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Subject: Clips – Saturday, July 26, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Greenville News (Guest Column): Gov. Haley: Progress made but there's more work to do
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/contributors/2014/07/26/gov-haley-progress-made-work/13191389/>

Governor Nikki Haley

Oddly enough, campaign season can sometimes bring constructive bipartisan political agreements. After a year of bringing together teachers, school administrators, parents and other education stakeholders, I put forth an education reform plan in January that expanded funding and improved critical focus on reading in early grades.

The State: Haley says 'yes' to more child-welfare workers
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/25/3584525/haley-says-yes-to-202-more-child.html>

Jamie Self

Gov. Nikki Haley will back the state Department of Social Services' request for 202 more child-welfare workers that the agency says it needs to lower caseloads to manageable levels, her spokesman said Friday.

Note: "While the coming year's budget process is still in its early stages, this effort is a major priority," Haley spokesman Doug Mayer wrote in an email to The State.

Note: Mayer said Haley will work with Social Services on its request for support "to ensure the aggressive caseload goals they set are achieved. ... Establishing the appropriate caseload recommendations is an issue across the country right now and why (Social Services) began establishing this new methodology a year ago."

Aiken Standard: DOE official: MOX is 'preferred solution'
<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140726/AIK0101/140729537/1004/doe-official-mox-is-preferred-solution>

Derrek Asberry

A high-ranking official in the Energy Department said the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication facility, or MOX, under construction at the Savannah River Site is the "preferred solution" to dispose of weapons-grade plutonium if sustained funding is available over time, despite the federal government's efforts to place the project in a cold stand-by.

Note: The project will likely be the main topic of discussion during Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz's visit to the Site. Moniz and Gov. Nikki Haley will be touring the MOX and other facilities Monday morning.

Associated Press: Gov. Haley: Immigration situation 'just wrong'
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6b93h5gl

Gov. Nikki Haley said it's wrong for the federal government to expect states to accept unattended children who are illegally crossing the U.S.-Mexico border while providing no information on them.

Note: "We've got our foster children in every one of our states and we are trying to balance a budget," she said. "And because they won't do the one basic thing of securing our border, we are now taking on additional children. It's just wrong. It's wrong. And when we ask who these children are or where they are, Secretary Johnson said we can't tell you because of privacy issues."

Note: "Now that we know there are some children being placed with sponsors in South Carolina, we will work with Homeland Security, understand our options, and make sure that we are doing everything we can to protect our state," said Haley spokesman Doug Mayer.

The State: Haley: 350 youth in SC from US border crisis will cost state
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/25/3583701/haley-350-youth-in-sc-from-us.html#storylink=cpy>
Jamie Self

Federal authorities will not reveal details about the 350 immigrant children taken into custody at the U.S. border who have been placed with sponsors in South Carolina, Gov. Nikki Haley's office said Friday. But Haley said the children surely will come with a cost to the state.

Note: "Now that we know there are some children being placed with sponsors in South Carolina, we will work with Homeland Security, understand our options, and make sure that we are doing everything we can to protect our state," Haley spokesman Doug Mayer said.

WSPA: 350 immigrant children caught at border sent to South Carolina

<http://www.wbtw.com/story/26117882/350-immigrant-children-caught-at-border-sent-to-south-carolina>

Robert Kittle

350 children caught at the U.S. border with Mexico were sent to live in South Carolina between January 1st and July 7th of this year, according to federal officials. They're now living with relatives or sponsor families. More than 30,000 unaccompanied children caught at the border have been sent to relatives or sponsors nationwide.

Note: Gov. Haley's office issued a statement, saying, "Governor Haley was assured by the Homeland Security Secretary that South Carolina was not being used as a mass sheltering location for these children, and we are not. The governor intends to stay in close working contact with the secretary to make sure that does not change. Now that we know there are some children being placed with sponsors in South Carolina, we will work with Homeland Security, understand our options, and make sure that we are doing everything we can to protect our state. Ultimately, though, the humanitarian crisis on the border with Mexico will not be solved until the federal government secures the border and puts in place sensible immigration policies. The lack of leadership from the President on this crisis is as disappointing as it is astounding."

Sun News: Gov. Nikki Haley to meet with Atlantic Beach officials about Bike Fest

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/07/25/4374777/gov-nikki-haley-to-meet-with-atlantic.html?sp=/99/209/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Amanda Kelley

Nearly two months after saying Atlantic Beach Bikefest must end following three fatalities during the Memorial Day event, Gov. Nikki Haley will sit down to talk to officials in the beach town. Atlantic Beach Town Council and Haley are expected to meet during a special meeting at 10 a.m. Tuesday at the town's community center, said Town Manager William Booker.

Note: Doug Mayer, spokesman for Haley, confirmed the meeting and said the governor will answer media questions after the discussion.

Post and Courier: S.C. congressmen concerned about painkiller prescriptions at VA hospitals

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140725/PC16/140729487/1177/sc-congressmen-concerned-about-painkiller-prescriptions-at-va-hospitals>

Lauren Sausser

Some of South Carolina's conservative congressional leaders are worried that VA hospitals in Charleston, Columbia and Augusta have become some of the largest "pill mills" in the country. In a letter sent to Acting VA Secretary Sloan Gibson on Friday, seven Republican lawmakers outlined their concerns about "the dramatic increase in opioid prescriptions provided to our veterans at VA medical facilities."

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley's Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Council is expected to publish a statewide plan of action by Oct. 1.

The Item: Pain specialist works with council, public to prevent abuse

<http://www.theitem.com/stories/pain-specialist-works-with-council-public-to-prevent-abuse,228583>

Jade Reynolds

Dr. Todd Warrick, the medical director of Tuomey Healthcare System's Pain Treatment Center, is one of the clinical advisers for Gov. Nikki Haley's Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Council. The council last met on July 14 and will meet again Aug. 15. Warrick has been in practice as a board-certified pain specialist for seven years.

S.C. Political News:

Associated Press: SC Democrats busy just 100 days before election

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=lcRq3oGj

State Democratic Party Chairman Jaime Harrison said volunteers will gather at the party headquarters in Columbia on Saturday morning to hear from him, gubernatorial candidate Vincent Sheheen, lieutenant

governor candidate Bakari Sellers and others about the party's message and the need for change.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Sun News: Off-shore wind power development vital for future

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/07/26/4372622/editorial-off-shore-wind-power.html?sp=/99/158/>
Editorial

The North Shore Wind Team may not be well-known to Grand Strand residents, but the team has done significant work to foster the development of ocean winds as a source of energy. In September, the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is slated to identify the offshore sites available for wind power turbine towers.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Seneca Journal: Scott 'leaning' toward supporting McDonald for VA

<https://upstatetoday.com/2014/07/scott-%E2%80%99leaning%E2%80%99-toward-supporting-mcdonald-for-va/>

Norman Cannada

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott said this week he is "leaning" toward supporting President Barack Obama's nominee Robert McDonald to head the Department of Veterans Affairs after meeting McDonald this week. McDonald was unanimously approved by the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on Wednesday, but his nomination must be confirmed by the full Senate before it adjourns for its August recess on July 31.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Palmetto Politics Poll issues: online gambling, taxes and marijuana

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140725/PC1603/140729513/1177>

Cynthia Roldan, Jeremy Borden

South Carolinians let their conservative colors fly when asked about taxes and gambling in a new Palmetto Politics poll. A poll of 1,000 of the state's likely voters asked if they supported or opposed three issues that have been raised by the legislature in Columbia: the legalization of online gambling and medical marijuana, and increasing the sales tax in favor of eliminating the income tax.

WCIV: Poll: Medical marijuana legalization has support of SC voters

<http://www.abcnews4.com/story/26115327/poll-medical-marijuana-legalization-has-support-of-sc-voters>

There is widespread support among South Carolina voters to legalize marijuana for medical uses. That's according to data from a recent ABC News 4/Post and Courier poll. When asked if marijuana should be legalized for medical purposes, voters across party lines, age, race, gender, ideology, and geography supported the measure.

The State: SC ranks among best at improving hospital readmission rate

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/25/3584536/sc-ranks-among-best-at-improving.html>

Joey Holleman

South Carolina had the ninth best improvement among states in preventing patients from quickly returning to hospitals in 2012-2013, an indication of the success of a partnership aimed at attacking that problem. A statewide effort helped reduce the rate of patients returning to hospitals within 30 days by 15 percent in 2012 and 2013, according to Medicare claims data.

Greenville News: Stone Brewing says no to S.C., looks at 2 other states

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/life/food/beer/2014/07/25/stone-brewing-coming-sc/13182093/>

Eric Connor

Stone Brewing won't be coming to South Carolina and instead has shifted its focus to Ohio and Virginia, officials said today. The San Diego brewery — the nation's 10th-largest — notified the state Department of Commerce that South Carolina is no longer a candidate, department spokeswoman Allison Skipper told The Greenville News today.

Post and Courier: Episcopal schism trial ends with testimony from breakaway bishop

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140725/PC16/140729525/1177>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

Bishop Mark Lawrence testified on Friday that he continued to act as bishop of South Carolina, including signing legal documents and celebrating church sacraments, after being removed from his ministerial duties by the national church.

Associated Press: Testimony in SC Episcopal break winds up

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

Bruce Smith

The bishop of the Diocese of South Carolina testified Friday that he never originally intended to split with the national Episcopal Church as a three week-trial stemming from the acrimonious division came to a close. The bishop for the state's parishes that are remaining with the national church, meanwhile, said he was praying for reconciliation.

Local News:

Aiken Standard: Aiken coroner agrees with Supreme Court on autopsy reports

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140726/AIK0101/140729530/1007/AIK0101/aiken-coroner-agrees-with-supreme-court-on-autopsy-reports>

Teddy Kulmala

The S.C. Supreme Court decided last week that autopsy reports are not considered public records and therefore not subject to the state's Freedom of Information Act, a decision Aiken County Coroner Tim Carlton said he agrees with.

The State: Report: Gold mine means 1,100 acres of wetlands will be dug up, destroyed or disturbed

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/25/3583537/report-gold-mine-means-1100-acres.html?sp=/99/132/#storylink=cpy>

Sammy Fretwell

The federal government has completed its environmental review of what is touted to be the largest gold mine in the eastern United States and will use the information to make a final decision late this fall on the operation north of Camden.

Greenville News: Details emerge in Greenville deputy firings

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2014/07/25/details-emerge-greenville-deputy-firings/13192293/>

Lyn Riddle

A man who ran illegal gambling operations for more than two decades in Greenville County provided information to the FBI that led to the firings of two Greenville County deputies, one of whom was the third ranking officer in the department.

Florence Morning News: Marion County firefighters receiving \$600,000 to upgrade radios

http://www.scnw.com/news/article_daf1b9fa-12bd-11e4-8e9c-001a4bcf6878.html

Naeem McFadden

Marion County fighters are replacing decades-old communications equipment officials said Wednesday thanks to a \$600,415 grant from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program. The grant will provide 131 portable radios and 52 mobile radios.

National News:

Associated Press: US plans wide seismic testing of Atlantic seabed

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=7nka2wCr

Wayne Parry

The federal government is planning to use sound blasting to conduct research on the ocean floor along most of the East Coast, using technology similar to that which spawned a court battle between environmentalists and researchers in New Jersey this summer.

New York Times: Ex-Obama Aide's Statements in 2012 Clash With Health Act Stance

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/26/us/politics/ex-obama-aides-statements-in-2012-clash-with-health-act-stance.html?_r=0

Robert pear, Peter Baker

A former adviser to the Obama administration on health policy made public statements in 2012 that undercut

arguments it is now making in court about the government's authority to subsidize insurance premiums. The adviser, Jonathan Gruber, a professor of economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said at a conference in 2012 that consumers could not obtain insurance subsidies under the health care law if they lived in states that refused to establish their own insurance exchanges.

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