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To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, July 9, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Roller bearing firm to create 50 jobs in SC

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=3X8Gi5tA

An Italian company that makes roller bearings plans to open a plant in Colleton County, creating 50 jobs over the next five years. The state commerce department and Gov. Nikki Haley's office announced the new plant Wednesday. Production is expected to begin in September 2015.

Post and Courier: Italian roller bearing firm to create 50 jobs in Walterboro

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140709/PC05/140709404/1177/italian-roller-bearing-firm-to-create-50-jobs-in-walterboro>

Warren L. Wise

An Italy-based maker of roller bearings plans to open its first U.S. manufacturing plant in Colleton County, creating 50 jobs over the next five years. Meter Bearings Group of Torino will open a 48,000-square-foot factory in Walterboro in a \$4.5 million investment, the governor's office and state Commerce Department announced Wednesday.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley said it will provide "a real boost" to the rural area, and state Commerce officials hailed the announcement as another indication of foreign firms selecting the Palmetto State to set up shop.

Times and Democrat: Belk to expand Union County Distribution Center

http://thetandd.com/business/belk-to-expand-union-county-distribution-center/article_1fdeccff0-0772-11e4-83ad-0019bb2963f4.html

Department store retailer Belk Inc. is expanding its Union County e-commerce distribution and fulfillment center operations for the second time since establishing there in mid-June 2012. The \$47 million investment will expand the facility footprint by 50 percent and add 20 new jobs, which will grow the company's Jonesville presence to 314 employees.

Note: "It's a great day in South Carolina as we celebrate Belk's decision to expand their Union County facility for the second time since 2012. We applaud them for bringing a combined investment of \$47 million and creating 20 new jobs." -Gov. Nikki Haley

Florence Morning News: Belk Inc. to expand Union County distribution center

http://www.scnow.com/article_6e465398-076d-11e4-9c3d-001a4bcf6878.html

Department store retailer Belk Inc. is expanding its Union County e-commerce distribution and fulfillment center operations for the second time since establishing there in mid-June 2012. The \$47 million investment will expand the facility footprint by 50 percent and add 20 new jobs.

Note: "It's a great day in South Carolina as we celebrate Belk's decision to expand their Union County facility for the second time since 2012. We applaud them for bringing a combined investment of \$47 million and creating 20 new jobs," said Gov. Nikki Haley.

Press and Standard: Meter Bearings to invest \$4.5 million, bring 50 jobs

http://www.colletontoday.com/news/meter-bearings-to-invest-million-bring-jobs-business-the-press/article_bffaede6-0797-11e4-bef6-001a4bcf887a.html

George Salsberry

Meter Bearings Group, a designer and producer of ball and cylindrical roller bearings, plans to establish its first United States manufacturing facility on Anderson Road in a prepared statement issued by the South Carolina Commerce Department.

Note: Gov. Haley said, "We are excited to see Meter Bearings Group establish their first U.S. manufacturing location in South Carolina." The governor added that Meter's decision to locate in Colleton County would also be a boost to the port in Charleston.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Belk announces second expansion at Union County facility
<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140709/ARTICLES/140709693/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Belk-announces-second-expansion-at-Union-County-facility>

Belk, Inc. is expanding its Union County e-commerce distribution and fulfillment center operations for the second time since opening in June 2012, the governor's office announced Wednesday. The \$47 million investment will expand the facility by 50 percent and add 20 new jobs, which will grow the company's Jonesville presence to 314 employees, a news release states.

Press and Standard: Artisan Center hopes to use new state funding for upgrades
http://www.colletontoday.com/news/artisan-center-hopes-to-use-new-state-funding-for-upgrades/article_22424b38-0771-11e4-b316-001a4bcf887a.html

George Salsberry

The South Carolina Artisans Center needed a few friends in high place to secure a state grant to make physical repairs to the facility. Gale Doggette, the center's executive director, called the vote to secure the state funds "a roller coaster ride like you would not believe."

Note: The roller coaster ride began when Gov. Nikki Haley vetoed the bill that would have given the artisans center \$50,000 to handle the repairs and renovation needed to make the center more attractive and user friendly.

Associated Press: Panel maintains pay for interim Winthrop leader
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=cXrCRQec

Seanna Adcox

A state panel decided Wednesday that Winthrop University's interim president should continue to receive her current salary.

Note: Also on Wednesday, the Agency Head Salary Commission approved a \$153,000 salary for the Revenue Department's incoming director, as requested by Gov. Nikki Haley's office.

Note: Reames is set to become interim director July 18, when Bill Blume retires. Haley appointed Blume to take the Cabinet agency's helm in January 2013 following a massive hacking of taxpayers' personal data.

WBTW: Gunmaker PTR lays off workers, cuts wages in Horry County
<http://www.wbtw.com/story/25975284/ptr-layoffs-cut-wages-only-a-temporary-setback>

Meghan Miller

Soft market conditions in the country's gun industry has prompted PTR Industries to recently lay off eight full-time workers, company officials confirmed Wednesday.

Note: Just last week, Governor Nikki Haley toured the facility and received a commemorative South Carolina gun made at PTR Industries.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Greenville News: Ervin says he'd raise gas tax to fix roads
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2014/07/09/gov-candidate-tom-ervin-raise-gas-tax-fix-roads/12412333/>

Rudolph Bell

Distinguishing himself from his Republican and Democratic rivals, independent gubernatorial candidate Tom Ervin is unequivocally saying an increase in the state gasoline tax will be part of his upcoming plan to fix South Carolina's crumbling roads and bridges.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Greenville News: Ethics reform remains a top need
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2014/07/09/editorial-ethics-reform-remains-top-need/12418711/>

Editorial

It is beginning to sound like a broken record to say year after year that the General Assembly failed to pass an ethics reform bill, but once again this year South Carolina legislators have refused to hold themselves accountable for their own actions.

The State: The Obama-Haley-Harrell approach to road funding

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/09/3555085/the-obama-haley-harrell-approach.html?sp=/99/168/>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

Somehow I hadn't managed to pay any attention to President Obama's \$302 billion plan to shore up the federal Highway Trust Fund until I read Cynthia Roldan's article in The Post and Courier about all the angst S.C. officials have over the pending bankruptcy of said fund.

Speaker Harrell Investigation:

Post and Courier: Court rules in favor of Attorney General Alan Wilson in Bobby Harrell dispute

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140709/PC1603/140709371/1177>

Schuyler Kropf

The S.C. Supreme Court has ruled in favor of Attorney General Alan Wilson, saying he does have the power to continue his grand jury investigation of House Speaker Bobby Harrell.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Time: Export-Import Bank Wins Enough GOP Support for Passage

<http://time.com/2969891/export-import-bank-congress-republicans/>

Alex Rogers

An obscure government bank loathed by conservatives but backed by business now has enough Republican support to win reauthorization before it expires this fall, according to a TIME vote count.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: The state's crumbling roads problem

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140709/PC1603/140709424/1031>

Cynthia Roldan

SCDOT needs \$48.3 billion for repairs and maintenance during the next 20 years. The state estimates it'll only have about \$19 billion, which means they'll have a \$29 billion shortfall. The state would have to allocate just under an additional \$1.5 billion a year to meet the roads' demands.

Greenville News: Pickens Sen. Larry Martin to push for open government

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2014/07/09/pickens-sen-larry-martin-push-open-government/12374947/>

Rudolph Bell

A highly placed state senator from Pickens says he plans to scrutinize a recent state Supreme Court ruling that allows public bodies to change their meeting agendas at the spur of the moment.

Associated Press: IG Report: SC State diverting money to foundations

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6LrNtfFN

South Carolina's inspector general says financially struggling South Carolina State University should stop diverting millions of dollars to school foundations. The State newspaper reported Wednesday (<http://bit.ly/1oj40Vo>) that the historically black school sent \$2.3 million in rebates from contract vendors to a pair of school foundations in recent years.

Rock Hill Herald: SC panel: Winthrop's interim president can keep current salary

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/07/08/6124779/state-commission-to-rule-on-winthrop.html>

Anna Douglas

The S.C. Agency Head Salary Commission in Columbia unanimously approved this morning Winthrop's request that Provost Debra Boyd retain her salary although the annual pay exceeds the base pay level the commission has set for the university's agency head.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Business incubator to open location in downtown Summerville

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140709/PC05/140709406/1382&source=speed>

Tyrone Richardson

The Harbor Entrepreneur Center is planning to open a location in downtown Summerville, the first expansion from the nonprofit's location in Mount Pleasant. The new center will be housed adjacent in the

Greater Summerville/Dorchester County Chamber of Commerce building on Main Street, officials announced this morning.

Greenville News: More people choosing to rent than own

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2014/07/08/greenville-area-residents-choosing-apartments-homes/12391875/>

Angelia Davis

Just after the national homeownership rate fell to a historic low, the apartment market soared to new highs. The homeownership rate in first quarter of 2014 was 64.8 percent, its lowest in 19 years, according to U.S. Census statistics.

National News:

Associated Press: Senate OKs San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro as housing secretary

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140709/PC1603/140709387/1031&source=spreed>

The Senate easily confirmed San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro on Wednesday to head the Department of Housing and Urban Development, boosting the national profile of a Democrat with a compelling biography who's considered a vice presidential contender in 2016.

Brian Symmes

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