to update our laws governing how public officials operate, even though an ethics bill wasn't able to get approved in the 2013-2014 session.

Times and Democrat: Despite stand vs. Medicaid expansion, S.C. owes fairness

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/despite-stand-vs-medicaid-expansion-s-c-owes-fairness/article_1cc16734-1c34-11e4-9d3e-001a4bcf887a.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Medicaid applications. OUR OPINION: South Carolina should provide prompt response on eligibility. Medicaid expansion remains a topic of heated debate. So do numerous other aspects of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Note: Though the justices, by a 5-4 margin, ruled the landmark law constitutional, they struck down its requirement for states to raise the eligibility income for Medicaid. That allowed South Carolina — as in Gov. Nikki Haley and the General Assembly — to opt out of the change.

The State: Put simple explanations of questions on SC ballots

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/08/04/3600977/editorial-put-simple-explanations.html>

Editorial

A STATE PANEL will meet on Wednesday to decide whether it needs to write explanations for the two constitutional amendments that are to appear on the November ballot. The short answer is yes. Even though the proposed changes are fairly straightforward, they're written in the sort of legalese that a lot of people have a difficult time wading through.

Post and Courier (Guest Column): Unanswered questions raise doubts about Curnell case

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140805/PC1002/140809727>

Dot Scott

A little more than a year ago, America was riveted by the shooting death of Trayvon Martin. His killer was allowed to go free and the circumstances of his death generated much debate and tension.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Florence Morning News: Exclusive Q & A with Rep. Tom Rice

http://www.scnw.com/news/local/article_5eba1852-1c39-11e4-b0c4-0017a43b2370.html

Gavin Jackson

The Morning News spoke with Rice before his constituent meeting at the Pee Dee Regional office in Florence on a wide range of topics, from the continued gridlock in Washington to international and domestic crises and a pending lawsuit against President Barack Obama. Below are nine questions we asked Rice and his answers.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: SLED seeking permission to buy helicopter

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

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina's law enforcement agency is seeking permission to buy a new two-passenger helicopter that can assist with state and local investigations. The State Law Enforcement Division received approval Monday from the Joint Bond Review Committee to spend the estimated \$3.5 million.

The State: State Supreme Court gives filing break to people who sue doctors, hospitals
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/08/04/3601250/state-supreme-court-gives-filing.html#storylink=cpy>
John Monk

Vicki Wilkinson likely will get her day in court to sue a hospital she says harmed her during a medical procedure. That's the result of a recent 4-to-1 decision by the S.C. Supreme Court, which recently clarified state law concerning filing deadlines that people who sue doctors and hospitals for medical malpractice have to meet.

Aiken Standard: Gas prices plunge, trend expected to continue
<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140805/AIK0101/140809776/gas-prices-plunge-trend-expected-to-continue>

Teddy Kulmala

Drivers in Aiken County are currently paying well below the state and national averages for a gallon of gasoline, and the prices are expected to continue plummeting. On Friday, GasBuddy.com reported a nationwide average of \$3.50 per gallon, a 15-cent drop from \$3.65 on July 4.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Spartanburg County lawmakers hear of money needed for roads and courthouse
<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140804/ARTICLES/140809880/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Spartanburg-County-lawmakers-hear-of-money-needed-for-roads-and-courthouse>

Felicia Kitzmiller

Spartanburg County's Legislative Delegation heard of money woes at Monday night's regular meeting. Clerk of Court Hope Blackley and S.C. Department of Transportation Commissioner Woodrow Willard both brought stories of failing infrastructure that is creating safety hazards in their particular areas.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Hammond touts online database for statewide boards and commissions
<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140804/ARTICLES/140809883/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Hammond-touts-online-database-for-statewide-boards-and-commissions>

Felicia Kitzmiller

A new database about the dozens of statewide boards and commissions was designed to help people resolve problems, locate service opportunities and enhance government transparency, S.C. Secretary of State Mark Hammond said while visiting with a group of Spartanburg Republicans on Monday at Wade's Restaurant.

Aiken Standard: State agency posts school test scores
<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140805/AIK0101/140809760/1004/state-agency-posts-school-test-scores>

Rob Novit

The State Department of Education surprised Aiken County School District administrators Monday – sending out summary test results on the SC-PASS standardized tests and the High School Assessment Program, also known as the exit exam. The State Department also posted on its website the overall state results and each district's results on both tests, as well.

Post and Courier: Alcoa owners tell Santee Cooper they won't renew South Carolina power contract; talks continue

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140804/PC05/140809732>

Warren L. Wise

Alcoa and an investor in its Berkeley County smelter have notified Santee Cooper they will not renew their electricity contract at the end of 2015, throwing into jeopardy 600 local jobs unless a deal can be reached over the next 17 months.

Associated Press: Communities across SC mark National Night Out
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Rx6ITbb9

Hundreds of people in communities across South Carolina are observing National Night Out with a variety of events. What began in 1984 as people leaving their porch lights on as way to join together to stand against crime has now evolved into events ranging from rallies and neighborhood cookouts to youth events and law enforcement demonstrations.

Local News:

The State: Exclusive: Councilwoman Plough set for surgery, likely for cancer

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/08/04/3601172/councilwoman-plough-set-for-surgery.html>

Clif LeBlanc

Columbia City Council's most outspoken fiscal conservative is to undergo surgery next week to remove what her oncologist said is likely a cancerous mass on her right thigh. She agreed to discuss her health publicly as a way of disclosing her condition to her constituents in District 4, which stretches along the southeastern edges of town.

The State: Dueling delegation meetings to select election board members

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/08/04/3601263/dueling-delegation-meetings-to.html>

Dawn Hinshaw

A Richland County legislator, no longer willing to wait to pick a new county election board, has taken matters into his own hands. Monday, Rep. James Smith sent out an Aug. 15 meeting notice — and an explanation for why he was going around the delegation's chairman to schedule a meeting.

Island Packet: Beaufort County progress on standardized tests stalls

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/08/04/3241978/beaufort-county-progress-on-standardized.html?sp=/99/257/266/>

Sarah Bowman

After several years of gains on two key standardized tests, the Beaufort County School District's progress stalled last school year, according to scores released Friday. The Palmetto Assessment of State Standards tests students in grades three through eight in five categories.

Island Packet: Beaufort County submits mental-health records to gun background-check system

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/08/04/3241941/beaufort-county-submits-mental.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1>

Laura Oberle, Zach Murdock

Beaufort County has submitted 1,083 mental-health records to the S.C. Law Enforcement Division to comply with a year-old law intended to prevent those with mental illnesses from buying firearms. The "Boland Bill" was named after a mentally ill Lady's Island woman, Alice Boland, who was charged with brandishing and attempting to fire a handgun outside a private school in Charleston last year.

Florence Morning News: Florence charter school growing in new year

http://www.scnw.com/news/education/article_fba153d4-1c1a-11e4-9ba8-0017a43b2370.html

Ellen Meder

Opening and maintaining a charter school can be incredibly difficult, but as it embarks on its 10th school year Florence's Palmetto Youth Academy is going strong, even expanding. Burgess said the school has found what works and what doesn't in their experience and expanded that approach to kindergarten, first and second grades this year after nine years of serving grades 3-6.

Anderson Independent: Clemson may get bigger cut of federal transportation money

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/clemson-may-get-bigger-cut-of-federal-transportation-money>

Vince Jackson

Mayor J. C. Cook reported to the Clemson City Council on Monday that an agreement reached with the Greenville Transportation Authority will increase the amount of federal funding for Clemson Area Transit (CAT) by about \$190,000 this year over what was received during fiscal year 2013.

National News:

National Journal: If You Like Your Obamacare Plan, It'll Cost You

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/health-care/if-you-like-your-obamacare-plan-it-ll-cost-you-20140805>

Sam Baker

If you like your Obamacare plan, you can keep it—but you might end up paying a whole lot more. People who decide to stick with the coverage they've already gotten through Obamacare, rather than switching plans, are at risk for some of the biggest premium spikes anywhere in the system. And some people won't even know their costs went up until they get a bill from the IRS.

New York Times: U.S. Diplomacy on Gaza Has Little Sway on Israel

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/05/world/middleeast/gaza-is-straining-us-ties-to-israel.html?>

[ref=todayspaper&_r=1](#)

Mark Landler

When the State Department condemned Israel's strike on a United Nations school in Gaza on Sunday, saying it was "appalled" by this "disgraceful" act, it gave full vent to what has been weeks of mounting American anger toward the Israeli government.

McClatchy DC (Guest Column): Obama: We have a moral obligation to support Africa's progress

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2014/08/05/235350/obama-we-have-a-moral-obligation.html>

Barack Obama

Make no mistake, millions of Africans still endure the daily misery of grinding poverty, violent conflicts and the injustice of hunger and disease. For decades, Democrats and Republicans, including President George W. Bush, who stepped up our global efforts against HIV/AIDS, have recognized that, as Americans, we have a self-interest and moral obligation to help support Africa's progress.

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