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Subject: Morning Clips - Tuesday, November 4, 2014

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2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Associated Press: Voters to decide whether Haley gets 2nd term

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=oL8S84E7

Seanna Adcox

Voters are deciding whether to award a second term to Republican Gov. Nikki Haley or hand an upset win to her Democratic challenger, state Sen. Vincent Sheheen. The rematch, which had been expected since shortly after the two faced each other in the 2010 contest, is expected to be the biggest draw for voters in a campaign season that's seen few surprises.

Note: Polls suggest Haley has been able to sidestep those issues by focusing on her administration's efforts to bring jobs to South Carolina. She frequently refers to the 57,000 jobs she says have been created in 45 of South Carolina's 46 counties.

Post and Courier: Election day is here in S.C.

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141104/PC1603/141109805>

Robert Behre

The polls are open across South Carolina, as the state's voters will pick a governor, two U.S. Senators and decide other races and questions. The weather isn't expected to hurt turnout: The forecast calls for mild temperatures and no rain throughout the day.

Note: The state's most hotly fought race is the gubernatorial contest between Gov. Nikki Haley and Democratic challenger Vincent Sheheen. Independent candidate Tom Ervin will appear on the ballot, though he suspended his campaign and endorsed Sheheen.

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: Election Day means Decision Day

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141104/PC1603/141109798/>

Jeremy Borden

Down to brass tax. Throw out all the polls and punditry. It's decision day, which means it's time for South Carolinians to head to the polls.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley faces Democrat Vincent Sheheen and several other candidates. Independent Tom Ervin is on the ballot but threw his support last week behind Sheheen.

Sun News: Time for voters to head to the polls

http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/11/04/4582046_time-for-voters-to-head-to-the.html?sp=/99/209/&rh=1

Voters will go to the polls Tuesday to vote in midterm elections, including for county and state seats.

Note: In the governor's race, incumbent Republican Gov. Nikki Haley is seeking a second term against Democratic candidate, state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, in a rematch election. Two other candidates, Steve French and Morgan Reeves also seeking the governor seat.

WHNS: SC voters head to polls to pick governor, other big races

<http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/27264118/sc-voters-head-to-polls-to-pick-governor-other-big-races#ixzz3l6VJnhmM>

Casey Vaughn

Voters across the Upstate and South Carolina will elect the next governor on Tuesday along with many other races. When the polls open at 7 a.m., voters will cast their ballot for governor, both U.S. Senate seats, congressional seats in addition to numerous statewide and local candidates.

Note: "This election matter a lot on a lot of different levels, but none of it matters if people aren't getting out there to vote, so we want everybody who's appreciated all the work we've done to get out there and vote ... get their friends, get their family, and know that we're going to continue to make it a great day in South

Carolina," Haley said on Monday.

The Hill: 5 things to watch in governor's races

<http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/222746-5-things-to-watch-in-governors-races>

Peter Sullivan

Washington's eyes have mostly been on the battle for the Senate this year, but the 36 governor's seats up in the states offer more uncertainty going into Election Day. Republicans are defending 22 seats, and as many as eight Republican incumbents are in close races at risk of losing their jobs.

Note: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley (R), a possible vice presidential pick, is expected to win safely. And while New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) is not on the ballot, he has criss-crossed the country stumping as head of the Republican Governors Association, building up goodwill, particularly in Iowa and New Hampshire.

The State: Tuesday is Election Day

http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/03/3787861_tuesday-is-election-day.html?rh=1

1 Haley seeks re-election: She was the state's first female and minority – Indian-American – governor. Now, in a rematch with her Democratic opponent from 2010, state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, Republican Nikki Haley is seeking a second term. Haley is favored in heavily Republican South Carolina. But does she do better than in 2010, when she won by an anemic 4.5 percentage points?

Anderson Independent: Crowded ballot features referendums on sales-tax increases, Sunday alcohol sales

http://www.independentmail.com/news/crowded-ballot-features-referendums-on-salestax-increases-sunday-alcohol-sales_67221134

Kirk Brown

Anderson - About 100,000 voters in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties are expected to cast ballots in Tuesday's election, which will feature referendums on sales-tax increases, Sunday alcohol sales and several other high-profile contests.

Note: Candidates for nine state constitutional offices will be on the ballot, led by the contest for governor. Republican Gov. Nikki Haley is seeking a second term. She is being challenged by Democratic state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, Libertarian Steve French and United Citizens Party candidate Morgan Bruce Reeves.

WJCL: South Carolina Governor's Race Countdown

<http://wjcl.com/2014/11/03/south-carolina-governors-race-countdown/>

Larry Spruill

In the South Carolina's Governor Race voters choose between Republican Governor Nikki Haley or Democratic opponent Vincent Sheheen. Both candidates made several stops throughout the state. The gloves are off in the Governor's race for South Carolina. Monday, both candidates Republican Governor Nikki Haley and her opponent Democrat Vincent Sheheen made one last push across the state.

Note: "What we accomplish if we made a difference. If you feel it, that's what we want to do. The beautiful part is that we're just getting started," said Governor Nikki Haley.

Note: "We're going to have more jobs. We're going to focus on workforce training. We're going to continue education for all of our children and we know we can do it together," said Haley.

USA Today: Not a political junkie? 50 election facts to help

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2014/11/03/election-facts-midterms-states/18415207/>

Alia E. Dastagir, Cara Richardson

The 2014 midterm elections are Tuesday, and they're a big deal. It's when people across the country pick their senators, congressmen and governors and vote on state ballot initiatives, which can range from legalizing marijuana to raising the minimum wage.

40. South Carolina: Did he really say that about Nikki Haley? State Sen. Vincent Sheheen got some unwanted attention for accidentally using an offensive word in reference to Nikki Haley, the GOP incumbent who is the state's first female governor. Haley is favored to keep her post.

WLTX: Polls Open Across South Carolina

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/local/2014/11/04/polls-open-across-south-carolina/18440171/>

Polls are open across South Carolina, as voters will pick their preferred candidates in races including for the state's governorship, both U.S. Senate seats, and a host of local contests. Voting began at 7 a.m., and you'll have your chance to cast your ballot until 7 p.m.

Note: Perhaps the top race people will see on the ballot will be for the governorship, where incumbent Republican Nikki Haley faces a rematch with her challenger in 2010, Vincent Sheheen. In 2010, Haley won that contest by just four percentage points.

Times and Democrat: 'Very heavy' early voting could mean strong turnout, election officials say
http://thetandd.com/news/day-of-decision-very-heavy-early-voting-could-mean-strong/article_fa27c502-63e5-11e4-8bd7-e77af4af8d4c.html

Martha Rose Brown

If the absentee ballot requests and voters casting early, in-person votes are any indication of what to expect at the polls today, then "expect very heavy voter turnout," Orangeburg County Voter Registration Director Aurora Smalls said.

Note: On the state level, Republican Gov. Nikki Haley is seeking a second term. She is being challenged by state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, a Camden Democrat. This is the second time that Haley and Sheheen have squared off for the office.

The Times of India: Indian-Americans pin their hope on Haley, Bera and Khanna
<http://m.timesofindia.com/nri/us-canada-news/Indian-Americans-pin-their-hope-on-Haley-Bera-and-Khanna/articleshow/45033728.cms>

More than two dozen Indian-Americans are in electoral fray for the crucial US elections, but all eyes would be on three young leaders — South Carolina governor Nikki Haley, Congressman Ami Bera and Ro Khanna — who have made a mark in the country's politics.

Note: Topping the list is Nikki Haley, who is seeking her second term as governor of South Carolina. A rising Republican star, top leaders of the party including several presidential hopefuls — former Florida governor Jeb Bush, the New Jersey governor Chris Christie and Indian-American Louisiana governor Bobby Jindal have campaigned for her.

WYFF (Video): Republican Nikki Haley and Democrat Vincent Sheheen are set to battle it out again
Gabrielle Komorowski
<http://www.wyff4.com/news/republican-nikki-haley-and-democrat-vincent-sheheen-are-set-to-battle-it-out-again/29510300#ixzz3l6XSnLBI>

Sumter Item: Region preps for elections
<http://www.theitem.com/stories/region-preps-for-elections,235360?>

Matt Bruce

About 50,000 voters will cast ballots in Sumter, Lee and Clarendon counties today, according to estimates. Local, state and federal races will be up for consideration as part of the midterm election. Polls open 7 a.m. today at the 110-plus voting precincts in the tri-county area and will remain open until 7 p.m.

Note: Statewide elections include the gubernatorial race, which pits first-term Republican incumbent Gov. Nikki Haley against Democratic contender Vincent Sheheen for the second time.

Florence Morning News: 2014 Election Day arrives
http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article_d6381df8-63b9-11e4-9163-001a4bcf6878.html

Gavin Jackson

The races are hitting the finish line. Today is Election Day, and polling locations are open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. for county voters to cast their ballots in races ranging from municipal city council races and school boards to the governor's race and Congress.

Greenville News: Voters today decide sales tax question, numerous public offices
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2014/11/04/voters-today-decide-sales-tax-question-numerous-public-offices/18434993/>

Rudolph Bell

Foes of a 1 percent sales tax to pay for road improvements in Greenville County continued to press their attack Monday on the final day of campaigning. Voters decide the question today, as well as who will fill a long list of public offices, from governor, to both of South Carolina's U.S. senators, to every member of the state House of Representatives.

The State: SC to permit sales of liquor for first time on Election Day
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/03/3787866/sc-to-permit-sales-of-liquor-for.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

Depending on whether S.C. residents like the outcome of Tuesday's elections, they — for the first time — either can celebrate or mourn with a bottle of liquor. Tuesday will be the first election in South Carolina when liquor stores can sell whiskey, vodka and Scotch while polls are open statewide. In July, South Carolina became the last state to lift its Election Day ban on liquor sales.

Note: Republican Gov. Nikki Haley has not issued an executive order to close liquor stores since taking office in 2011.

Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: Exclusive – Federal Judge Gergel of Charleston poised to grant S.C. gays the right to marry
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/03/3788090/exclusive-federal-judge-gergel.html#storylink=cpy>
John Monk

Federal Judge Richard Gergel of Charleston has signaled that he likely will rule soon that the U.S. Constitution trumps the state constitution and so nullify a state Supreme Court order that currently bars a Charleston probate judge from issuing a marriage license to two women who want to get married.

Note: In a little-noticed public hearing late last month, Gergel indicated to attorneys for state Attorney General Alan Wilson and Gov. Nikki Haley – who are fighting to deny South Carolina same-sex couples the same rights that heterosexual couples have to get married – that he would quickly overturn South Carolina's ban on gay marriage.

Note: Late Monday, Haley and Wilson filed a 57-page brief with Gergel, urging him to support a state government's right to deny a same-sex couple the same freedom to marry that heterosexual couples have. Their brief indicated Haley and Wilson are prepared to try to get the issue to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Post and Courier: Attorneys argue local gay marriage lawsuit should not move forward
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141103/PC16/141109804>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

Attorneys for Gov. Nikki Haley and Attorney General Alan Wilson, both facing re-election bids Tuesday, have filed a federal court brief opposing a request for an injunction that could allow gay marriages in South Carolina.

Note: Attorneys for Haley and Wilson also contend any action should await the outcome of another South Carolina gay marriage case. In that case, Highway Patrol Trooper Katherine Bradacs and U.S. Air Force retiree Tracie Goodwin want South Carolina to recognize their marriage after they wed in Washington, D.C.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Your chance to have your say

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141104/PC1002/141109808>

Editorial

Contrary to the naysayers, your vote does count. But first you have to go to the polls. And if you fail to join millions of Americans in casting ballots today, you will not only fail to have your say on who represents you in the halls of power. You will fail to do your part in our political system.

Statewide offices: Republican Nikki Haley has powerfully delivered on her pledge to make "jobs, jobs, jobs" her top priority as governor. As unemployment has fallen on her watch, South Carolina's prosperity has risen. She has fully earned a second term.

Times and Democrat: S.C. young, older voters hold key in today's races

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/s-c-young-older-voters-hold-key-in-today-s/article_f889489a-63ba-11e4-a421-07f32213b60d.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Midterm election in South Carolina. OUR VIEW: Democrats believe turnout close to 2008 would produce victories in GOP-dominated state. Civic participation is a key ingredient of a well-functioning democracy, and voter turnout is one measure of the public's trust in government.

Note: With Democrat Vincent Sheheen today in a rematch with Gov. Nikki Haley, Democrats compare the Obama number with the total number of votes Sheheen got in the 2010 race against the Republican: 630,500. Haley won that race 51-47 percent.

Post and Courier: A sign of relief: It's almost over

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141104/PC16/141109814/a-sign-of-relief-its-almost-over>

Frank Wooten

Among the too many sure signs of election season: Phony promises ... unsubstantiated charges ... overwrought warnings ... asinine campaign commercials ... And, of course, the unsightly glut of campaign signs. Rather than deploring these inevitable waste by-products of our political process, you could try seeing them as signs of democracy in action.

Aiken Standard: Take time to go vote

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141104/AIK0201/141109868/1018/AIK02/editorial-take-time-to-go-vote>

Editorial

It may seem a little bit obvious for us to urge voters to go out and cast a ballot, but we're going to say it anyway because we believe it. It's your right to go the polls today and try to make a difference. It may not always seem like your vote counts, especially in a state where few races look competitive.

Note: Haley could also make history if there's a repeat of the 2010 campaign when she became the state's first female governor. Her opponent, Vincent Sheheen, a state senator from Camden, obviously wants to become the state's first Democratic governor elected in more than a decade.

The State: Don't you dare fail to vote

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/03/3787287/dont-you-dare-fail-to-vote.html>

Warren Bolton

IT'S ELECTION TIME, when every day citizens get to make a direct difference in how their government — whether federal, state or local — is run. Unfortunately, far too many check out and fail to vote. But the stakes are too high for people to just sit out elections

Index-Journal: Exercise your right, privilege, obligation

<http://www.indexjournal.com/opinion/editorial/Exercise-your-right--privilege--obligation>

Editorial

We suspect most of you who are reading this do not even need the message. Why? Either you already have voted or are planning to at some point before polls close at 7 p.m. today. You don't take voting lightly. You recognize it as not only a right and privilege, but an obligation.

The State: A review of The State's endorsements

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/03/3787741/editorial-a-review-of-the-states.html>

Editorial

THE CAMPAIGNING is over, and now it's the voters' turn. Here's a review of our endorsements in today's election:

Governor: Democratic Sen. Vincent Sheheen is smart and studied and dependable and honest, a man of integrity and sincerity, whose word can be trusted.

South Carolina News:

Florence Morning News: Proposed 'Milli's Law' would target drunk boaters

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_7c0b6d80-63b9-11e4-8067-001a4bcf6878.html

Traci Bridges

Millicent "Milli" McDonald would have turned 20 on Nov. 18 and though her mother won't be able to give her an earthly present this year, she's working on a gift she hopes will honor her daughter's life for many years to come. McDonald, 19, was killed in a jet-ski collision on Lake Marion in May.

The State: New S.C. mortgage program may lower payments

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/03/3788099/new-sc-mortgage-program-may-lower.html>

Roddie Burris

The state housing authority Monday unveiled a new mortgage assistance program it says could offer even lower payments than existing programs and help thousands more qualified residents buy a first home. The SC Housing Homebuyer Program is a conventional loan product — rather than the agency's typical FHA-insured home lending packages — and the agency says it could lower the cost of a home over the life of a loan.

Associated Press: SUV sales help BMW earnings

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

David McHugh

Germany's luxury automaker BMW AG saw net profit slip 1.2 percent in the third quarter due to non-cash losses on foreign currency hedges and the reduced value of a stake in a key supplier. The company otherwise had a profitable quarter, riding strong sales of its expensive X5 sport-utility made in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Scraping to start at Wild Dunes as voters go to the polls on beach renourishment money
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141103/PC16/141109815>

Bo Petersen

A break might be in sight for high dollar properties along the erosive inlet end of the gated Wild Dunes resort, as well as other city taxpayers. That might be the best thing that can be said as the resort starts scraping beach renourishment sand Tuesday.

Post and Courier: Dorchester County looking for waterway access funds

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141103/PC16/141109799>

Jim Tatum

Dorchester County will soon be testing the waters regarding access funds and boater recreation opportunities. The Council approved a recommendation Monday from the county Parks and Recreation Committee that authorizes Parks and Recreation Director Eric Davis to work with the state legislative delegation to start the funding process for waterway access opportunities.

Post and Courier: Mount Pleasant mayor affirms plans for a roundabout on Coleman

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141103/PC16/141109817>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

Mayor Linda Page shot down hopes Monday of reversing plans for a large roundabout on Coleman Boulevard, despite residents' fears it could harm several iconic small businesses. However, she said town officials are working to address the concerns.

National News:

Associated Press: Hot races, big stakes on midterm election ballot

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_ELECTION_NEWS_GUIDE?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-11-04-03-11-20

Calvin Woodward

Above all else, what's at stake in Tuesday's midterm elections is control of the U.S. Senate. That, in turn, will shape the fate of President Barack Obama's agenda for the rest of his term. And everything else that Congress wants to do, or stop from getting done.

Politico: A midterm referendum on Barack Obama

<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/11/midterm-elections-referendum-barack-obama-112474.html>

Edward-Isaac Dove

President Barack Obama's policies aren't actually on the ballot, and neither is he. But 2014 has been all about him. The midterm map put Democratic candidates on defense — there are indeed red states and blue states, and they vote Republican in the red states, especially with an anti-incumbency mood in the air.

News and Observer: DENR, Commerce seek audit of federal stimulus programs

http://www.newsobserver.com/2014/11/03/4290825_denr-commerce-seek-audit-of-stimulus.html?sp=/99/102/&rh=1

Craig Jarvis

In a letter dated Oct. 21, and released by the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources over the weekend, DENR Secretary John Skvarla and Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker asked State Auditor Beth Wood to look into how two programs used stimulus money.

Brian Symmes

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