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Subject: Morning Clips – Tuesday, July 15, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Greenville News (Video): KI Logistics hiring for new warehouse

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2014/07/14/haley-visit-new-ki-logistics-facility/12622515/>

Ron Barnett

Japanese company is looking for more than 150 people to work at its new warehouse and distribution facility at the Matrix Business and Technology Park, Gov. Nikki Haley said today after a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the plant.

Note: Haley pledged the state's continued support to the company. "We will continue to make sure we have the right trained workers for you," she said. "During tough times we're going to be there with you, and during good times we're going to celebrate with you."

WLTX: S.C. Finally Has Inventory of State-Owned Buildings and Land

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/local/2014/07/14/sc-inventory-buildings-land/12651587/>

Robert Kittle

The state of South Carolina finally knows how many buildings and how much land it owns, after years of no one having any idea. Gov. Nikki Haley had issued an executive order for state agencies to compile the list, and it's finally finished.

Note: Gov. Haley says, "We need to look and see how much of that we need to get rid of. How much of that can we consolidate? What do we have that the taxpayers are paying for that's not even being used? So our hope is that we're going to start to clean all of this stuff up, make sure that we're being as efficient as possible and as smart as possible with the properties that we have."

Times and Democrat: Consolidation hearing planned for North school

http://thetandd.com/news/consolidation-hearing-planned-for-north-school/article_d01c55fc-0bca-11e4-bc6b-001a4bcf887a.html

Martha Rose Brown

Lawmakers will hold a public hearing in North next week on school consolidation plans. Orangeburg County's senators introduced a bill in May to consolidate the county's three school districts into one. The bill did not pass before the end of the legislative session, with House members saying they want to gather public input before making a decision.

Note: In addition, the delegation nominated two new commissioners: Brenda Etheridge and Broadus Jamison III. Gov. Nikki Haley will officially appoint the county election commissioners.

S.C. Political News:

Politico: Bloomberg donated to Graham PAC, source says

<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/07/michael-bloomberg-donates-to-lindsey-graham-108898.html?hp=I6>

Maggie Haberman

Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg gave \$250,000 to the super PAC supporting Sen. Lindsey Graham, (R-S.C.) in the primary battle he won by a wide margin last month, a source familiar with the donation told POLITICO.

Associated Press: Ravenel presents signatures for US Senate ballot

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

Jeffrey Collins

Former South Carolina Treasurer, reality TV star and convicted felon Thomas Ravenel plans to run for the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Republican Lindsey Graham. Ravenel presented about 16,500

signatures from registered voters to the state Election Commission on Monday, well over the 10,000 he needed.

The State: Thomas Ravenel files petition for US Senate seat in SC

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/15/3563944/thomas-ravenel-files-petition.html>

Jamie Self

Reality-TV star and former S.C. treasurer Thomas Ravenel filed a petition Monday to run for the U.S. Senate as an independent. Ravenel, of Charleston, submitted 16,469 signatures to the S.C. Election Commission on Monday. He needs 10,000 certified signatures from S.C. registered voters to make the ballot. The certification process will take about a month, an election official said.

Greenville News: Ravenel: Felony shouldn't keep him out of Senate race

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/07/14/ravenel-believe-felon-disqualify-someone-running-congress/12658485/>

Tim Smith

Ravenel, a former state treasurer who resigned in 2007 when he pleaded guilty to a federal drug charge, filed a petition Monday carrying 16,469 names with the State Election Commission to run as an independent candidate against Republican and current U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham and Democratic Sen. Brad Hutto.

Florence Morning News: Four Democrats vying for vacated Senate 32 seat

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_13e207ae-0bbd-11e4-a774-0017a43b2370.html

Christopher McKagen

A four-way race officially began Monday when the filing period for the vacated S.C. Senate District 32 seat closed at noon. Two S.C. House of Representatives members and two Williamsburg County attorneys will makeup a Sept. 2 primary ballot, aiming to fill the seat Lt. Gov. Yancey McGill left a month ago to replace a resigning Glenn McConnell.

The State: Independent files for US Senate run against Tim Scott

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/14/3564392/independent-files-for-us-senate.html>

Jamie Self

Brandon Christina Armstrong, a Mount Pleasant painting contractor, filed a petition to run for U.S. Senate as an independent in November's election. Armstrong submitted her petition with 12,595 signatures to the S.C. Election Commission on Monday. She is seeking the seat currently held by U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, R-Charleston.

The State: Runoff in Lexington County Coroner's race is Tuesday

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/14/3564509/runoff-in-lexington-county-coroners.html>

Lexington County voters head to the polls for the fourth time in six weeks Tuesday, this time to settle the Republican runoff match for coroner. Margaret Fisher and Brian Setree were the top votegetters in the July 1 ballot, but neither exceeded the 50 percent of votes required to win the post outright.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Don't deter school choice

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140715/PC1002/140719637/1021&source=speed>

Editorial

Charleston County School Board members who are looking for ways to bolster attendance at failing schools are looking in the wrong direction. Pressuring parents to keep their children in a failing school isn't the answer. Providing an excellent education at that school is.

Post and Courier: Put the brakes on federal waste

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140715/PC1002/140719635/1021&source=speed>

Editorial

President Barack Obama says it's only "fair" for those Americans who can afford to pay higher income taxes to cough up more, in part to reduce the deficit. But that calculation automatically eliminates about half of adult Americans - those who don't pay any federal income tax. How fair is that?

The State: Diverted rebates latest escapade at S.C. State

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/14/3564361/editorial-diverted-rebates-latest.html>

Editorial

ANOTHER DAY, another incredibly disappointing revelation about S.C. State University: Even as the college has struggled to keep the lights on, it has funneled rebates from contracts with vendors into foundations — to pay for discretionary expenditures.

Aiken Standard: Look for reforms, fixes for highway trust fund

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140715/AIK0201/140719683/1018/AIK02/editorial-look-for-reforms-fixes-for-highway-trust-fund>

Editorial

The Highway Trust Fund is running on fumes and that won't change unless there's Congressional action. The dwindling fund, which is seen by some as vital to the nation's transportation network, is projected to soon exceed its dedicated revenues and become insolvent.

Times and Democrat: S.C. lawmakers have duty to guard blue crab resource

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/s-c-lawmakers-have-duty-to-guard-blue-crab-resource/article_c88a68a6-0b98-11e4-b235-001a4bcf887a.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Threat to seafood resource. OUR OPINION: Just as shrimp are closely watched and protected, crabs are due the same. Shrimping gets the attention: The status of the harvest by commercial shrimpers. Their complaints about recreational shrimpers. The annual baiting and deep-holing season and its up and downs.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: MUSC replaced as top S.C. hospital in new U.S. News rankings

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140715/PC16/140719654/1382&source=spreed>

Lauren Sausser

Medical University Hospital is no longer No. 1 in South Carolina, according to new hospital rankings released today by U.S. News & World Report. The Charleston teaching hospital tied for second place this year with AnMed Health in Anderson. Spartanburg Regional Medical Center ranked first.

Post and Courier: SLED investigating death of teen at DJJ detention center

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140714/PC1603/140719649/1382&source=spreed>

Cynthia Roldan

State law enforcement is investigating the death of a teenager who was in the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice. DJJ spokeswoman Loretta Neal confirmed Monday a 16-year-old was found dead in his cell alone Sunday night at the detention center in Columbia.

Greenville News: Statewide home sales rise 4% in June

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2014/07/14/statewide-home-sales-rise-june/12652535/>

Angelia Davis

South Carolina had a 4 percent increase in home sales last month, with buyers taking more than 6,000 residences off the market. According to South Carolina Realtors' multiple listing statistics out Monday, 6,445 residential units were sold in June 2014 compared with 6,204 in June 2013.

The State: SC home sales hot in June, Columbia sales still cool

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/14/3563975/prices-home-sales-up-statewide.html>

Roddie Burris

In Columbia, June median home sales prices rose a hefty 7.1 percent to \$161,650, even though sales in the Capital City fell by 4.7 percent to 913, according to the monthly S.C. Realtors report released on Monday. Statewide, sales jumped 3.9 percent to 6,445 and with 10 out of 16 markets in the state showing improvements. Median sales in the state rose 6 percent to \$173,777.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Charleston schools pay study bumps up principals, teachers, freezes other salaries

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140715/PC16/140719632/1177&source=spreed>

Amanda Kerr

More than 80 percent of Charleston County School District's thousands of employees are in line for raises, with principals and their assistants getting nearly a quarter of the \$8.4 million, under a pay study being unveiled Tuesday.

Island Packet: Beaufort County schools to implement new anti-bullying initiatives

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/07/14/3211379/beaufort-county-schools-to-implement.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1>

Sarah Bowman

Starting with the upcoming school year, the Beaufort County School District takes its anti-bullying campaign digital. The district will implement several initiatives, including an app for students' tablet devices and making Beaufort High School's anti-bullying play available online.

Associated Press: Update coming on black history museum in SC

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

Bruce Smith

Officials in Charleston are scheduled to provide an update on the \$75 million International African-American Museum planned for the city where the Civil War began. Mayor Joe Riley and other officials are to meet with reporters on Tuesday to discuss the project.

The State: Final vote on controversial stadium loan set for Tuesday

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/15/3564815/final-vote-on-controversial-stadium.html>

Clif LeBlanc

The much-disputed public funding for Columbia's new year-round stadium faces its final vote Tuesday. City Council is scheduled to cast its second and binding vote to get a 30-year loan of up to \$35 million that would be repaid from meal taxes through the year 2043.

Anderson Independent: West Pelzer budget includes tax increase and higher utility fees

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/west-pelzer-budget-includes-tax-increase-and-higher-utility-fees>

Kirk Brown

Town council members approved a budget on Monday night that includes a property tax increase and higher utility rates. The council also agreed to borrow up to \$60,000 during the fiscal year that started July 1 to ease what Mayor Peggy Paxton described as a looming cash-flow problem.

National News:

Washington Post: Israel accepts truce plan; Hamas balks

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/israel-accepts-truce-plan-hamas-balks/2014/07/15/04373008-0bf5-11e4-8c9a-923ecc0c7d23_story.html

William Booth, Griff Witte

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday threatened to escalate Israel's operations in Gaza after Hamas balked at an Egyptian proposal for a cease-fire, saying it had not been consulted on its terms.

Associated Press: In rush to cut benefits backlog, VA made errors

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/rush-cut-benefits-backlog-va-made-errors>

Matthew Daly

In a rush to cut a huge backlog of claims for disability benefits, the Department of Veterans Affairs is making payments to tens of thousands of veterans without adequate medical evidence that they deserve the benefits, the department's inspector general's office said Monday.

Washington Post: Obama takes more aggressive stance on highway funding

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/trafficandcommuting/obama-takes-more-aggressive-stance-on-highway-funding/2014/07/14/6a4b2c2a-0b53-11e4-b8e5-d0de80767fc2_story.html

Ashley Halsey III, Juliet Eilperin

The White House began an ambitious week-long effort Monday to focus public attention on a pair of pressing national problems: the decay of roads, bridges and transit systems and Congress's inability to come up with money to fix them.

Rock Hill Herald: VA cites progress on backlog; Congress disagrees

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/07/15/6141050/va-cites-progress-on-backlog-congress.html>

Matthew Daly

The Department of Veterans Affairs says it has made "tremendous progress" in reducing a disability claims backlog that reached above 600,000 early last year. Members of Congress and the department's assistant inspector general don't believe it.

Brian Symmes

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