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To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, October 8, 2014

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S.C. Same-Sex Marriage News:

Associated Press: SC high court asked to halt gay marriage licenses

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=zpU8Je4T

Bruce Smith

South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson is asking the state Supreme Court to stop a Charleston County judge from issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Wilson's office filed its petition late Wednesday afternoon. Attorneys for the state say that the legal issues around whether same-sex marriage is legal in South Carolina remains unsettled.

WCIV: Attorney General asks for halt to SC same-sex marriage licenses

<http://www.abcnews4.com/story/26734920/ap-courts-to-allow-same-sex-marriage-despite-sc-ban>

Less than 12 hours after a Charleston County probate court judge said he would be issuing same-sex marriage licenses, the state's Attorney General said he was petitioning the state's high court to stop the licenses.

Note: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley says she will respect the rule of law as decided by the courts on gay marriage.

Note: Haley said Wednesday that she personally believes marriage should only be between a man and a woman and she took an oath to uphold the state constitution, which bans same-sex unions. But Haley says there is confusion about the legal status of South Carolina's gay marriage ban and she is waiting for clarity from the courts.

Associated Press: SC gay couple's marriage license application OK'd

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=zpU8Je4T

Bruce Smith

A South Carolina court approved a same-sex marriage application Wednesday and plans to issue a license despite the state's constitutional ban against the practice and the attorney general's pledge to defend it.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley said she believes marriage should only be between a man and a woman and she took an oath to uphold the state constitution, which bans same-sex unions. But she said the courts have left the issue a mess.

Note: "We have to figure out what that is right now. That's the big question of the day for everyone in South Carolina. Where does the rule of law stand after this and where does that leave South Carolina?" she said.

WMBF: Charleston Co. to issue same-sex marriage licenses

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/26734761/charleston-co-to-issue-same-sex-marriage-licenses>

Philip Weiss

Charleston County Probate Court announced Wednesday it will begin accepting and issuing marriage licenses for same-sex couples. Judge Irvin Condon's announcement comes on the heels of Monday's announcement by the United States Supreme Court that they will not listen to appeals from five states seeking to uphold bans on same-sex marriage.

Note: "My reaction is one of a governor," said Gov. Nikki Haley. "I took the oath of office to protect the constitution. The constitution says marriage is defined between a man and a woman. It's kind of a mess in the courts right now, so we're waiting to see what the courts come back with and then we'll proceed accordingly."

Post and Courier: First same sex marriage license to be granted in Charleston County

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141008/PC1603/141009465>

Robert Behre

Charleston County Probate Judge Irvin Condon became the first in South Carolina to grant a marriage

license to a same sex couple -an unexpectedly rapid move stemming from Monday's U.S. Supreme Court decision on same-sex marriage cases.

Note: Republicans, including Attorney General Wilson and Gov. Nikki Haley, have continued to voice support for traditional marriage, while the state's Democrats - and some libertarian-leaning Republicans - gradually have expressed support for either same sex marriages or civil unions.

Greenville News: County denies today's same-sex marriage license requests

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/10/08/county-denies-todays-sex-marriage-license-requests/16905713/>

Lyn Riddle

They've got their rings, a date and a venue, but what Lindsey Crumbley and Halley Page don't have is a marriage license. They applied for one on Wednesday morning in Greenville County Probate Court, and unlike those who applied in Charleston County, were denied once again.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley and Attorney General Alan Wilson have said they will defend the state's constitutional amendment banning gay marriage.

Note: The Campaign for Southern Equality and South Carolina Equality sponsored a rally on the State House grounds Wednesday to protest the decision by Haley and Wilson.

The State: Richland, Charleston counties issuing marriage license applications to same-sex couples

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/10/08/3731915/richland-charleston-counties-issuing.html>

Richland and Charleston counties started accepting marriage license applications from same-sex couples Wednesday despite the state's constitutional ban against the marriages and the attorney general's pledge to defend that ban.

Note: Jeff Ayers, chairman of the S.C. Equality board, said Gov. Nikki Haley and Wilson's decision to defend the ban is being influenced by the fact they are up for re-election.

Sun News: Horry County Probate Court won't issue marriage licenses to gay couples yet

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/10/08/4525301/horry-county-probate-court-wont.html?sp=/99/209/&ihp=1>

Charles D. Perry

Horry County's probate court will not issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples despite a Charleston County judge's decision to do so Wednesday. Deirdre W. Edmonds, who oversees Horry's probate court, said she will continue to follow the state's 2006 ban on gay marriage until she receives more clarity on the issue.

Associated Press: What you need to know today about gay marriage

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

WEDDING BELLS IN SOUTH CAROLINA? The Supreme Court's denial Monday of a Virginia case also affected South Carolina, which is in the same circuit. A court there accepted a same-sex marriage application Wednesday and plans to issue a license despite the state's constitutional ban against the practice and the attorney general's pledge to defend it.

Associated Press: Here's the status of gay marriage in all 50 states

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/10/08/status-gay-marriage-states/16913295/>

Note: SOUTH CAROLINA (Oct. 6, 2014) — A lawyer for a gay couple seeking to overturn the state's ban on gay marriage said she will ask a federal judge to immediately rule in their favor. The attorney general said he will continue to fight to uphold the ban.

WIS: INTERACTIVE MAP: Same-sex marriage by county in South Carolina

<http://www.wistv.com/story/26737637/interactive-map-same-sex-marriage-by-county-in-south-carolina?clienttype=generic&mobilecbypass>

Jeremy Turnage

With the decision to accept gay marriage license applications in Charleston County, a whole new level of legal wrangling has begun for same-sex marriage supporters in the Palmetto State. This interactive map feature shows off which counties in South Carolina are currently accepting applications versus those that aren't.

Gov. Nikki Haley News:

Island Packet: Petition opposing offshore drilling in SC starts in Beaufort

http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/10/08/3359367_petition-opposing-offshore-drilling.html?sp=/99/257/260/&rh=1

Matt McNab

The cry against offshore drilling has been taken up recently by Beaufort residents, with more than 400 signing a petition to prevent oil exploration efforts that they believe could harm the environment and damage tourism.

Note: Feight addresses her petition to U.S. Sens. Tim Scott and Sen. Lindsey Graham, and Gov. Nikki Haley, all of whom support offshore drilling.

WPDE: Startek ribbon cutting to be held Monday

<http://www.carolinalive.com/news/story.aspx?id=1106946#.VDW25fldVHU>

Startek employees are getting ready to move into their new building. The Carolina Forest business has been working out of a 50-year-old converted gymnasium at Horry Georgetown Technical College while the building was finished, according to Morgan Dendy, spokesperson for the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Commission.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley; Chad Carlson, Startek's CEO; Mark Lazarus, Horry County Council chairman and many other key players in bringing Startek to Horry County will be at the ribbon cutting.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Post and Courier: Democrat Sheheen pokes at Haley 'Great Day' mantra in new advertisement

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141008/PC1603/141009467/1177/democrat-sheheen-pokes-at-haley-great-day-mantra-in-new-advertisement>

Jeremy Borden

A new advertisement released Wednesday by Democratic gubernatorial candidate Vincent Sheheen's campaign pokes at a mantra that has become familiar to those who have picked up a phone to call state government.

Note: Chaney Adams, a Haley campaign spokesman, said Sheheen's attacks were not true. "Another day, another false attack from Vince Sheheen," Adams said in a statement. "Now that we're into October, it looks like Vince might never get around to telling South Carolinians what he would do as governor. That's not surprising, since his liberal big government agenda makes voters run for the hills."

Post and Courier: Graham and Hutto may debate, but not Ravenel, in Chamber of Commerce event

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141008/PC1603/141009432/1177/graham-and-hutto-may-debate-but-not-ravenel-in-chamber-of-commerce-event>

Schuyler Kropf

A debate in the race for Republican U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham's seat is being put together by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, but independent candidate Thomas Ravenel is not expected to be invited. The topics would cover business-related issues, such as paying for infrastructure and the Export-Import Bank, she said.

S.C. Agency News:

Pickens Sentinel: Audit shines light on longstanding DSS issues

<http://www.pickenssentinel.com/news/editorial/150066775/Audit-shines-light-on-longstanding-DSS-issues>

For quite some time South Carolina's Department of Social Services has been under fire, as has Gov. Nikki Haley, due to the many glaring issues associated with the department. On Oct. 3, the Legislative Audit Council (LAC) released its most recent findings from its audit of DSS.

Associated Press: DHEC director: SC needs better Ebola alert system

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=O2nKdOGg

Meg Kinnard

In an interview with The Associated Press, Department of Health and Environmental Control director Catherine Templeton said she wants to ensure that health care providers, as well as first responders and coroners, are all informed quickly if any suspected cases are identified in the state.

General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Sources: State and federal investigation focuses on Speaker Harrell PAC money, state contracts

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141008/PC1603/141009433/1177>

Jeremy Borden

Federal and state authorities are investigating allegations that South Carolina lawmakers sold their votes, funneled money from the state budget into their own pockets and misused money from a political action committee, sources familiar with the probe told The Post and Courier.

Associated Press: Harrell's brother quits judicial screening panel

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=jq55eo54

The brother of suspended House Speaker Bobby Harrell has quit a panel that screens judicial candidates before recommending finalists to state lawmakers. Charleston attorney John Harrell and Greenville attorney Don Sellers have stepped down from the 10-member Judicial Merit Selection Commission, The State newspaper reports (<http://bit.ly/1ncJVFT>).

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: How does your school measure up on SAT scores?

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/education/2014/10/07/greenville-county-state-lag-college-readiness/16872025/>

Nathaniel Cary

Students in Greenville County and across South Carolina performed better on measures of college readiness last school year, though the state still fell well below the national average on the number of students who are prepared for college. Scores increased for the fourth straight year for Greenville County seniors who took the Scholastic Assessment Test used for college admissions last school year.

Associated Press: Georgia. signs agreement to deepen Savannah harbor

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=2rotxZuy

Russ Bynum, Kathleen Foody

After 15 years of studies, lawsuits and bureaucratic delays, state and federal officials Wednesday signed the final paperwork needed for crews to begin digging sand and mud from the Savannah harbor to make room for supersized cargo ships to reach the busy port.

Note: Environmental groups and officials in South Carolina, which shares the Savannah River with Georgia, settled lawsuits challenging the deepening last year in exchange for extra monitoring and conservation efforts.

Local News:

Sun News: AVX Corp. agrees to pay property owners \$1.2 million to settle groundwater pollution lawsuit in Myrtle Beach

http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/10/08/4525961_avx-corp-agrees-to-pay-property.html?sp=/99/209/&rh=1#storylink=cpy

David Wren

Electronics manufacturer AVX Corp. will pay \$1.2 million to the owners of 42 properties in Myrtle Beach where groundwater contaminated by the toxic degreaser trichloroethylene was discovered, according to a preliminary settlement approved this week by a circuit court judge.

National News:

Associated Press: Justice Kennedy allows gay marriage in Nevada, keeps Idaho unions on hold

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2014/10/08/justice-kennedy-blocks-gay-marriage-ruling-in-idaho-nevada/>

Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy on Wednesday allowed same-sex marriage to begin in Nevada, clarifying that an earlier order temporarily blocking gay unions applies only to Idaho. Kennedy said in a brief order that he was lifting the hold he imposed five hours earlier Wednesday on same-sex weddings in Nevada.

Associated Press: Obama allies getting harder to find these days

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_OBAMA_FEW_FRIENDS?](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_OBAMA_FEW_FRIENDS?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-10-08-17-05-20)

[SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-10-08-17-05-20](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_OBAMA_FEW_FRIENDS?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-10-08-17-05-20)

Julie Pace

President Barack Obama is finding himself with few friends in Washington. His former Pentagon chief is criticizing his foreign policy. Longtime political advisers are questioning his campaign strategy. And Democrats locked in tough midterm campaigns don't want Obama anywhere near them between now and Election Day.

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