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To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Monday, April 7, 2014

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Gov. Nikki Haley names new SC DOT Secretary:

Associated Press: Gov. Nikki Haley names Janet Oakley as new transportation director
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140407/PC1603/140409467/1177/gov-nikki-haley-names-janet-oakley-as-new-transportation-director>

Andrew Coffman Smith

Gov. Nikki Haley is appointing a woman with more than 30 years of national transportation policy experience as the next director of the South Carolina Department of Transportation. Haley said Monday that she chose Janet Oakley of Friendship, Md., because of her experience with federal infrastructure grants.

The State: Haley names national transportation policy expert as next DOT chief
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/07/3373331/haley-names-national-transportation.html?sp=/99/132/312/169/#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

Gov. Nikki Haley announced Monday that she has appointed a national transportation policy expert with more than 30 years of experience to head the S.C. Department of Transportation. Janet Oakley, 62, is the director of policy and government relations for the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, a membership organization for state transportation departments.

Note: "Everybody came with a different region in mind," Haley said of the other candidates. "They wanted to help the Pee Dee, they wanted to help the Lowcountry, they wanted to help the Upstate....What I didn't want was someone who was going to continue improving infrastructure in a region of South Carolina," she said.

Gov. Nikki Haley, Commerce to travel to India:

Associated Press: SC Gov Haley to make fall trade trip to India
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5b0cBkNI

Jeffrey Collins

Gov. Nikki Haley is making a trade trip to India in November, returning for the first time since she was a toddler to the country where her parents were born. Haley will spend about 10 days in the country, trying to get Indian companies to bring factories and jobs to the state and open up opportunities for South Carolina companies to export items to the country, South Carolina Department of Commerce Secretary Bobby Hitt said Monday.

Note: "The idea of being in the country that my parents hold dear - just the feeling of being there will be very strong for me," said Haley, who was born Nimrata Randhawa to Sikh parents who had immigrated to the United States from India in the early 1960s.

Post and Courier: Haley to visit India to grow exports through Port of Charleston
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140407/PC05/140409487/1010/sc-commerce-department-unveils-new-trade-initiative-with-india>

Tyrone Richardson

Gov. Nikki Haley is heading to India later this year to drum up more business with the nation, touting trade abilities through Port of Charleston, officials said Monday. Haley and a half dozen state officials will be heading to India in November for a 10-day long "trade mission," according to the state Commerce Department.

The State: Nikki Haley heading trade mission to India in November
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/07/3373137/nikki-haley-to-head-trade-mission.html?sp=/99/205/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Gov. Nikki Haley is heading to India for a 10-day trade mission in November, state commerce department officials said Monday. Haley will visit New Dehli, Mumbai and the Punjab state, which is where her parents were born. The mission will include five staff members from the commerce department and governor's office, commerce secretary Bobby Hitt said. The estimated state price tag is about \$50,000, he said.

Governor Nikki Haley News:

WOLO: Emma Longstreet's Premonition

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/news/local/EXCLUSIVE-Emma-Longstreet-Predicted-Own-Death-254239421.html>

Monique Williams

David Longstreet, father of Emma Longstreet, a six-year-old who was killed when the family was hit by a drunk driver on their way to church in Lexington, January, 2012, has been very vocal in the fight to ensure his daughter's death was not in vain by attempting to change DUI laws in South Carolina. But, he has an untold story, until now.

Note: Should the senate do so, Gov. Nikki Haley could sign the proposed Emma's Law by May 29, to coincide with what would have been Emma Longstreet's ninth birthday.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Gov. Haley proclaims April as Kite Month in celebration of Spartanburg Soaring!

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140407/ARTICLES/140409809/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Gov-Haley-proclaims-April-as-Kite-Month-in-celebration-of-Spartanburg-Soaring->

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley has proclaimed April 2014 as Kite Month. On a request from the organizers of the Spartanburg Soaring! International Kite Festival, Haley sent the proclamation to the Chapman Cultural Center.

S.C. Political News:

Post and Courier: Lee Bright hits Lindsey Graham over shutdown vote

<http://politics.postandcourier.com/2014/04/07/lee-bright-hits-lindsey-graham-over-shutdown-vote/>

Robert Behre

State Sen. Lee Bright, one of six Republicans challenging incumbent Sen. Lindsey Graham on June 10, blasted Graham for his new ad saying he opposed Obamacare. "Graham's big moment to oppose ObamaCare came in the Senate cloture vote on the ObamaCare question," Bright said in a statement.

Post and Courier: Rep. Bedingfield endorses Childs

<http://politics.postandcourier.com/2014/04/07/rep-bedingfield-endorses-childs/>

Cynthia Roldan

Charmeka Childs, superintendent of education candidate, has nabbed another endorsement. Her campaign announced this morning through a written release Rep. Eric Bedingfield, R-Belton, stands in support of Childs. He said that as a former Marine, he knows what sacrifice is and as a devoted military wife, Childs does as well.

Legislative Session News:

Post and Courier: More grant money for S.C. homeowners seeking safety upgrades under proposed bill

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140407/PC1603/140409465/1177/more-grant-money-for-sc-homeowners-seeking-safety-upgrades-under-proposed-bill>

Cynthia Roldan

Coastal South Carolina residents wishing to fortify their homes from the peril of winds may soon have more money tap into by way of state grants. A bill that will be discussed by a Senate committee Tuesday seeks to increase funding by about \$1.5 million to a program that awards grants to people wishing to make fortifying upgrades to their homes.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Mount Pleasant starts new push for new schools

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140407/PC16/140409474/1006/mount-pleasant-starts-new-push-for-new-schools>

Robert Behre

One of this town's biggest issues is something Town Council has little control over: the town's increasingly crowded public schools. Mayor Linda Page is trying to change that by appointing a special committee to tackle the issue and press the Charleston County School Board for help.

Sun News: Horry County school board continues to drill down on building plans

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/04/06/4148150/horry-county-school-board-continues.html?sp=/99/209/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Vicki Grooms

The Horry County school board will discuss two facility plans Monday night as it tries to finalize some decisions and wrap up a three-year planning process by June. "In three years, we still haven't put a shovel in the ground," Board Chairman Joe DeFeo told the board at last week's meeting. "One way or another, we're going to have to decide."

National News:

Reuters: Government says 2015 Medicare payments to rise

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/07/us-usa-healthcare-medicare-idUSBREA361R520140407>

The U.S. government on Monday said that final payments to private health insurers for 2015 private Medicare Advantage plans would rise 0.4 percent compared with a proposed cut it said would have been about 1.9 percent.

USA Today: Obama to take executive action on equal pay rules

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2014/04/07/obama-equal-pay-executive-action/7423401/>

Aamer Madhani

President Obama will announce a pair of moves on Tuesday that his administration says will strengthen enforcement of equal pay laws for women, a White House official said. First, Obama will sign an executive order banning federal contractors from retaliating against employees who discuss their compensation, according to the official, who asked not to be identified in order not to pre-empt the White House's official announcement.

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