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To:
Date: 1/15/2014 7:21:40 AM
Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, January 15, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Greenville News: State urged to drop appeal of inmate mental health ruling

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014301150019>

Tim Smith

A Greenville mental health advocate has collected more than 100 signatures from lawmakers, County Council members, mental health officials and others asking that the state drop its appeal of a judge's order last week that the prison system develop a plan to improve its treatment of inmates who have serious mental illness.

Note: Haley on Monday was asked about the judge's ruling and said it deals with dated allegations and the state has "come a long way" since they surfaced in a 2005 lawsuit. "That was a case from 10 years ago that related to about five to 10 years prior to that," she said. "We have come a long way in 10 years when those findings were found."

Associated Press: Haley opening office for constituent meetings

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

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is opening up her office for one-on-one meetings with constituents. Haley is scheduled to hold the meetings on Wednesday afternoon at her office at the Statehouse in Columbia. Those who wanted time with the Republican governor needed to make appointments on Tuesday. Appointments are set on a first-come, first-served basis, and Haley says she'll discuss any issue.

Index Journal: Proposed budget to slash de la Howe funding

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/News/News/Article/Proposed-budget-to-slash-de-la-Howe-funding/4/40/23062>

Kate Hruby

Major funding cuts and authoritative changes are in store for the John de la Howe School if Gov. Nikki Haley's proposed executive budget for fiscal year 2014-15 passes. John de la Howe is an alternative school in McCormick County for wayward youth in grades six through 10. The school management is currently under review by the state Office of the Inspector General. According to the OIG, a report on the review will be ready in the next seven to 10 days.

Post and Courier: Lawmakers contend with scandal, protests, elections on first day of session

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140114/PC1610/140119667/1031/lawmakers-contend-with-scandal-protests-elections-on-first-day-of-session>

Cynthia Roldan and Jeremy Borden

The House speaker faces an ongoing ethics investigation, two members of the South Carolina chamber are running for higher office, and a former senator from Charleston still faces the possibility of a criminal probe. Also, every member of the House of Representatives is up for re-election and lawmakers were greeted Tuesday by dueling protests on both sides of the Capitol.

Note: Rep. Brian White, R-Anderson, said he looked forward to receiving Haley's detailed budget, which she outlined in broad strokes this week. Haley wants to focus on education spending, particularly in some of the state's poorest areas.

WRAL: SC governor scheduled to hold Raleigh fundraiser

<http://www.wral.com/sc-governor-scheduled-to-hold-raleigh-fundraiser/13299311/>

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley will hold a fundraiser in Raleigh next month as she looks to stock her 2014 campaign coffers, according to an invitation obtained by WRAL News. The Feb. 3 event will be hosted by Theresa Kostrzewa, a well-known Raleigh lobbyist ranked as one of the most influential practicing around the North Carolina legislature, and her husband, Bruce Tucker.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

The State: Candidates for SC governor give business leaders very different messages

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/15/3207843/candidates-for-sc-governor-give.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

South Carolina's likely candidates for governor – Republican Gov. Nikki Haley and Democratic state Sen. Vincent Sheheen – spoke only two hours apart Tuesday at a statewide pro-business group's annual meeting. But the tone of their speeches, before the S.C. Business & Industry Political Education Committee in Columbia, was much farther apart.

Note: Haley said she worked to add business leaders to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's board with the directive to move economic projects forward. "If you are costing a person time, you are costing them money and that is no longer acceptable in South Carolina," she said.

Florence Morning News: Education high priority for Pee Dee lawmakers

http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article_a3210d34-7d7e-11e3-acba-0019bb30f31a.html

Gavin Jackson

Education will be in the spotlight this session, even if it's because Republican Gov. Nikki Haley and Democratic challenger state Sen. Vincent Sheheen have made it top priority for their year, with both unveiling plans to advance public education. Haley's plan, announced last week, will focus on more technology and reading programs in the classroom totaling \$60 million and directing \$97 million toward children living in the poorest areas of the state by changing the state's funding formula.

Associated Press: Sheheen points to stances on Medicaid, education

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=9j3JKuLq

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina Sen. Vincent Sheheen took jabs Tuesday at Gov. Nikki Haley's election-year plans to improve education and called her refusal to expand Medicaid eligibility foolish ideology. In separate speeches before a group of business leaders, Haley never referenced Sheheen, but the Democratic state senator criticized the Republican governor in an energized, sermon-like speech clearly meant to outline their differences and heat up their rematch.

Florence Morning News: State Democratic Party gearing up for November showdowns

http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article_47441c28-7d87-11e3-b320-0019bb30f31a.html

Gavin Jackson

South Carolina Democratic Party Executive Director Amanda Loveday spoke with Florence County Democrats on Tuesday evening as the party gears up for a 10-month fight to recapture the governor's office, among others, this November. In 2010, then state Rep. Nikki Haley beat out state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, D-Kershaw, and became the state's first female governor by a margin of roughly 60,000 votes. In Florence County that margin swapped and Sheheen took 51 percent of the vote, beating Haley by a margin of 1,341 votes.

The State: Senate subcommittee has questions for DSS

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/15/3208175/the-morning-buzz-senate-subcommittee.html>

Adam Beam

The Senate DSS oversight subcommittee meets today at 9 a.m. to take testimony from mothers and grandmothers about "the shocking number of (child) fatalities in the Midlands," according to Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Richland. One person the committee likely won't hear from: DSS director Lillian Koller.

Note: Some have questioned the timing of Lourie's inquiry. Koller is an appointee of Republican Gov. Nikki Haley, who is running for reelection in November. Holding these very public hearings – and Lourie says there will be more than one – could damage Haley politically and give Sen. Vincent Sheheen another avenue of attack.

Speaker Bobby Harrell Ethics Investigation:

The State: SC speaker: Legislative session will go on despite ethics 'smear campaign'

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/14/3207505/sc-speaker-legislative-session.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

House Speaker Bobby Harrell said Tuesday that legislative business will go on as usual, after the

Charleston Republican – arguably the most powerful man in state government – railed against news that ethics allegations against him will be heard by a state grand jury. S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson released that news Monday – the day before the legislative session began – in a move that Harrell told reporters Tuesday was “intended to inflict political damage” on him and amounted to a “smear campaign.”

Note: Republican Gov. Nikki Haley, who butted heads with Harrell when she was a legislator and, later, when facing her own ethics allegations, said Tuesday that she has “never been involved in those (kinds of) situations. ... We’ll watch this play out as we have done in the past.”

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Rock Hill Herald: Haley weighs in on education reform

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/01/14/5581167/haley-weighs-in-on-education-reform.html>

Editorial

Whatever the motivations, the fact that South Carolina’s leaders are having a serious conversation about how to improve education in the state is a welcome development. This is an election year, so any new proposal to boost schools is certain to have political implications. But once we acknowledge that, so what? The key question is how best to improve the overall educational opportunities for the state’s children, especially those who live in impoverished communities. This week, Gov. Nikki Haley introduced a package of proposed education reforms that includes a \$177 million increase in educational spending. Of that, \$97 million would be used to help children who live in poverty.

The State: Is Nikki Haley school-funding equity’s new champion?

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/15/3207349/scoppe-is-nikki-haley-school-funding.html>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

Some partisan critics immediately wrote off Gov. Nikki Haley’s proposal to spend more money on poor students as a too-tardy election-year ploy, designed to undercut support for her likely Democratic challenger, Sen. Vincent Sheheen. But if that’s what’s driving the plan she unveiled last week, it suggests that the governor believes there’s a lot more public support for our schools than our legislators do, and perhaps they’ll get that message.

Index Journal: Public education: Not just money

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/Opinion/Opinion/Article/Public-education--Not-just-money/8/154/23066>

Editorial

South Carolina lawmakers returned to Columbia where they will begin hashing out Gov. Nikki Haley’s 2014-15 budget, which includes a healthy education funding injection. This is an election year, so we all know what to expect. There will be plenty of partisan back-and-forth, especially in light of the fact Haley is facing an opponent, state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, in her re-election bid. While it is good to see the governor putting more emphasis on education funding, we recognize funds alone will not resolve the state’s ranking among its counterparts in terms of education success rates.

Post and Courier: Lingering cloud over Harrell

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140115/PC1002/140119658/1021/lingering-cloud-over-harrell>

Editorial

Any hope that an ethics complaint against South Carolina House Speaker Bobby Harrell would be quickly resolved this year was dispelled by the decision to send the case to the state grand jury. That development suggests that the issues in question are more complicated than they initially appeared. State Attorney General Alan Wilson sent the results of a State Law Enforcement Division investigation to the grand jury for further review on Monday, the day before the legislative session began. The timing could best be described as curious. For the speaker, the timing could hardly have been worse.

Aiken Standard: Lawmakers should provide tax option

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140115/AIK0201/140119722/1021/AIK0201/editorial-lawmakers-should-provide-tax-option>

Editorial

It’s perhaps the most direct way to hear the voice of the people, but the Aiken County School Board lacks the authority to initiate it. Issuing a referendum – a current objective of local school officials – shouldn’t be the right of only a handful of counties in the state. As it stands now, however, only certain counties have the authority to seek a referendum in their area. School officials in Aiken County are interested in seeking a one-cent sales tax referendum in 2014, which would raise up to \$20 million a year for seven years to address

school facility needs.

Post and Courier: CofC-MUSC merger the wrong idea for both institutions

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140115/PC1002/140119663/1021/c-of-c-musc-merger-the-wrong-idea-for-both-institutions>

Editorial

In recent days I have scanned the editorial pages of this paper, hoping to see letters from people brave enough to oppose the outrageously misguided calls for a merger of two of our most prestigious institutions, the College of Charleston and the Medical University of South Carolina. As a career-long faculty member and administrator in higher education in this state and two others, I can assure you that forcing these two very complex and different institutions to merge will seriously damage both.

Legislative Session News:

Anderson Independent: S.C. senators resume debate on concealed guns bill

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/jan/14/sc-senators-resume-debate-on-concealed-guns-bill/?partner=RSS>

Kirk Brown

The South Carolina Senate picked up Tuesday where it left off last year — debating whether customers should be allowed to carry concealed weapons into bars and restaurants. Sen. John Scott successfully delayed a final vote on the measure during the final day of the General Assembly's regular session in June. Scott, a Democrat from Columbia, was back on the Senate floor arguing against the bill's passage when this year's session got underway Tuesday afternoon.

The State: SC state senator to battle controversial potato farm

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/13/3205853/giant-potato-farm-fries-state.html#storylink=cpy>

Sammy Fretwell

A Michigan potato farm corporation would face tighter controls on major water withdrawals from the Edisto River basin under legislation being developed to close loopholes in a 2010 state law. State Sen. Chip Campsen, R-Charleston, said he plans to introduce a bill requiring Walther Farms to obtain a permit before it could take billions of gallons of water from the Edisto's narrow South Fork. The company wants to use river water to help irrigate what would be South Carolina's largest potato farm in Aiken and Barnwell counties.

The State: SC Revenue Dept. wants annual funding for security

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/15/3207794/sc-revenue-dept-wants-annual-funding.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

The S.C. Department of Revenue says it is moving forward after the nation's largest data-security breach at a state agency. The department asked a state budget subcommittee Tuesday for annual funding of security measures for the first time and to spend \$40.5 million for a new tax-processing system over the next four years. The agency has been training employees and improving its security since hackers stole personal information belonging to 6.4 million taxpayers, their children and businesses in 2012.

The State: Competing health-care rallies greet returning SC legislators

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/14/3207563/competing-health-care-rallies.html#storylink=cpy>

Adam Beam

Protesters for and against the federal Affordable Care Act said Tuesday they had the same ally: God. Speakers at competing rallies — the "Choose Freedom, Stop Obamacare" rally on the State House's north side and the "Enough is Enough" rally on the south side — declared God was on their side in the battle over whether to expand health insurance for the poor or make it harder for government-run insurance programs to operate in South Carolina.

South Carolina News:

Aiken Standard: SRS poised to receive full funding of \$1.1B

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140115/AIK0101/140119708/1004/srs-poised-to-receive-full-funding-of-11b>

Derrek Asberry

The Savannah River Site could potentially receive \$1.1 billion in full funding for the fiscal year — an increase of \$46 million from the Department of Energy's budget request — if an appropriations subcommittee in

Washington, D.C., approves funding later this week. If approved, the total would be SRS's first full funding since the fiscal year 2012 budget, according to the Site's DOE spokesperson Jim Giusti.

Aiken Standard: Educator: Common Core has like standards, not curriculum

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140115/AIK0101/140119649/1004/educator-common-core-has-like-standards-not-curriculum>

Rob Novit

So what's the difference between academic standards and curriculum? Here's how King Laurence – an Aiken School District's associate superintendent – explained the new Common Core academic standards initiative. During a Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, Laurence presented a brief video clip from the popular 1980s movie, “Hoosiers.” The film – based on a true story – is about a tiny 1950s high school basketball team that goes all the way to the state title.

Greenville News: Furman gets \$1M Duke grant for Riley Institute endowment

http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014301150021&nclink_check=1

The Duke Endowment has awarded Furman University a \$1 million grant to support the work of the Riley Institute at Furman, a public policy organization dedicated to social and economic progress in South Carolina. It will go toward establishing a permanent endowment for the Riley Institute, whose wide array of public policy programs benefits Furman students, faculty and residents across the state and region, Furman officials said.

Anderson Independent: Bassmaster Classic fishing tournament returns to Hartwell Lake in 2015

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/jan/14/bassmaster-classic-fishing-tournament-returns-to/?partner=RSS>

Kirk Brown

The million-dollar Bassmaster Classic fishing tournament will return to Hartwell Lake in February 2015. “We are excited about it,” Anderson County Council Chairman Tommy Dunn said Tuesday. “It is the Super Bowl of fishing tournaments.” The tournament will be staged at Green Pond Landing, Anderson County’s new fishing event center on Hartwell Lake, Dunn said. The \$4 million center features a six-lane boat ramp, 180 parking spaces and other amenities.

Local News:

Greenville News: Homebuyers sold on Greenville

http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014301150017&nclink_check=1

Angelia Davis

Home sales in the Greenville metropolitan area were higher last year than in the past six years, which experts see as evidence that the economy is getting on stronger footing. New figures from the Greater Greenville Association of Realtors (GGAR) show that 9,160 residential units were sold last year. That’s the highest since 2007, when 10,058 units were sold and the economy began its downward turn. The year before, in 2006, sales in the metro area reached a record high with 10,388 units sold. By 2008, when the recession took hold, the number of sales had dipped to 8,021 and bottomed out in 2011 with 6,395 residences sold.

The Item: 2 candidates file for mayoral seat

http://www.theitem.com/news/local_news/candidates-file-for-mayoral-seat/article_63a6269f-8149-58fd-ae3b-60a318aeae4b.html

Tyler Simpson

Two candidates have offered up their names to fill Pinewood's empty mayoral seat during the special election in March. With filing closing on Monday, Manley C. Dubose, a resident of Pinewood, is set to appear on the ballot against Mayor Pro Tem Sarah Mathis, who has been serving as interim mayor since former Mayor Al Pridgen left Pinewood in October to seek medical attention in North Carolina. Pridgen's resignation was made official after council received an updated resignation letter with an effective date of Dec. 16.

National News:

Politico: Scott Walker, Gary Herbert speak out for Chris Christie

<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/01/scott-walker-gary-herbert-chris-christie-102175.html#ixzz2qSuOCSZb>

Jennifer Epstein

Two high-profile GOP governors say they're standing by New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie as he faces scandal just weeks into his chairmanship of the Republican Governors Association. "I think the bottom line is, he stepped up," Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker said outside the White House after he and other leaders of the bipartisan National Governors Association met with President Barack Obama. Walker and five other governors, including NGA Chair Mary Fallin (R-Okla.), spent about an hour meeting with Obama and Vice President Joe Biden just as Christie delivered his State of the State address in Trenton.

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