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To:
Date: 7/16/2014 8:00:56 AM
Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, July 16, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Florence Morning News: Ruiz Foods holds groundbreaking in Florence

http://www.snow.com/news/business/article_2aed0078-0c37-11e4-9c64-0017a43b2370.html

John D. Russell

Ruiz Foods President and CEO Rachel P. Cullen said a call early this year from Florence County Economic Development Partnership Executive Director Joe W. King was instrumental in the company's decision to bring more than 500 jobs to Florence.

Note: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said everything Ruiz Foods and Florence is a great combination. "This is how magic happens," she said. "Remember that things happen when we work for it, and today is when the work starts. A year from now, they'll come back and say it's the best decision they've ever made. This is a day of pride, a day we all get together as a family and welcome a new family member."

WCBD: Charleston County roads and bridges in need of improvement

<http://www.counton2.com/story/26026793/charleston-county-roads-and-bridges-in-need-of-improvement>

Haley Hernandez

Each mile of the state's crumbling roadways gets less money per mile than other states in the country spend on their roads. AAA Carolinas says Charleston County is the worst county in the state for collisions and has some of the worst bridges.

Note: Governor Haley's spokesman Doug Mayer said, "The \$1 billion infrastructure plan Governor Haley signed into law last year is doing big things for our state - helping us announce nearly 57,000 new jobs, including more than 7,400 in the Charleston region alone. 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."

Associated Press: A look at state regulations changed after review

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=bheWZJm7

Gov. Nikki Haley touts the work of a task force she created last year to review business regulations. So far, 31 of Haley's 60 suggestions stemming from that review have been adopted: State boards at the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) have:

The State: SC Ethics Commission to discuss talking to the press

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/15/3566416/sc-ethics-commission-to-discuss.html>

Jamie Self

The chairman of the S.C. State Ethics Commission wants to discuss how the agency shares information with the media. Chairman James Burns, an attorney with the Columbia-based law firm Nelson Mullins, said he asked the Ethics Commission to discuss "media relations" at its Wednesday meeting.

Note: Burns said Tuesday the Ethics Commission's flip-flopping on Haley's campaign reimbursements is not driving his desire to discuss how commissioners and staff members share information with the media.

Aiken Standard: Checks from storm work start to flow in

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140716/AIK0101/140719566/0/SEARCH&slid=1>

Maayan Schechter

The City of Aiken has so far received roughly \$1.2 million through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, for emergency and recovery work completed due to February's ice storm.

Note: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley requested in May the legislature vote to appropriate a little more than \$16 million of additional nonrecurring funds to counties and state agencies affected by February's ice storm. With that request, Haley asked that about \$150,000 go toward departments of public safety.

S.C. Political News:

Post and Courier: Former New York mayor Bloomberg gives to pro-Lindsey Graham PAC
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140715/PC1603/140719555/1382&source=spreed>
Schuyler Kropf

Former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's \$250,000 contribution to a super PAC that supports U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham's re-election is tied to Graham's strong support for Israel and his record of results in Washington, the PAC's controller said.

The State: Fisher wins GOP runoff for Lexington County coroner
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/15/3566561/fisher-wins-gop-runoff-for-lexington.html>
Tim Flach

Margaret Fisher, a self-described long shot at the start of the campaign, moved into position Tuesday to become the next coroner of Lexington County. She combined support from top political leaders and church congregations to easily win the Republican runoff ballot Tuesday for the post.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

The State: Remember those questions on the SC primary ballots? Don't
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/15/3566096/scope-remember-those-questions.html>
Cindi Ross Scoppe

LAST MONTH, 3.5 percent of S.C. voters said they wanted to legalize gambling to pay for road improvements; 3 percent said the Legislature should legalize the medical use of marijuana. That almost makes it sound impressive that 9 percent endorsed eliminating the state income tax, and 8 percent wanted lawmakers to declare fetuses to be people, effectively banning abortion.

Post and Courier: The foreign-policy debate anew
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140716/PC1002/140719543/1021&source=spreed>
Editorial

Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul aren't waiting for the 2016 Republican presidential primary race to debate each other about American foreign policy. But though the political fallout of their dispute is drawing ample attention, the consequences of the United States' future role in the world aren't limited to who wins the GOP nomination.

Post and Courier: Curnell's legacy should be police transparency
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140716/PC16/140719556/1382&source=spreed>
Brian Hicks

It's going to be a long time before the Charleston Police Department forgets Denzel Curnell. The community will make sure of it. Earlier this week, Solicitor Scarlett Wilson reviewed the SLED investigation into Curnell's death and declared it a clear case of suicide.

Index-Journal: Candidate Ravenel? That's beyond reality
<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/Opinion/Opinion/Article/Candidate-Ravenel--That-s-beyond-reality/8/154/26544>
Editorial

Every so often, South Carolina politics rises to the level of public ridicule and becomes the topic of many a late night TV host's jokes. Guess what, folks. Every so often has arrived. Thomas Ravenel, unfortunately, has decided to run against U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham as an independent.

Cabinet Agency News:

WLTX: New Help for Finding Ex-Inmates Jobs
<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/2014/07/15/corrections-department-to-launch-referral-line-for-former-inmates/12706083/>
Jennifer Bellamy

Finding a job after serving time in prison can be difficult for former inmates. Employers may not have the option of checking references for former inmates looking for work, but a new Department of Corrections program that is in the works could change that. Director Bryan Stirling says the referral call line would

provide potential employers with references before they hire.

Post and Courier: South Carolina hospitals made \$1.1 billion profit in 2013

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140715/PC16/140719573/1177&source=spreed>

Lauren Sausser

South Carolina hospitals made a combined \$1.1 billion profit last year - a 70 percent jump since 2011, according to data that the state's Department of Health and Human Services will publish online Wednesday.

South Carolina News:

Aiken Standard: Board questions funding if SRS receives German fuel

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140716/AIK0101/140719618/1004/board-questions-funding-if-srs-receives-german-fuel>

Derrek Asberry

The Savannah River Site's Citizens Advisory Board is seeking verification that the Site won't be left holding the bag if it receives shipments of German fuel that Germany is expected to pay for. Like many other individuals and groups, the board, also known as CAB, submitted its thoughts on the Site potentially housing 900 kilograms of highly-enriched uranium, or HEU.

Greenville News: South Carolina's wind power lies offshore

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/environment/our-natural-beauty/2014/07/15/south-carolinas-wind-power-lies-offshore/12697009/>

Nathaniel Cary

In a matter of years, wind mills may rise out of the ocean in the horizon along South Carolina's Grand Strand, while the wind's power may generate a new industry hundreds of miles from the coastal winds. Experts have identified the best locations for offshore wind power, and maps show the wind is the strongest off the coast of Myrtle Beach.

The State: Shaw survives budget ax for now; Charleston loses 19 jobs

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/15/3566335/shaw-survives-budget-ax-for-now.html>

Jeff Wilkinson

Shaw Air Force Base was spared in this round of the Air Force's budget cuts, losing no jobs, but Joint Base Charleston will have 19 positions eliminated. The announced cuts were the first permanent jobs lost in South Carolina in what is expected to be a deep reduction in the military following 13 years of war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The State: Leak sparks shutdown of SC nuclear power plant

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/15/3565904/leak-sparks-shutdown-of-atomic.html>

Sammy Fretwell

S.C. Electric & Gas temporarily shuttered the V.C. Summer plant in Fairfield County on Sunday afternoon, notifying the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission that water was leaking from a pressurizer safety valve, according to a notice filed with the atomic energy oversight agency.

Local News:

Florence Morning News: Florence County agencies respond to fire district lawsuit

http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article_cec207d0-0c86-11e4-9029-001a4bcf6878.html

Gavin Jackson

The county agencies named by Florence County in a lawsuit along with a petition for injunctive relief filed last month responded to the suit late Monday over a special purpose district created by the South Carolina Legislature in May.

The State: Despite trial testimony, Mayor Benjamin keeps to business as usual

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/15/3566287/despite-trial-testimony-mayor.html>

John Monk

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin was all business during Tuesday's City Council meeting, despite surprise testimony in a recent trial about the mayor's unpublicized trip to Florida in 2010 that included a visit to a strip club.

Post and Courier: Advocates: Why was black teen who committed suicide stopped by Charleston cop for wearing hoodie?

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140715/PC16/140719546/1382&source=spreed>

Andrew Knapp

If a Charleston police officer had not confronted him for wearing a hoodie in the summertime heat, Denzel Cumell's death last month might have been avoided, civil liberties advocates and experts said Tuesday. Cumell, 19, shot himself June 20 during a struggle with Officer Jamal Medlin outside the Bridgeview Village apartments, according to authorities.

The State: Columbia OKs spending \$35 million on new stadium

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/15/3566611/columbia-oks-spending-35-million.html>

Clif LeBlanc

Columbia has given its final major endorsement to building a \$35 million public stadium that would bring professional baseball back to the capital city. City Council on Tuesday voted to commit the city to borrowing that much money and repaying it with meal taxes for the next 30 years.

Post and Courier: New Mount Pleasant schools top draft project list for vote on sales tax extension

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140715/PC16/140719550/1382&source=spreed>

Amanda Kerr

New schools in Mount Pleasant are at the top of the list of building projects the Charleston County School Board has begun finalizing for voters to consider this fall when deciding whether to extend a 1 percent sales tax.

National News:

New York Times: Kerry Cites 'Progress' in Iran Talks but Says 'Very Real Gaps' Remain

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/16/world/middleeast/kerry-cites-progress-in-iran-talks-while-gaps-remain.html?ref=todayspaper&_r=0

Michael R. Gordon, David E. Sanger

After three days of intensive talks with his Iranian counterpart, Secretary of State John Kerry said Tuesday that "tangible progress" had been made in negotiations on Iran's nuclear program, and that he would return to Washington to consult with President Obama over whether to extend a Sunday deadline for a final agreement.

The Hill: Coal provision could divide Senate Dems on Export-Import Bank bill

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/212343-coal-provision-could-divide-senate-dems-on-ex-im>

Laura Barron-Lopez

Sens. Barbara Boxer (Calif.) and Sheldon Whitehouse (R.I.) are promising to fight any efforts to roll back Export-Import Bank restrictions on financing overseas coal plants — even those from a fellow Democrat.

Brian Symmes

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