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Subject: Morning Clips – Tuesday, July 22, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

WBTW: First SC bridge built using new money source opens

<http://www.wbtw.com/story/26075772/first-sc-bridge-built-using-new-money-source-opens>

Robert Kittle

The first bridge in South Carolina built using a new source of money is open to traffic, after a ribbon-cutting ceremony Monday. The bridge is on Jumping Branch Road near Blacksburg.

Note: We asked the governor's spokesman, Doug Mayer, why the governor is waiting until January to announce her plan. He didn't answer that directly, saying, "The \$1 billion infrastructure plan Governor Haley signed into law last year is doing big things for our state – helping us announce over 57,000 new jobs and bringing record numbers of businesses to South Carolina. Raising taxes, legalizing gambling, and secretly increasing fees simply aren't the kinds of ideas South Carolinians deserve, and why the governor will continue advocating for revenue neutral solutions that will get the job done without hurting our growing economy."

Post and Courier: Study: South Carolina treading water in educating, caring for children

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140722/PC1610/140729878>

Amanda Kerr

South Carolina continues to rank among the worst states in the country when it comes to the welfare of children, particularly in education, where students struggle with reading and math. Those are among findings in the latest annual report from Kids Count, a national effort by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to highlight the problems facing the nation's children and find solutions.

Note: Strompolis applauded Gov. Nikki Haley's efforts this year to increase state funding for education including \$30 million for reading coaches as well as a new state law that will expand kindergarten for 4-year-olds.

Greenville News: S.C. job picture distorted, expert says

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2014/07/21/job-openings-plentiful-greenville/12969661/>

David Dykes

State labor and supply data show there are almost as many job openings in Greenville County as there are unemployed people, suggesting there is work to be found but raising questions about job skills and worker training, economists said.

Note: During her recent tour of the Interstate 77 corridor to announce three separate projects for 7,100 new jobs and \$800 million in capital investment, Gov. Nikki Haley said she is proud of her economic development record, which includes an outspoken opposition to unions.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

The State: Sheheen: roads plan sets \$500 million annual goal

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/22/3577105/sheheen-roads-plan-would-set-500.html?sp=/99/132/>

Jamie Self

Raising the gasoline tax is not part of state Sen. Vincent Sheheen's plan for meeting the state's multi-billion dollar road needs. But having \$500 million on hand to spend in each budget year, most of that in a fund that lawmakers replenish annually, is what he envisions for addressing the state's crumbling roads and bridges, he said in an exclusive interview late Monday.

The State: Incumbent SC Sens. Graham, Scott millions ahead of November foes

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/21/3576536/incumbent-sc-sens-graham-scott.html>

Jamie Self

Republican U.S. Sens. Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott are millions ahead of their Democratic and third-party opponents heading into November's general election. Scott finished June with \$3.7 million in cash on hand for his campaign and Graham finished with \$2.7 million, according to federal campaign finance reports filed last week.

Island Packet: Thomas Ravenel launches political comeback on Lady's Island

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/07/21/3220567/beaufort-tea-party-to-host-thomas.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1>

Zach Murdock

U.S. Senate candidate Thomas Ravenel laughed off his nerves and leaned on history Monday to argue his case for drastically reducing the size of the federal government.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Index-Journal: Job picture good, work continues

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/Opinion/Opinion/Article/Job-picture-good--work-continues/8/154/26669>
Editorial

South Carolina is living up to its reputation as a state that can and will put its people to work, as evidenced by its continuing trend of besting the national unemployment rate, now for the third consecutive month. The state -- the nation in general -- has not always enjoyed this spate of low unemployment, but the signs of economic recovery are with us.

Post and Courier: Wrong-way energy choices

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140722/PC1002/140729866/1021>

Editorial

The Obama administration won't allow construction of the Keystone XL pipeline from Canada to the United States, citing environmental concerns. But it is willing to allow ocean drilling off the Atlantic coast - a risk to the environment and to the economic well-being of states like South Carolina that depend on coastal tourism.

The State: Haley's latest problem with the facts

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/21/3576379/editorial-haleys-latest-problem.html>

Editorial

As The Associated Press reports, the task force recommended eliminating fewer than 50 regulations. And as a result, the governor's Cabinet agencies have made 23 policy changes, and the Legislature has eliminated seven regulations. Which is to say that the actual reduction in regulations is precisely 1 percent of the number the governor is throwing around.

Aiken Standard: Grasping the legacy of a historic anniversary

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140722/AIK02/140729881/0/SEARCH&slid=1>

Michael Ulmer

Last week marked the 30th anniversary of Geraldine Ferraro becoming the first woman to be named a vice presidential nominee on a major party ticket.

Note: More women are also now in leadership roles in the U.S. House and Senate, and five women currently serve as governors of states, including here in South Carolina with Republican Gov. Nikki Haley.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Anderson Independent: Ceremony to honor Vietnam-era vets

http://www.independentmail.com/news/local-news/ceremony-to-honor-vietnamera-vets_49070115

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott will host a ceremony Aug. 2 in Columbia to honor South Carolina's Vietnam War-era veterans. The ceremony begins at 10 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Columbia, 1306 Hampton St. The event is free and is open to the public.

South Carolina News:

The State: Study: SC still ranked 45th for child well-being

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/22/3576849/study-sc-still-ranked-45th-for.html>

Jamie Self

South Carolina ranked 45th in the nation in child well-being for the second year in a row as many Palmetto State children continue to face high poverty rates and to struggle in reading and math. The Annie E. Casey Foundation released its annual Kids Count report Tuesday, ranking each state's child well-being in four areas: economic well-being, education, health and family, and community.

Greenville News: 2 reasons keep S.C. kids near bottom in well being

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/07/21/sc-trails-kids-kids/12978851/>

Ron Barnett

South Carolina remained stuck in 45th place in the nation in the well-being of its children in the annual Kids Count report, with poverty and education being the main factors that kept the state five spots from the bottom for the second year in a row.

The State: USC pharmacy research earns \$11.3 million federal grant

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/21/3575667/usc-pharmacy-research-earns-113.html>

Joey Holleman

An \$11.3 million federal grant announced Monday will help establish a research center at the University of South Carolina for work on a new form of drugs to attack major diseases on the molecular level.

Post and Courier: Where's the water? River level drops spur concern

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140721/PC1610/140729879/1382&source=spreed>

Bo Petersen

Despite the rain this year, the rivers have been down - a few spots nearly to still water. Fish are dying. It's like a throwback to the drought years of the last decade. The Edisto River, for example, is only reading about three feet deep at Givhans Ferry, some seven feet below what would be considered flood level.

Local News:

The State: Pinson: Judge should overrule verdict or grant new trial

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/21/3576547/pinson-judge-should-overrule-verdict.html>

Clif LeBlanc

The former chairman of the S.C. State University board argues in a 28-page motion filed Friday that the jury's verdict is contradictory because Pinson was convicted July 3 on 29 counts of racketeering, kickbacks, money laundering and other offenses in four schemes but was acquitted on other counts that involved similar evidence.

Greenville News: 4th patient with GHS infection dies

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/07/21/fourth-patient-dies-hospital-infection-water-identified-source/12958379/>

Liv Osby

Tap water that staff used as they prepared for surgery is believed responsible for the bacteria that infected 15 patients at Greenville Memorial Hospital, officials said Monday, adding that a fourth patient has now died. Preliminary findings show that the infection, Mycobacterium abscessus, could not be traced to one piece of equipment or process as originally thought, officials said.

Associated Press: 4th Greenville patient with rare infection dies

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

A fourth patient at Greenville Memorial Hospital is dead from a rare infection that may have been spread by health workers using tap water before surgery. Greenville Health System medical quality director Dr. Robert Mobley Jr. said Monday the fourth patient died last week and all suffered complex medical conditions.

Associated Press: More space, rare books at Charleston library

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=FdCIEKf6

Not everyone is taking the summer off at the College of Charleston. Workers are busy renovating the college's Addlestone Library before students return for classes next month. When finished, the library will have more study spaces as 200 seats are added to the current 1,200.

The State: Suspended Blythewood attorney linked to massive health insurance scam

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/21/3576720/suspended-blythewood-attorney.html>

John Monk

A Richland County attorney who served on Blythewood Town Council has been linked to an alleged \$28 million health care embezzlement scheme that bilked more than 17,000 customers before authorities shut it down.

Anderson Independent: Oconee schools spending less than expected

http://www.independentmail.com/news/education/oconee-school-spending-less-than-expected_29183515

Ray Chandler

New numbers show the School District of Oconee County spent nearly \$500,000 less in the last fiscal year than officials budgeted. School administration reported the figures Monday at the monthly meeting of the School District of Oconee County Board of Trustees.

National News:

NPR: Rubio: U.S. Cannot Admit All Children Seeking Asylum

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/thetwo-way/2014/07/22/333767950/rubio-u-s-cannot-admit-all-children-seeking-asylum>

Alan Greenblatt

Sen. Marco Rubio argued that the nation's immigration laws need to be overhauled and said that Hillary Clinton would be a flawed candidate for president. The Florida Republican made his comments in the second half of a two-part interview with Morning Edition host Steve Inskeep on Tuesday.

Politico: RNC presses voters to 'fire Harry Reid'

<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/07/rnc-fire-harry-reid-2014-elections-109187.html>

Burgess Everett

In 2010 Republicans urged voters to "Fire Pelosi" and return the House to GOP control. Four years later, the GOP has a new target: Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. On Tuesday the Republican National Committee is launching a two-week robocall campaign hoping to nationalize Senate races across a slew of battleground states, arguing that each race will serve less as an individual contest and more as a referendum on the leadership of Reid.