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To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Tuesday, March 11, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: SC Republicans ask Haley to help keep MOX open

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=QrqLi0R5

Meg Kinnard

Several Republicans have asked South Carolina's governor to explore possible legal action to avoid the closure of a multi-billion dollar project to turn weapons-grade plutonium into commercial nuclear reactor fuel. In a letter obtained by The Associated Press, U.S. Sens. Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott and U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson implored Gov. Nikki Haley to work with state prosecutors to "explore any legal avenues" to keep the mixed-oxide fuel project going at the Savannah River Site.

Aiken Standard: Congressmen ask Haley to take legal action for MOX

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140311/AIK0101/140319910/1004/congressmen-ask-haley-to-take-legal-action-for-mox>

Derrek Asberry

Members of South Carolina's congressional delegation submitted a letter to Gov. Nikki Haley asking her to take legal action to continue construction of the MOX facility at the Savannah River Site. In a letter dated March 7, U.S. Sens. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., Tim Scott, R-S.C. and U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C. requested that the governor work with the state's attorney general on the issue.

Associated Press: House votes to put DJJ in charge of special school

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=yfPt8yMM

Seanna Adcox

The state Department of Juvenile Justice would take charge of a public residential school for students with behavior problems, under a budget measure approved Tuesday by the South Carolina House. The House voted to give administrative oversight of John de la Howe School in McCormick to the Cabinet agency.

Note: "It is imperative that we remain focused on providing for the educational and therapeutic needs of all the children who attend," Haley wrote in a letter to Bingham, dated last Wednesday. "This type of intervention is necessary in order for these children to receive the services they need and to make it possible for the John de la Howe School to regain the respect it once so richly deserved."

Anderson Independent: S.C. House Republicans rebuff Democratic budget proposals

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/mar/11/sc-house-republicans-rebuff-democratic-budget-prop/?partner=RSS>

The Republican majority in the South Carolina House of Representatives voted Tuesday morning to rebuff Democratic proposals to boost aid to counties and cities and dramatically increase public education funding.

Note: The House budget does include money for several education initiatives proposed by Republican Gov. Nikki Haley, including \$30 million to hire elementary school reading coaches, another \$30 million in lottery proceeds for technology improvements and \$17.7 in new funding for charter schools.

Legislative Session News:

Greenville News: Lawmakers look to expand mental health courts

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140311/NEWS06/303110016/Lawmakers-look-expand-mental-health-courts>

Tim Smith

Some state lawmakers are looking favorably at the idea of expanding mental health courts in the state as a tool to divert mentally ill defendants from jails or prisons where they cost taxpayers millions of dollars to house and don't receive the treatment they need before their release. The state currently operates mental

health courts in Greenville, Columbia and Charleston, offering those suffering mental illness a chance to avoid jail or prison time.

Associated Press: Democrats say SC not meeting education obligation

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=741WHUwO

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina Democrats say the budget plan being debated on the House floor is \$537 million short of meeting a state funding formula for education. The budget plan for 2014-15 would provide more than \$170 million additional to K-12 public education next school year. But Rep. James Smith says that's still far from where it's supposed to be.

The State: Proposal to hold \$1 million from colleges until they teach Constitution, ban pornography in classes withdrawn

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/11/3319264/state-house-proposal-to-make-colleges.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Colleges will get to keep a little extra cash after a state lawmaker withdrew his proposal Tuesday that would have allowed the state to hang onto \$1 million from each public college until they ban using "pornographic content" in classes and start teaching the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Florence Morning News: Sen. McGill files bill to establish Public Safety Sales Tax Act

http://www.scnw.com/news/local/article_312ce8d4-a95b-11e3-90a3-0017a43b2370.html

Christopher McKagen

S.C. Sen. J. Yancey McGill, officially filed a bill March 4 in the Senate seeking to establish the Public Safety Sales Tax Act. The bill moves forward with a proposal by public safety agencies in Williamsburg County to develop a means for funding new public safety personnel through a one-cent sales tax.

The State: House rejects fully funding at state-recommended levels

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/11/3318883/state-house-house-rejects-fully.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

The House rejected an amendment that would have taken \$537 million from other parts of the \$24 billion state budget to fully fund education at state-recommended levels. S.C. budget officials have set \$2,742 as the standard next year. The state is poised to fund education at \$2,120 per student -- or 22 percent below the state standard.

The State: House votes to move state school for at-risk youth under Department of Juvenile Justice

http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/11/3319031/state-house-house-votes-to-move.html#eml=The_Buzz_on_SC_politics#storylink=cpy

Jamie Self

The state House voted Tuesday to move administrative oversight of a troubled state school for at-risk youth under the state Department of Juvenile Justice. The John De La Howe School, located in McCormick, recently underwent a review from the S.C. Inspector General's office, after stakeholders alleged the school was experiencing management problems and mission drift.

Island Packet: Local supporters endorse more protections for heirs property owners

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/03/11/2994966/local-supporters-endorse-more.html#storylink=cpy>

Zach Murdock

A bill before state lawmakers could offer better protection for Beaufort County heirs property owners, who are sometimes bullied out of ownership by third parties, according to local leaders. The new protections would give families and judges handling the sale of heirs property a better chance to either hang on to the property or fetch a fair-market price at a sale, state Sen. Tom Davis said.

Times and Democrat: Ott: State owes more to counties

http://thetandd.com/news/ott-state-owes-more-to-counties/article_07109a9a-a8d5-11e3-a39f-0019bb2963f4.html

Martha Rose Brown

State Rep. Russell Ott says South Carolina should fulfill its obligation to local governments. The Local Government Fund, "is a promise that was made to the counties," the St. Matthews Democrat said Monday. But Calhoun County could get \$200,000 less than it's supposed to from the fund this year.

Associated Press: SC House guarantees right to hand out Constitution

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=YpEOy0Vp

House members want to guarantee students' right to distribute the Constitution on college campuses, though there's no example in South Carolina of anyone being stopped from doing so. The House voted 84-29 on Tuesday to bar public colleges from restricting anyone's ability to distribute copies of the U.S. or state constitutions on campus, as long as it doesn't disrupt class.

Associated Press: 12 ticketed in 2nd week of SC Statehouse protests

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=OyvKnp5S

Jeffrey Collins

Twelve people were written tickets as protesters angry at South Carolina's decision to reject federal money to expand Medicaid blocked an entrance to the Statehouse garage for a second week. This week, Columbia Police were much more organized for the Truthful Tuesday protesters.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Feds release new 'Obamacare' enrollment data for South Carolina

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140311/PC1610/140319860/1177/feds-release-new-obamacare-enrollment-data-for-south-carolina>

Lauren Sausser

With two-and-a-half weeks left before the Affordable Care Act's first open enrollment period ends, the federal government said Tuesday that 4.2 million Americans have signed up for coverage under the health care law. Some of them have begun paying for their insurance policies and some have not, according to a new report published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Associated Press: 56,000 in SC sign up for health care under new law

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ljm035OZ

About half of the nearly 56,000 people who have signed up in South Carolina for health insurance under the new health care law supported by President Barack Obama are 45 years old or older. The Obama administration Tuesday released age and gender breakdowns of the people who have enrolled in government-subsidized private insurance by the end of February.

Local News:

Greenville News: Dropout rate falling in Greenville County Schools

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140311/NEWS04/303110010/Dropout-rate-falling-Greenville-County-Schools>

Ron Barnett

It's getting harder to drop out of high school these days in Greenville County. For one thing, if you do, you're going to hear from Drew Perry. He's the district's dropout intervention specialist, and he makes house calls. Between Oct. 1, 2012, and Sept. 30, 2013, he made 659 of them. He also made 1,106 phone calls to dropouts, met at schools with students who were threatening to quit 280 times and sent out 437 letters and information packets.

National News:

Washington Post: House Republicans slam Lois Lerner in report on IRS targeting

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/federal-eye/wp/2014/03/11/house-republicans-slam-lois-lerner-in-report-on-irs-targeting/>

Josh Hicks

A top House Republican on Tuesday released a scathing report on Lois Lerner's involvement in the Internal Revenue Service's scrutiny of advocacy groups, accusing the former IRS official of trying to crack down on conservative nonprofit organizations that have grown increasingly influential in recent elections.

Associated Press: Steady health care sign-ups may miss goal

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=BAEWBzvb

Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar

The Obama administration said Tuesday it's making steady progress on health care sign-ups, but the White House needs something close to a miracle to meet its goal of enrolling 6 million people by the end of this

month. It could happen with a sustained surge in consumer demand and a foolproof website. But they're not seeing it yet, and time is running out.

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