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To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Tuesday, April 22, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Clinton Chronicle: Haley promotes jobs growth, education plan in visit to Clinton

http://www.clintonchronicle.com/articles/2014/04/22/top_stories/doc5356ae06add76427074654.txt

Vic MacDonald

Clinton Rotary Club President Chuck Holder, left, presents a gift to South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley following her talk today to the club's regular every Tuesday meeting at Bailey Manor Christian Retirement Center in Clinton.

Note: "I had a conversation of (former Florida governor) Jeb Bush. He said the most important thing we can do is make sure kids can read," Haley said. "We will be looking at the growth of the child. We will have summer camps in rural areas."

Greenville News: New law deletes high school exit exam mandate

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/education/2014/04/21/new-law-deletes-high-school-exit-exam-mandate/7973573/>

Ron Barnett

As of Monday, the high school exit exam is no more. The 30-year-old state test, formally known as the High School Assessment Program, will be replaced by two tests that educators say will yield better information on how well-prepared students are for college and careers — but students won't be required to pass them to earn a diploma.

Washington Post: S.C. college production highlights political battle between lawmakers, public universities

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/sc-colleges-production-highlights-political-battle-between-lawmakers-public-universities/2014/04/22/d2f357f6-ca0e-11e3-93eb-6c0037d0e2ad_story.html?tid=pm_politics_pop

Rosalind S. Helderman

More than 750 people packed into a city auditorium here this week for a sold-out production of "Fun Home," a musical by a New York-based troupe about a woman coming to terms with her closeted gay father's suicide. The crowd rose in a standing ovation before the show even began.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley (R), who through a line item veto may hold the final decision on the college budget cuts, is an Indian American.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

CNN: A new player steps into South Carolina governor's race

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/04/22/politics/ervin-south-carolina-governor/>

Peter Hamby

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is one of the GOP's brightest stars, a 42-year-old Indian-American, a dynamo fundraiser and a favorite of national Republicans eager to showcase diversity in their ranks.

Note: "We appreciate Mr. Ervin's desire for public service, but a trial lawyer and former Democratic lawmaker who wants to raise taxes and embrace Obamacare should probably be running as a Democrat," said Haley spokesman Rob Godfrey. "Governor Haley is focused on the legislative session, passing historic education and ethics reforms and keeping the fantastic economic and jobs momentum going. And we look forward to running against two liberal trial lawyers who support Obamacare instead of just one."

The State: See Gov. Nikki Haley's new TV campaign ads

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/22/3401763/see-gov-nikki-haleys-new-tv-campaign.html?sp=/99/132/312/169/1084/>

Andrew Shain

Gov. Nikki Haley's re-election campaign has released its first two television commercials. They start airing Wednesday statewide. The Movement Fund, a pro-Haley political group, and the Republican Governor's Association have aired ads in the past year backing her or attacking her Democratic challenger Vincent Sheheen.

Washington Post: RGA slams Sheheen for defending 'violent criminals' as attorney

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-politics/wp/2014/04/22/rga-slams-sheheen-for-defending-violent-criminals-as-attorney/>

Sean Sullivan

The Republican Governors Association is out with a new television commercial slamming South Carolina Democrat Vincent Sheheen's record as a trial lawyer, taking him to task for defending individuals charged with violent crimes.

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley's campaign releases new TV ads

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140422/PC1603/140429830/gov-nikki-haleys-campaign-releases-new-tv-ads>

Gov. Nikki Haley's reelection campaign today released two new television ads calling attention to her economic development record. The 30-second ads were to begin airing statewide this week on broadcast and cable television, the campaign said in a news release.

WSPA (Video): Fact Check: RGA Ad Slams Sheheen's Legal Work

<http://www.wspa.com/story/25301978/fact-check-rga-ad-slams-sheheens-legal-work>

Rober Kittle

The national Republican Governors Association is going after South Carolina Democratic candidate Vincent Sheheen with a new TV ad that criticizes his work as a lawyer. The ad says, "It's a fact. Trial lawyer Vincent Sheheen made money off criminals. Got a sex offender out of jail time. Defended a child abuser. And represented others charged with violent acts."

The State: US Chamber endorses Lindsey Graham

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/22/3402310/us-chamber-endorses-lindsey-graham.html>

Andrew Shain

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce endorsed U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham in his re-election bid on Tuesday -- the Seneca Republican's second endorsement from a national business group in two days. Graham is facing six GOP challengers in the June 10 primary as he tried for a third Senate term.

The State: Newt Gingrich endorses Sally Atwater for state schools chief

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/22/3401648/newt-gingrich-endorses-sally-atwater.html?sp=/99/132/312/169/#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, winner of the 2012 S.C. Republican presidential primary, endorsed Republican Sally Atwater for state Superintendent of Education, her campaign announced Tuesday. Gingrich and Atwater have been friends for three decades.

The State: Republican Sen. Kevin Bryant endorses Childs for superintendent

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/22/3401728/republican-sen-kevin-bryant-endorses.html?sp=/99/132/312/169/#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

Republican Sen. Kevin Bryant endorsed Meka Childs in the state superintendent of education race. Childs, a former public school teacher who worked under Superintendent Mick Zais as the deputy superintendent of school effectiveness, is one of eight Republican candidates in the race to lead the state Department of Education.

The State: US Senate hopeful Bill Connor announces endorsements from conservative groups

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/22/3401757/us-senate-hopeful-bill-connor.html?sp=/99/132/312/169/#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

The Conservatives for Responsible Government of South Carolina and the Association of Black Conservatives have announced their backing of Connor, an Orangeburg attorney and Afghanistan war veteran and one of six Republicans hoping to beat Graham in June's primary.

DSS News:

Post and Courier: Lourie to Haley: 'it's time for you, governor, to take action'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140422/PC1603/140429811/1031/lourie-to-haley-its-time-for-you-governor-to-take-action>

Cynthia Roldan

A state Senator has called on Gov. Nikki Haley to remove the embattled Department of Social Services director from her post. Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Columbia, has repeatedly called for DSS Director Lillian Koller to resign since March.

Note: "Senator Lourie can call for Director Koller's resignation every day until the November election if he wants, since his motivation is so obviously political, but it won't change these facts: under her leadership child deaths are down 25 percent, adoptions are up 11 percent, and DSS has provided more services statewide than ever before," Mayer said.

The State: Lawmaker challenges agency over DSS-related child deaths statistics

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/22/3402299/democratic-state-senator-calls.html?sp=/99/132/312/169/#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

State Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Richland, accused the Department of Social Services of breaking state law governing how often case workers must see victims of alleged child abuse and then called on Gov. Nikki Haley to fire Director Lillian Koller.

Note: "Senator Lourie can call for Director Koller's resignation every day until the November election if he wants, since his motivation is so obviously political, but it won't change these facts: under her leadership child deaths are down 25 percent, adoptions are up 11 percent, and DSS has provided more services statewide than ever before," said Doug Mayer, Haley's spokesman. "Governor Haley is proud of Director Koller and the work DSS is doing every day to better protect children and families and remains committed to seeing their progress and dedicated efforts continued."

WOLO: Lourie Calls on Haley to Fire Koller

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/news/local/Lourie-Calls-on-Haley-to-Fire-Koller-256248121.html>

Monique Williams

Senator Joel Lourie claims DSS Director, Lillian Koller, is 'harming children' by 'ignoring state law' and Governor Haley should fire the director immediately. For the first time in his 16 years of public service, the democratic state senator calls on a sitting governor to remove a director, the governor appointed.

Note: Based on this statement Tuesday from the governor's spokesperson, Doug Mayer, Haley he has no plans to fire Koller: "...under Koller's leadership child deaths are down 25-percent, adoptions are up 11 percent. Governor Haley is proud of Director Koller and the work DSS is doing everyday to better protect children and families."

WIS: Senators: Documents show Koller violating state law

<http://www.wistv.com/story/25311628/senators-turn-up-the-heat-on-dss-director-koller>

PJ Randhawa

Senators say a stack of internal reports prove Social Services Department Director Lillian Koller is violating state law through her management of the department.

Note: "Senator Lourie can call for Director Koller's resignation every day until the November election if he wants, since his motivation is so obviously political, but it won't change these facts: under her leadership child deaths are down 25 percent, adoptions are up 11 percent, and DSS has provided more services statewide than ever before. Governor Haley is proud of Director Koller and the work DSS is doing every day to better protect children and families and remains committed to seeing their progress and dedicated efforts continued," said Haley's spokesman Doug Mayer.

Legislative Session News:

Post and Courier: Hearing scheduled in case against House Speaker Bobby Harrell; attorneys ask to move matter to House panel

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140422/PC1603/140429831/harrells-attorneys-want-house-panel-to-decide-on-dispute-with-wilson>

Jeremy Borden

A Richland County Circuit Court judge will consider next week whether his court has the authority to rule on a matter involving an ethics-related case against S.C. House Speaker Bobby Harrell, one of Harrell's attorneys said Tuesday.

The State: Showdown: Date set in Harrell-Wilson duel to stop ongoing potential criminal probe?

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/22/3402090/showdown-time-date-set-in-harrell.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

A court hearing date for next week has been set for the next round of public arguments in the once-secret push by S.C. House Speaker Bobby Harrell to stop State Attorney General Alan Wilson from pursuing criminal allegations against him., according to an attorney in the case.

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: Audit finds 'toxic' relationship between Loftis, state retirement investment board

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/04/22/audit-finds-toxic-relationship-loftis-state-retirement-investment-board/8006949/>

Tim Smith

A long-awaited performance audit of the state Retirement Systems Investment Commission concludes that while there is no malfeasance at the agency, improvements are needed, especially in the relationship between State Treasurer Curtis Loftis and the board, which is described as "toxic" and poses "one of the most significant risks" to participants in the state's \$28 billion pension fund.

Associated Press: Audit: SC pension agency doesn't overpay in fees

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

Seanna Adcox

An auditing firm says the agency investing South Carolina's pension portfolio doesn't overpay in investment fees but rather reports those fees more thoroughly than any other public pension fund in the nation.

Associated Press: SC's top military man begins re-election campaign

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Sir9Nxjm

Susanne M. Schafer

The state's top military officer says he's worked four years to make the South Carolina National Guard one of the nation's premier military organizations, and he wants to keep it that way. Maj. Gen. Robert Livingston formally announced his re-election campaign Tuesday for Adjutant General.

National News:

USA Today: Justices approve state's ban on affirmative action

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/04/22/supreme-court-affirmative-action-michigan/4481923/>

Richard Wolf

he Supreme Court dealt another blow to affirmative action programs Tuesday, upholding the right of states to ban racial preferences in university admissions. The 6-2 decision came in a case brought by Michigan, where a voter-approved initiative banning affirmative action had been tied up in court for a decade.

Reuters: U.S. official responsible for reforming Medicare is leaving post

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/22/us-usa-healthcare-medicare-idUSBREA3L1ES20140422>

David Morgan

The Obama administration on Tuesday announced the departure of the top health official responsible for reforming Medicare under President Barack Obama's healthcare reform law. His work involved two proposals that drew bipartisan opposition in Congress this year.

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