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To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Friday, June 11, 2015

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Greenville News: State pays off unemployment loan early

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2015/06/11/south-carolina-pays-unemployment-loan/71082708/>

Tim Smith

South Carolina on Thursday made its final payment early on a federal unemployment loan that at one point reached almost \$1 billion, spanned the terms of two governors and spawned sweeping reforms of the way the state compensates the jobless. Gov. Nikki Haley announced the final payment, backed by lawmakers who helped craft the reforms, as well as business leaders and the director of the state Department of Employment and Workforce.

Note: "This is a fantastic celebration," Haley said. "We saved the businesses of South Carolina \$13 million by paying this off early."

Associated Press: SC pays off \$1B unemployment debt to federal government

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=KfxDwO4V

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina's unemployment agency has paid off its nearly \$1 billion debt to the federal government, five months ahead of schedule. Gov. Nikki Haley announced that the Department of Employment and Workforce made a final payment Thursday of \$120 million. Director Cheryl Stanton says that means her agency is debt free.

The State: S.C. pays off \$1 billion unemployment loan

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article23772160.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

Five months ahead of schedule, South Carolina's unemployment agency has paid off a nearly \$978 million loan that helped the state cover jobless claims during the Great Recession. The S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce on Thursday made a final \$120 million early payment to the U.S. Department of Labor, repaying the debt.

Note: "A billion dollar loan is no small loan," Haley said, adding that the early payoff saved state businesses more than \$12 million in interest payments.

Post and Courier: ACLU files records request on Gov. Haley's involvement in Saturday's prayer rally

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150611/PC1603/150619880>

Schuyler Kropf

Gov. Nikki Haley's involvement in a massive prayer rally Saturday in North Charleston has drawn the interest of the American Civil Liberties Union which wants an accounting of whether taxpayer money is being used to promote religion. The ACLU of South Carolina has filed an open records request seeking a rundown of taxpayer dollars and resources being used to promote "The Response: A Call to Prayer for our Nation" at the North Charleston Coliseum.

S.C. Political News:

Post and Courier: Republicans release anti-Hillary Clinton ad ahead of her Charleston visit next week

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150611/PC1603/150619883>

Schuyler Kropf

The Republican National Committee is releasing a second digital ad targeting Hillary Clinton in advance of her second campaign trip to South Carolina. Clinton will be in Charleston on Wednesday. The 30-second GOP ad targets Clinton for "her clunky rollout and how she's dishonest, out-of-touch, and untrustworthy."

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: SC State's acting president: School will remain open

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kD6JXwbk

Seanna Adcox

A decision to keep the troubled South Carolina State University's accreditation on probation removed an immediate threat of forced closure. Acting President Franklin Evans announced Thursday that the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Colleges decided to keep South Carolina's only public historically black university on probation as its newly appointed board seeks to return the 119-year-old school to fiscal solvency.

The State: S.C. State's accreditation will remain on probation

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/education/article23752171.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

S.C. State University's accreditation will remain on probation for another year as the school works to erase a \$20 million deficit. The state's only historically black public college announced Thursday that the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges is giving S.C. State more time after the replacement of administrators and trustees.

Post and Courier: DHEC board lets seismic testing for oil stand

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150611/PC16/150619870>

Bo Petersen

The state won't stop a federal permit to use seismic guns to search for oil and natural gas offshore, its environmental regulatory board decided Thursday. The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control board denied a request by environmental advocates and others to overrule a staff decision to approve the first of three permits.

Associated Press: DHEC will not review approval of offshore seismic testing

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=7sxpQgD

The board of the Department of Health and Environmental Control will not reconsider the conditional approval given by the DHEC staff for seismic testing for oil and natural gas off the South Carolina coast. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports (<http://bit.ly/1K2ZoJ>) the board decided against taking another look on Thursday.

Greenville News: Graham takes Senate lead on abortion ban

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2015/06/11/lindsey-graham-abortion-ban/71076828/>

Mary Troyan

Abortions beyond the 20th week of pregnancy would be banned under House-passed legislation that Republican presidential candidate Lindsey Graham is pushing in the Senate. Graham, of South Carolina, said Wednesday the Senate should debate the proposal even though it may not gain enough support to overcome a likely presidential veto.

Associated Press: SC company creating 30 new jobs in Hampton County

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=khXU40rr

A company that makes chemicals used in the pharmaceutical industry is investing \$1 million in a new facility in Hampton County that will create 30 new jobs. Oakwood Products, Inc. of West Columbia announced the expansion of its operations in Estill on Wednesday. The company is buying and renovating a building next to its existing plant in the Estill Industrial Park.

Associated Press: Nitrogen line ruptures at SC Boeing plant; no injuries

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=nxy7oMYu

Boeing officials in South Carolina are looking into the cause of a nitrogen line rupture that left a small crater on the company's North Charleston campus. Company spokesman Rob Gross tells local media outlets there were no injuries or health risks when the line between two buildings ruptured about 6:30 on Thursday morning. He says the nitrogen was immediately turned off and the company is investigating the cause.

Local News:

Greenville News: Defendants in Tucker Hipps lawsuit allege his own 'negligence' caused his death
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2015/06/11/clemson-student-tucker-hipps-lawsuit/71073202/>

Ron Barnett

Clemson student Tucker Hipps' death was caused by his "voluntarily jumping into the water" from a bridge over Lake Hartwell, and resulted from his own "negligence," Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, Inc., alleges in its answer to a wrongful death lawsuit filed by Hipps' family.

The State: Costco in talks over Piney Grove location — again

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article23763049.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Costco, Midlands shoppers' most-sought after retailer, is working on opening a store in the Columbia area, two Richland County councilmen told The State. The Washington state-based chain is eyeing the same 17-acre site at Piney Grove and Fernandina roads near Harbison that Costco considered in 2013, Richland County Councilmen Greg Pearce and Seth Rose said Thursday.

National News:

Associated Press: Capitol Hill Buzz: Lindsey Graham offers federal abortion bill

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150611/PC1603/150619878>

Alan Fram

A Republican senator seeking his party's 2016 presidential nomination introduced a bill Thursday banning most late-term abortions and is predicting the Senate will vote on the highly polarizing issue this year. That's a vote that could put some GOP senators seeking re-election next year from closely divided states in a tough spot. But the measure's sponsor, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., offered little sympathy for candidates who would rather avoid the issue.

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