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To:
Date: 10/9/2013 8:01:06 AM
Subject: Morning Clips - Wednesday, October 9, 2013

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Florence Morning News: Governor declares emergency in Georgetown, appropriates funds

http://www.scnw.com/news/local/article_e770b3e0-3067-11e3-90d6-0019bb30f31a.html

Gov. Nikki Haley issued an executive order Tuesday declaring an emergency for the city and county of Georgetown regarding the Front Street fire that destroyed several historic buildings Sept. 25. The order will open up a funding stream for the city and county to make improvements to public property which was damaged by the fire. Up to \$1 million of Community Development Block Grant Program funds held by the South Carolina Department of Commerce could be available, which accounts for 10 percent of the non-obligated funds the department currently holds.

WBTW: Governor signs Emergency Declaration for Front Street Fire

<http://www.wbtw.com/story/23639734/governor-signs-emergency-declaration-for-front-street-fire>

Today, Governor Haley issued the attached executive order declaring an emergency for the city and county of Georgetown in relation to the Front Street fire that destroyed several historic buildings on September 25, 2013. The executive order will open up a funding stream for the city/county of Georgetown to make improvements to public property destroyed by the fire. Up to \$1 million of Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) funds held by the SC Dept. of Commerce could be available, which accounts for 10% of the unobligated funds held at this time. This is the first time a governor has ever utilized CDBG funds for emergency purposes.

Greenville News: Roding Technology joins international lineup at ICAR

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013310090007>

Woody White

German sports car manufacturer Roding Automobile said Tuesday it plans to put North American operations at Clemson University's International Center for Automotive Research in Greenville. The 6-year-old Bavarian company powers its lightweight carbon fiber chassis with BMW's straight 6 cylinder turbo engine, which MotorTrend says hits 62 mph in 3.9 seconds. Roding said it plans to put at least five employees at Roding Technology North America and sees its ICAR initiative as the first step that may ultimately lead to a manufacturing plant in the Southeast.

Note: "South Carolina's automotive industry supports thousands of jobs in the Upstate region and across the state and it's great to see that success continuing," said Gov. Nikki Haley.

Times and Democrat: Solicitors seek more money to tackle increasing case load

http://thetandd.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/solicitors-seek-more-money-to-tackle-increasing-case-load/article_c87d02e2-3097-11e3-9b1b-0019bb2963f4.html

Richard Walker

Worried that the violence of the 1990s may return, South Carolina prosecutors are asking for \$6.4 million in state funding to hire more attorneys to combat an increasing case docket. First Judicial Circuit Solicitor David Pascoe is heading up a commission that will make the request during a meeting with Gov. Nikki Haley on Wednesday. "The last decade has seen an increase in funding for the judiciary and the public defenders across the state, but a decrease in funding levels for many solicitor's offices," he said. "We are asking that the Governor's Office support an in-state funding for the solicitor's offices across the state."

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Greenville News: Let voters decide on 'roads-plus'

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131009/OPINION/310090005/Editorial-Let-voters-decide-roads-plus->

Editorial

Greenville County needs better roads, but our county also needs more sidewalks and accommodations for bicycles. This is a car-centric county by all means, but it also is one where children should be able to walk to school and couples should be able to take an evening walk without being in danger, and bicyclists should have a safe place to ride. A proposal is before Greenville County Council that would allow voters to decide if they would approve of temporarily raising the sales tax to pay for road and bridge improvements. Another version of the proposal would allow that sales tax to be extended at least a few more years to build sidewalks, walking paths and bicycle trails as well as fund the Greenlink bus system.

Aiken Standard: Lifting class size limits a misguided idea

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131009/AIK0201/131009510/1021/AIK0201/editorial-lifting-class-size-limits-a-misguided-idea>

Editorial

Research and common sense tells us that smaller class sizes foster a better learning environment for students. South Carolina has logically set caps on the student-to-teacher ratio in our public schools. However, a proposal by the S.C. Department of Education pushes for the elimination of those classroom-size restrictions. While resources are undoubtedly being stretched, and providing wiggle room to school districts can prove beneficial, teachers shouldn't feel pressure that they'll be significantly overloaded each school day. The class ceilings, which have been in place for years, help to protect the interests of students, teachers and other faculty. Peeling back those measures and effectively deregulating teacher workloads is thusly short sighted.

Times and Democrat: Holding to hard line is not what the nation needs

http://thetandd.com/news/holding-to-hard-line-is-not-what-the-nation-needs/article_65c34598-305c-11e3-8431-001a4bcf887a.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Nearing national default. OUR OPINION: Obligation of leaders is to find short-term accord and long-term fiscal solutions. With no real movement so far on ending the federal government shutdown and the statutory debt ceiling just around the corner, it looks like the two issues will become linked – with both tied to the larger issue of U.S. government indebtedness. The debt ceiling is due to be reached in the next couple of weeks. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew has informed lawmakers that the Treasury will exhaust the “extraordinary measures” delaying reaching the debt limit by Oct. 17.

Post and Courier: ‘A sign of leadership failure’

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131009/PC1002/131009434/1022/-x2018-a-sign-of-leadership-failure-x2019>

Editorial

President Barack Obama correctly warned again Tuesday that if Congress doesn't raise the debt ceiling within the next week, the U.S. economy will suffer a steep fall. Congress should respond accordingly to avert that outcome. When America's economy is endangered, so is the world's economy. Indeed, Chinese Vice Finance Minister Zhu Guang-yao said Monday: “We naturally are paying attention to financial deadlock in the U.S. and reasonably demand that the U.S. guarantee the safety of Chinese investment there.” That “Chinese investment” is more than \$1.2 trillion in U.S. Treasury notes.

Rock Hill Herald: Vote on government shutdown

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2013/10/08/5286880/vote-on-government-shutdown.html>

Editorial

Sensible Americans must hope that John Boehner at some point in the very near future will decide to risk his House speakership, putting the good of the nation ahead of his political ambitions. The government shutdown has been, at best, a non-winner for the Republican Party, at worst, a blunder that could cost them seats in the upcoming mid-term elections. It was a tactic to derail Obamacare that was destined to fail from the start, thwarted by the Senate's Democratic majority and President Barack Obama. Democrats, surprisingly united, have asserted again and again that they will not negotiate with Republicans about performing the essential function of funding government.

Post and Courier: Loftis, others, say S.C. pension managers' bonuses out of whack

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131009/PC16/131009446/1177/loftis-others-say-sc-pension-managers-x2019-bonuses-out-of-whack>

Brian Hicks

So 14 state employees split \$1.4 million in bonuses last week — for doing their jobs. And not doing them all that well, according to Treasurer Curtis Loftis and a whole lot of other South Carolina residents. The employees in question work for the Retirement System Investment Commission, where they manage the state's \$27 billion pension fund. For the fiscal year ending June 30, the portfolio made a 9.99 percent profit (after fees and expenses). It takes about a 7.5 percent return just to keep up with pension payouts, so apparently anything else is gravy.

South Carolina News:

The State: SC Senators Not Sold On Independent Ethics Panel

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/10/08/3027862/sc-senators-not-sold-on-independent.html>

Adam Beam

A panel of state senators said Tuesday they do not support changing the process of enforcing the state's ethics laws. The lawmakers met to hear public testimony on whether they should change the state's laws governing how much money politicians can raise for their campaigns, how they can spend it and who should hear allegations of unethical behavior against elected officials. The panel is the fifth different legislative committee to study ethics reform in the past year. The issue has received attention because of a series of scandals, including the resignation of the state's lieutenant governor and a Charleston state senator as well as unprecedented investigations of a sitting governor and S.C. House speaker.

The State: SC Educators Fear Proposal To Lift Cap On Class Sizes

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=mFIPpT1o

Jamie Self

When fifth-grade teacher Lindsay Egloff had "28, 29, 30 students" in her class, she felt "overwhelmed." "As an educator, my biggest concern is meeting the students' needs," said Egloff, who works at Drayton Hall Elementary in Charleston County where she now has 24 students in a class. The "small-group instruction you want to provide as a teacher loses its focus when there are too many kids." Egloff and educator groups fear a state Department of Education proposal to eliminate caps on class sizes and teacher workloads is taking too far the department's goal of giving districts hiring flexibility.

The State: 350 Civilian Employees Of Shaw AFB Return To Work

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

Jade Anderson

The 350 civilians employed at Shaw Air Force Base returned to work Tuesday. "I can't speak for the entire base, but it's been nice having civilians back in our office," said 2nd Lt. Earon Brown, deputy chief of public affairs for the 20th Fighter Wing. "I appreciate people being understanding during the reduction of services." The men and women considered "nonessential to the base's defense mission" have been sent home during the Washington shutdown because of a lack of appropriated funds, according to a previous Item article. This meant some areas, such as the commissary and the customer service desk, were closed. Other sections, such as the Family Readiness Center, had to offer "limited services because only two military personnel are on site without their civilian counterparts," stated the article.

Greenville News: Prolonged shutdown would hurt student aid in S.C., according to report

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131008/NEWS/310080034/Prolonged-shutdown-would-hurt-student-aid-S-C-according-report>

Tim Smith

South Carolina ranks 19th among states in the impact on residents if the federal government's shutdown is prolonged, a website reported today. WalletHub, a personal financial social network, examined which states stand to be hit the hardest if the shutdown continues, looking at the number of federal employees, significant federal contracts, veterans, small businesses and senior citizens in each state. Virginia ranked first, followed by Alaska and Alabama, according to WalletHub. Georgia and North Carolina were ranked below South Carolina in the listing.

Associated Press: Government Shutdown Puts Stopper In SC Craft Beer Boom

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=e8YPaWRU

Jeff Wilkinson

Just when you thought the federal government shutdown couldn't get any worse, we learn this: It's messing with our beer supply. Columbia is on the cusp of a craft beer boom with three new breweries bubbling up southeast of the city around Williams-Brice Stadium. But the shutdown, now in its ninth day, threatens to cut

off the flow of new brews. It is pushing back the opening of two breweries – River Rat and Swamp Cabbage – and delaying bottling operations at the third, Conquest. “Our permits are just sitting on someone’s desk right now,” said Mike Tourville as he watched his tall, conical stainless steel fermenting tanks being installed in the new River Rat brewery at 1231 Shop Road.

Anderson Independent: Health-insurance websites working better but bugs remain, officials say
<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/oct/08/health-insurance-websites-working-better-but-say/>
Kirk Brown

The technical glitches that bedeviled the federal government’s health-insurance websites for the past week appear to be easing but have not disappeared. The website for South Carolina’s federal health-insurance exchange is “still buggy but it is getting better,” said Andrew Foland, a vice president with DECO Recovery Management who spoke at a meeting in Anderson on Tuesday night. DECO is one of three companies that have received grants totaling nearly \$2 million to provide South Carolina residents with information on the insurance exchange. U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius offered a similar assessment in an interview on the “Daily Show” earlier this week.

CNN: Mark Sanford: Furloughed workers should be working for back pay
<http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2013/10/08/mark-sanford-furloughed-workers-should-be-working-for-back-pay/>
Dan Merica

Republican Rep. Mark Sanford of South Carolina said Tuesday that despite the fact the federal government is partially shut down, workers should come back to work. “The handwriting is on the wall,” Sanford said on “Erin Burnett Out Front.” “Folks will get back-paid. If you are going to get back pay, you ought to be working for your pay.” He continued: “I had a TSA worker come to me back home and say, ‘I don’t think this is fair. I’m here as an essential employee. Others are basically getting a vacation while I’m here working this TSA lane in security.’” During a rare Saturday session on Capitol Hill, a bill that provides back pay for furloughed federal workers during the government shutdown unanimously passed the House.

Post and Courier: Proposed I-526 completion contract inches forward
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131008/PC16/131009445/1006/proposed-i-526-completion-contract-inches-forward>
Diane Knich

Charleston County’s proposed new contract for the completion of Interstate 526 includes two controversial items: It prevents the city of Charleston from weighing in on the project, and gives sole discretion on construction to the county. The next step for the extension of the Mark Clark Expressway across James and Johns islands involves updating the project’s three-party contract, known as an Intergovernmental Agreement. In the project’s initial \$420 million contract, Charleston County was the project’s sponsor, the DOT was responsible for building the road, and the S.C. Transportation Infrastructure Bank was responsible for paying for it.

Aiken Standard: DOE delays assessment of plutonium disposal options
<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131009/AIK0101/131009485/1007/AIK0101/doe-delays-assessment-of-plutonium-disposal-options>
Derrek Asberry

The Department of Energy’s assessment of plutonium disposal options will be delayed until at least mid-2014. The assessment was announced as part of the FY14 budget and is meant to review practical alternatives to the nation’s MOX program. The National Nuclear Security Administration – or NNSA – announced that a contract change notice on the final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for plutonium disposal options has been delayed until April 30, 2014. DOE currently lists the release of the document as being “under departmental review.” A press release by Friends of the Earth states that NNSA posted changes to the contract on Oct. 4. Changes include an extended deadline and increased fees to the contractor.

Post and Courier: State railroad division pays \$10 million for remaining Noisette properties on former Navy Base
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131008/PC16/131009456/1006/state-railroad-division-pays-10-million-for-remaining-noisette-properties-on-former-navy-base>
David Slade and Robert Behre

A \$10 million land purchase by South Carolina’s railway division marks the end of Noisette Company’s

fading plans to reimagine the former Navy Base as “the urban heart of the New American City” in North Charleston. Palmetto Railways, a division of the S.C. Department of Commerce, bought the remaining Noisette Co. properties Tuesday, having acquired the rest through foreclosure in 2010. The sale is the final nail in the coffin of Noisette Co. and the public-private venture Mayor Keith Summey and developer John Knott unveiled with great fanfare in 2001, aimed at turning the former base into a bustling residential and commercial center.

Aiken Standard: Sierra Club opposes S.C. bill dealing with solid waste disposal

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131009/AIK0101/131009480/1007/AIK0101/sierra-club-opposes-sc-bill-dealing-with-solid-waste-disposal>

Derrek Asberry

South Carolina Sierra Club lobbyist Benton Wislinski made a presentation on Tuesday night at Aiken Unitarian Universalist Church about the club's fight against a waste legislative bill that is currently being pushed in the General Assembly. Known as the “flow control” bill, the bill would override counties' authority to enact ordinances to restrict solid waste disposals at certain facilities. The presentation, “Saying 'NO' to Becoming a Waste Colony,” outlined the stakeholders' efforts to prevent out-of-state waste from entering South Carolina. “We're not against landfills,” Wislinski stated. “We're against private companies that bring out-of-state waste to our state. They have a financial interest in dumping in South Carolina, and we cannot allow that.”

Local News:

Greenville News: Lawmaker argues Upstate has been shorted in transportation funding

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131009/NEWS/310090008/Lawmaker-argues-Upstate-has-been-shorted-transportation-funding>

Tim Smith

A powerful state senator who also serves on the board that makes transportation loans is asking highway department officials to find the money to finish improving Interstate 85 to the North Carolina border, arguing that the Upstate has been shorted in transportation funding over the years. The request came after the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank delayed action on selecting which projects will receive funding as a result of this year's appropriation by lawmakers for road and bridge repairs. The Department of Transportation board had sent the bank a list of seven recommended projects to be funded using \$550 million in bonds made possible by \$50 million in legislative appropriations. Three of those projects concerned improvements along I-85.

The State: Columbia mayoral candidates clash during forum

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/10/08/3027146/baddourah-says-benajmin-wants.html>

Clif LeBlanc

Columbia's possible conversion to a strong-mayor form of government dominated separate candidate forums Tuesday in north Columbia among all nine people seeking to fill a majority of City Council. The 3 1/2-hour forum sponsored by the North Columbia Business Association and area neighborhood groups is one of the few attended by all candidates for City Council's four contested seats. Councilman Moe Baddourah, also a contender for the mayor's seat, again accused Mayor Steve Benjamin of pushing for a referendum – backed largely by business leaders – with short public notice to advance Benjamin's political career.

Times and Democrat: Empowering the elderly: Conference Oct. 18 aims to help seniors better understand Affordable Care Act

http://thetandd.com/lifestyles/health-med-fit/empowering-the-elderly-conference-oct-aims-to-help-seniors-better/article_ab7baa68-306a-11e3-b632-0019bb2963f4.html

Kimberlei Davis

The University of South Carolina's Arnold School for Public Health/Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities will partner with the Senior Companion Program of OCAB's Community Action Agency in a one-day Senior Conference. The free event for adults 50 and older will be held from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18, at Edisto Fork United Methodist Church. The collaborative venture will offer seniors the opportunity to obtain a better understanding of the Affordable Care Act and its new Federal Health Insurance Marketplace; how to access family and senior support services offered by AARP; and understand benefits offered through the Veterans Administration.

Post and Courier: Charleston bans texting while driving

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131008/PC16/131009426/1006/texting-while-driving-banned-in-charleston>

Schuyler Kropf

No more texting behind the wheel is allowed in the city of Charleston. But don't expect violators to start getting tickets immediately. The ban passed by City Council on Tuesday will need time to be advertised to drivers, officials say, along with an education period about what's expected once they're on city streets. Police Chief Greg Mullen said the plan now is to operate for the next 30 days by putting up signs, movable message boards and other media. After that will come about 30 days of enforcement through warnings. Then, a strict crackdown will kick in with tickets of \$100 — sometime in December.

Florence Morning News: Widening Route 378 moves to bidding phase

http://www.scnw.com/news/politics/article_c9ed4a44-306d-11e3-8572-001a4bcf6878.html

Gavin Jackson

Permits for the widening of Route 378 near Lake City have received the green light and part of the project, which had a lengthy permitting process, is already being bid out by the South Carolina Department of Transportation. The 18-mile segment of Route 378 from the intersection of Lois Street, northeast of Lake City, to S.C. 41/S.C. 51 (Kingsburg Highway) in Kingsburg received approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Sept. 30, triggering the long-awaited bidding process and putting into motion the first two phases of this project and two other road projects that were part of Florence County's penny sales tax approved by voters in 2006.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: County council to hear health insurance options and 911 communications investigation

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20131008/ARTICLES/310081015/1083/ARTICLES?Title=County-council-to-hear-health-insurance-options-and-911-communications-investigation>

Felicia Kitzmiller

Spartanburg County Council will hear their options for health insurance and the findings of an investigation into the 911 Communications department during a called meeting 9 a.m. Thursday in county council chambers. After a tense showdown during the budget process, county council voted to scrap their current health plan and join the state system. This was supposed to avoid large premium increases for the county's 1,400 employees. Councilman David Britt said the switch would save about \$1 million, but it was later discovered the costs could increase dramatically in the second year.

National News:

Time: Time Running Out for Obamacare Fixes

<http://nation.time.com/2013/10/09/time-running-out-for-obamacare-fixes/>

Kate Pickert

They have one month. If the officials running the new Affordable Care Act insurance exchanges cannot fix crippling computer glitches by then, the health law's future could be imperiled, according to a former high-ranking health care official. "By November—certainly the middle of November—the sites have to be able to handle major traffic for people to be able to set up accounts and purchase coverage," says Joel Ario, who served as director of the Office of Health Insurance Exchanges at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) from August 2010 to September 2011.

New York Times: Many in G.O.P. Offer Theory: Default Wouldn't Be That Bad

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/09/us/politics/many-in-gop-offer-theory-default-wouldnt-be-that-bad.html?ref=todayspaper&_r=0

Jonathan Weisman

Senator Richard Burr, Republican of North Carolina, a reliable friend of business on Capitol Hill and no one's idea of a bomb thrower, isn't buying the apocalyptic warnings that a default on United States government debt would lead to a global economic cataclysm. As President Obama steps up his declarations about the dire consequences of not raising the debt limit, increasing numbers of Congressional Republicans are disputing that forecast, as well as the timing of when the Treasury might run out of money and the implications of a default, further complicating the negotiating situation for both Mr. Obama and Speaker John A. Boehner, who must find a way out of the impasse.

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