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To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Tuesday, September 30, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

WACH: Emma's law brings tougher penalties for DUI convictions on October 1

<http://www.wach.com/news/story.aspx?id=1103330#.VCscOvldVHU>

new law aimed to stop repeat drunken drivers will take effect on October 1. The new law which requires interlocking devices on repeat DUI offender's vehicles is named after Emma Longstreet, a six-year-old Lexington girl who was killed by Billy Hutto, a repeat DUI offender on New Year's Day in 2012.

Note: "This is a bill that should be important to every parent in South Carolina," said Gov. Nikki Haley. "We're here today to do one of the most important things we can do – to protect our children."

Red State: Dogs Don't Like Leashes: Some South Carolina pols don't like Nikki Haley's reforms (like accountability to voters)

<http://www.redstate.com/2014/09/30/dogs-dont-like-leashes-south-carolina-pols-dont-like-nikki-haleys-reforms-like-accountability-voters/>

At the RedState Gathering in August, South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley ticked off a rapid-fire list of accomplishments that have occurred since she has taken office. Among those many accomplishments was the signing of a bill to make state legislators more accountable to their constituents through the use of roll-call votes.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Hilton Head Monthly: VOTE NOV. 4: Haley faces Sheheen in Governor's race

<http://www.hiltonheadmonthly.com/news/hilton-head-island/3303-vote-nov-4-haley-faces-sheheen-in-governor-s-race>

Lisa J. Allen

Republican Nikki Haley again faces Democrat Vincent Sheheen, this time with four years of experience and a booming economy. The November race at the top of the ballot between Republican Gov. Nikki Haley and Democrat Vincent Sheheen is nothing new. The two faced each other in 2010 for the open seat after term limits concluded Gov. Mark Sanford's tenure.

Fox News: Rise of ISIS takes center stage in NC Senate race, as Republican Tillis eyes game change

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2014/09/30/rise-isis-global-terror-threats-gain-prominence-in-close-north-carolina-senate/>

Barnini Chakraborty

Republican leaders had ticketed Thom Tillis as their best hope to unseat incumbent North Carolina Sen. Kay Hagan -- but a month before voters go to the polls Tillis still is trailing, and his campaign is cranking up its attacks on Hagan's Senate record by questioning her national security credentials in light of the growing Islamic State threat.

Note: Last week, Tillis campaigned with New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and Bush.

S.C. Political News:

Associated Press: Eying 2016, Rand Paul courts young voters in SC

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5M9Jb8fa

Meg Kinnard

The tea party favorite, who hopes to strengthen his national network ahead of a likely White House bid, says the GOP has a big opportunity to attract more young voters - a group that fueled President Barack Obama's success and could prove critical to Hillary Rodham Clinton should she seek the Democratic presidential

nomination in 2016.

Associated Press: Harrell opponent calls for reform, term limits

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=HUww237V

Bruce Smith

Suspended State House Speaker Bobby Harrell's Democratic opponent called Tuesday for term limits for state lawmakers and changes in the way legislative ethics complaints are investigated. But Mary Tinkler would not go as far as suggesting Harrell, a Republican, drop his bid for re-election in House District 114 in Charleston.

S.C. End of Course Exam scores show improvement:

Aiken Standard: S.C end of course tests show gains, but many students struggle

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140930/AIK0101/140939988/1004/sc-end-of-course-tests-show-gains-but-many-students-struggle>

Rob Novit

The Aiken County School District reported Tuesday that the District has excelled on end-of-course tests released by the State Department of Education. Student test scores in Algebra I, Biology I and English I improved and were higher than the state average, but the scores in U.S. history were lower, District officials said in a press release. All the tests were taken last spring.

Island Packet: More Beaufort County students passing end-of-course exams

http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/09/30/3343714_more-beaufort-county-students.html?sp=/99/100/&rh=1

Sarah Bowman

The number of Beaufort County students who passed four key high school exams grew in all subject areas over last year's results, according to scores released Tuesday by the S.C. Department of Education. Students' average scores on the 2014 end-of-course exams also improved in each subject area algebra, biology, English and U.S. history compared to the 2013 tests.

Anderson Independent: End-of-Course exam scores on the rise

http://www.independentmail.com/news/endofcourse-exam-scores-on-the-rise_88419274

Sarah Freishtat

The improved local scores mirror statewide improvements on the exam. Average scores statewide rose in each of the test's four subject areas, as did the percentage of students who passed the test, according to numbers provided by the state Department of Education.

Rock Hill Herald: Scores increase statewide on SC end-of-course exams

http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/09/30/6374275_scores-increase-statewide-on-sc.html?rh=1

Rachel Southmayd

The State Department of Education announced Tuesday that scores across the state increased on end-of-course exams and most local school districts saw average scores at or above state averages. End-of-course exams are taken at the end of the semester in which a student in a public school takes the course that corresponds with the exam.

House Speaker's Race:

Associated Press: Hartsville lawmaker to be SC House's next speaker

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=IW533uxO

Seanna Adcox

Two Republicans vying for House speaker are exiting the race, leaving Hartsville Rep. Jay Lucas the lone candidate for the powerful post. Lucas has been acting speaker since Bobby Harrell suspended himself from office earlier this month following his indictment on nine misdemeanor charges. Lucas has been the chamber's second in command as speaker pro tem since 2010.

The State: SC House: Two GOP speaker candidates drop out, leaving one

http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/30/3714836_sc-house-speakers-race-narrows.html?rh=1

Jamie Self

Two GOP candidates running for S.C. House speaker dropped out Tuesday, pledging their support to acting speaker Jay Lucas, a Darlington Republican. Reps. Kenny Bingham, R-Lexington, and Jim Merrill, R-

Berkeley, withdrew Tuesday from the race for the House leadership, saying they wanted to put to rest "the specter of a contentious Speaker's race."

Post and Courier: Three-way race for next House speaker suddenly down to Lucas

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140930/PC1603/140939964>

Jeremy Borden

Interim Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Hartsville, is expected to become the next S.C. House speaker, one of the most powerful positions in Palmetto State government. The three-way race for House speaker became was reduced to a single contender Tuesday when Reps. Jim Merrill, R-Charleston, and Kenny Bingham, R-Cayce, withdrew and threw their support behind Lucas.

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: What's next for Harrell?

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140930/PC1603/140939977>

Cynthia Roldan

Suspended Speaker Bobby Harrell's future in House is still up in the air. On Monday, the Charleston Republican faced a judge after being indicted on nine ethics and misconduct charges. But Harrell has other things to worry about as well, such as November's election.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Feds say S.C.'s early childhood program 'needs intervention'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140930/PC1603/140939971>

Cynthia Roldan

South Carolina has improved its federal standing with the BabyNet program, but still needs to do more to assist young children with mental impairments or neurological conditions, according to a report released this week by the Legislative Audit Council.

Associated Press: Follow-up shows improvement in BabyNet

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=xN4IB84L

Seanna Adcox

State auditors say there's been some improvement in a South Carolina program that provides early intervention services to infants and toddlers who have disabilities. But the Legislative Audit Council finds that public awareness of BabyNet and performance evaluations of its providers continue to lag.

Post and Courier: Medical marijuana committee to meet in Charleston Thursday

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140930/PC1603/140939969>

Jeremy Borden

A legislative committee called on to work through the thorny legal issues involved with medical marijuana-related legislation is scheduled to meet Thursday in Charleston. This year, the S.C. Legislature passed a law that decriminalizes a marijuana-based product called CBD oil to treat severe epilepsy.

Greenville News: SC's rape, murder rate up

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/30/3714347/scs-rape-murder-rate-up.html>

Anna Lee

South Carolina's violent crime rate has fallen for the fourth consecutive year, yet the state still exceeds the national rate by 27 percent, a new report has found. The report, released by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, is compiled each year using figures from sheriff's and police departments statewide.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Charleston County RMC fund gets new scrutiny

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140930/PC1603/140939960>

Robert Behre

The Register of Mesne Conveyance often receives payments for a few dollars more than the amount necessary to record a deed, and where those overages are deposited - and how they are spent - are both coming under new scrutiny. Charleston County Council is expected to review the issue Thursday.

Post and Courier: Charleston restaurant developer Dick Elliott files for mayor

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140930/PC1603/140939973>

Schuyler Kropf

Charleston restaurant developer Dick Elliott has entered the race for mayor of Charleston, filing paperwork with the state Ethics Commission and confirming to The Post and Courier his intent this morning. Elliott joins a growing field to succeed Joe Riley next year and comes to the field from the angle of the food, beverage, tourism and entertainment fields.

Aiken Standard: Contracts worth thousands of dollars reported unknown by Council members and most staff

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140930/AIK0101/140929316/1121>

Maayan Schechter

Some eyebrows were raised as Aiken City Council members were reminded Monday, by Interim City Manager Roger LeDuc, that the City of Aiken had signed onto several engineering contracts worth thousands of dollars in 2012, contracts Council members and some staff contend they had no knowledge of.

Associated Press: Length of planned biker loop concerns Horry County

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

There is disagreement along the Grand Strand over a proposed driving loop to control biker traffic during the Atlantic Beach Bikefest next Memorial Day. Following a rash of violence this year that left three dead, Myrtle Beach is proposing a 40-mile, one-way traffic loop to keep bikers from causing traffic congestion.

Island Packet: Hargray gives town \$275,000 for roads near future USCB campus

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/09/30/3344382/hargray-gives-town-275000-for.html?sp=/99/257/266/>

Dan Burley

The Town of Hilton Head Island has accepted \$275,000 from Hargray Communications to pay for road work near the future University of South Carolina Beaufort campus. In a unanimous vote Tuesday, Town Council approved the grant from Hargray. The grant is part of the S.C. Rural Development Act program.

Florence Morning News: Economic development stalls in Dillon County

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_70276890-482d-11e4-a725-001a4bcf6878.html

John Russell

The Dillon County Council held a special called meeting Monday to hear public comment and read two ordinances, all aimed at attracting a new company to build in the county. Both ordinances, in their third reading, were tabled until further notice.

National News:

Washington Post: Only 36 percent of Democratic candidates have expressed support for Obamacare

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2014/09/30/only-36-percent-of-democratic-candidates-have-expressed-support-for-obamacare/>

Aaron Blake

According to an extensive new research paper from the Brookings Institution's Elaine C. Kamarck and Alexander R. Podkul, only 36 percent of Democrats running for Congress this year have expressed a position in support of Obamacare.

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