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To:

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Subject: Afternoon Clips - Monday, September 9, 2013

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley talks rising health care costs at Medicaid conference in North Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130909/PC1610/130909404/1177/gov-nikki-haley-talks-rising-health-care-costs-at-medicaid-conference-in-north-charleston>

Lauren Sausser

Gov. Nikki Haley told more than 1,000 health care experts Monday in North Charleston that rising health care costs, particularly Medicaid costs, in South Carolina and across the country are diverting money away from other top priorities. The Medicaid conference at the Charleston Area Convention Center has drawn about 1,200 people from around the country to this week.

Note: "When we look at the growth of Medicaid and of health care costs in general, over the last 40 years, we're seeing rises that we know we can't sustain," Haley said. "It's crystal clear it's unsustainable, and if we fail to fundamentally change the system, we will continue to have problems."

Note: "All the governors had tough decisions," Haley said during a press conference Monday. "We had to make a decision that we could sleep at night with. I'm very comfortable sleeping at night knowing we're doing this at our pace and not at D.C.'s."

Associated Press: Gov. Haley names new chief of staff (Received statewide coverage)

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kYrkDkO5

Seanna Adcox

Republican Gov. Nikki Haley announced Monday that former Rep. Ted Pitts will be her next chief of staff. Haley's office said Pitts will replace Bryan Stirling, who is leaving to become head of the state prisons agency. Pitts has been a deputy chief of staff since Haley took office in January 2011, serving as a liaison to legislators and agencies.

Note: "Ted has been a vital member of our team from the very beginning, and I am proud and excited to name him as our new chief of staff," Haley said in a statement first provided to The Associated Press.

"Having served together in the Legislature and worked closely over the past three years, he is someone who understands our administration's priorities and has the institutional knowledge needed to put those priorities into action."

The State: Pitts named Gov. Nikki Haley's new chief of staff

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/09/09/2970135/pitts-named-gov-nikki-haleys-new.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Gov. Nikki Haley has named her former fellow Lexington County legislator, Ted Pitts, as her new chief of staff. Pitts succeeds Bryan Stirling, who was the S.C. Department of Corrections director last week. Pitts served with Haley while she in the General Assembly from 2005-11. He was in the legislature from 2003-11 before he chose not to run for reelection when his S.C. National Guard unit was deployed to Afghanistan. He also ended a bid for lieutenant governor. The 41 year old was named the governor's deputy chief of staff overseeing issues dealing with cabinet agencies, boards and commissions and the Legislature after Haley's 2010 election.

Note: "Ted has been a vital member of our team from the very beginning and I am proud and excited to name him as our new chief of staff," Haley said in a statement. "Having served together in the legislature and worked closely over the past three years, he is someone who understands our administration's priorities and has the institutional knowledge needed to put those priorities into action."

Florence Morning News: Site consultants rank South Carolina among top states for doing business

http://www.scnw.com/news/politics/article_a0272e0e-1976-11e3-9809-001a4bcf6878.html

South Carolina has tied for a second place ranking among the top states for key site selection criteria,

according to Area Development magazine's recent survey of site consultants. South Carolina tied with Georgia for second overall in meeting key location requirements. Area Development surveyed a select group of site consultants who work with a nationwide client base and are hired by corporations to scout locations that meet a company's investment requirements.

Note: "Once again, South Carolina is being recognized as a great place to do business," said Gov. Nikki Haley. "Our workforce development programs continue to be a huge draw for companies, as is our state's overall business-friendly environment. Numerous world-class companies like BMW, Boeing, Continental, Bridgestone and Michelin understand that South Carolina knows what companies need in order to do well here."

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: South Carolina international trade conference marks 40th year

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130909/PC05/130909592/1177/south-carolina-international-trade-conference-marks-40th-year>

Tyrone Richardson

Today kicks off the South Carolina International Trade Conference, an annual event that brings together leaders from the maritime industry and other businesses to discuss how to grow commerce in the Palmetto State. It's notable this year because it's the 40th anniversary of the gathering, which is expected to draw hundreds to Wild Dunes on the Isle of Palms for the next three days. The conference is being headlined by today's discussions on logistics, how to bring more business to South Carolina, and the deepening of Charleston Harbor for larger vessels expected to stream from an expanded Panama Canal.

Post and Courier: Charleston Harbor deepening on tap for today's trade conference

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130909/PC05/130909401/1177/charleston-harbor-deepening-on-tap-for-today-x2019-s-trade-conference>

Tyrone Richardson

Officials will discuss the deepening of Charleston Harbor during today's S.C. International Trade Conference on Isle of Palms. The 4 p.m. discussion is part of today's start of the three-day conference that brings together hundreds of members of the business and maritime community. The topic of harbor dredging will include presentations by Jim Newsome, president and CEO of the S.C. State Ports Authority, and Lt. Col. John T. Litz, the new commander of the Army Corps of Engineers' Charleston District. The presentations comes just days after the Army Corps marked the completion of all field work for its \$13 million feasibility study for the deepening of Charleston Harbor.

Florence Morning News: DJJ works to ensure youth remember meaning of Sept. 11

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_85dcbe66-1966-11e3-a7fc-001a4bcf6878.html

Gavin Jackson

Sept. 11, 2001, is as notable to recent generations as the Dec. 7, 1941, bombing of Pearl Harbor is to "the Greatest Generation." Nearly 12 years after 9/11, a whole new generation is coming up knowing those events only through secondary materials instead of living through that day and watching the airliners crash into the World Trade Center towers on live TV. This prompted the Department of Juvenile Justice to hold an event every year since 9/11 to help juvenile offenders give back to the community around 9/11 and to learn about that day. This year 13 Darlington County juvenile offenders, many of whom were 5 years old or younger in 2001, held a car wash for members of the Darlington County law enforcement community, but also learned about why they were giving back, Darlington County DJJ director Lynn Gehrke said.

Post and Courier: Petition seeks equal protection of gays working CSU campus jobs

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130909/PC16/130909416/1177/petition-seeks-equal-protection-of-gays-working-csu-campus-jobs>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

Stephen Lovegrove had been working as an openly gay resident adviser at Charleston Southern University while studying to become a pastor after a long journey through his faith and sexuality. He said he felt accepted and supported at the private Christian college. But this summer, when he posted a series of personal stories on social media sites about being gay and Christian, he said he was fired from his campus job.

Post and Courier: Goldman Sachs to cut stake in Charleston's Benefitfocus after IPO

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130909/PC05/130909391/1177/goldman-sachs-to-cut-stake-in->

[charleston-x2019-s-benefitfocus-after-ipo](#)

John McDermott

Charleston-based software firm Benefitfocus has revised the terms of its proposed initial public offering, saying its biggest investor plans to cash in as much as \$50 million from the sale. Wall Street powerhouse Goldman Sachs & Co., which owns two-thirds of the company, is planning to sell 1.5 million shares and trim its stake to about 51 percent, according to a document filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission last week. That would raise \$34.5 million at the anticipated mid-range sale price of \$23 a share. Affiliates of the New York-based bank invested nearly \$106 million in Benefitfocus in early 2007.

Local News:

Greenville News: Local Republicans poised to select new Greenville County party leader

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130909/NEWS/309090063>

Rudolph Bell

Local Republicans are set to decide tonight which of two local attorneys should be the new chairman of the Greenville County Republican Party — Chad Groover or Samuel Harms. The election became necessary after former chairwoman Betty Poe resigned suddenly in June, not long after winning a second term. The county party's executive committee is scheduled to decide the question during a 7 p.m. meeting at the Academy of the Arts, 80 School Street, Taylors. Competing camps have already been taking pot shots at each other on the Web.

Associated Press: Lt. Dan Weekend set on new stage in new city

http://www.scnow.com/entertainment/article_11ee9fe4-197d-11e3-bebf-001a4bcf6878.html

Bruce Smith

The annual Lt. Dan Weekend is being held in a new city with a new concert venue and a new sponsor. What is not new this week is the purpose and the headliner, actor-musician Gary Sinise and his Lt. Dan Band. This weekend's events, being held for the first time in Charleston, mark the fourth straight year Sinise performs to raise money and show support for wounded vets. Until now, the concert sponsored by the nonprofit Independence Fund, was held in nearby Beaufort, S.C. Sinise played Lt. Dan in the 1994 film "Forrest Gump," filmed in part in South Carolina. This weekend is one of about 50 concerts his band plays yearly in support of America's troops and veterans.

Post and Courier: Charleston County School Board to decide whether Lowcountry Leadership Charter can use former Schroder building

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130909/PC16/130909394/1006/>

Diette Courrage Casey

Students enrolled in the new Lowcountry Leadership Charter School still haven't started the new school year, but school officials hope that will change soon. Construction on the charter school's new building in Hollywood isn't finished, so the school must find a temporary location. School leaders have asked for permission to use the former Schroder Middle School building, and the school board will decide tonight whether to sign off on that lease. The former Schroder building has received a certificate of occupancy from the state, and the lease approval is the final step for the charter school to be able to use the site.

The State: Voters in Columbia, SC will get eight forums to boost voter education, election turnout

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/09/09/2969980/voters-in-columbia-sc-will-get.html#storylink=cpy>

Clif LeBlanc

The League of Women Voters is holding eight forums starting Wednesday across Columbia to increase voter turnout and educate voters about the capital city's first fall election. The forums are scheduled on four successive Wednesdays, and two will be held in each of Columbia's four City Council districts, said Martha Roblee, president of the league's Columbia Area chapter. The non-partisan league also is seeking sites for two forums to explain state laws on the forms of municipal government in South Carolina, Roblee said just before an election kickoff event Monday outside City Hall. Locations that can accommodate large groups and the times of those forums have yet to be decided, she said.

Island Packet: Beaufort County school board turns over unexpected \$3 million windfall

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/09/09/2674400/beaufort-county-school-board-turns.html#storylink=cpy>

Sarah Bowman

A raising of the tax rate to offset lower property values has given the Beaufort County School District an unexpected \$3 million windfall. But the windfall will be short-lived, as the school board has notified the

county of the overage. Though the county and school board have often been at odds over funding for the schools, the board's chairman says it doesn't want the increase in funding -- at least, not this way. Chairman Bill Evans wrote a letter Wednesday to County Council Chairman Paul Sommerville asking that the millage rate be lowered for the 2013-14 budget so the district does not receive the extra money.

Island Packet: Beaufort County superintendent to hold town hall meetings

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/09/09/2674685/beaufort-county-superintendent.html#storylink=cpy>

Parents and community members will be able to meet Thursday with Superintendent Jeffrey Moss during the first of five town hall meetings across the Beaufort County School District. The meeting will be from 6 to 7 p.m. in the auditorium of Hilton Head Island High School at 70 Wilborn Road. Moss, who took over as Beaufort County School District superintendent two months ago, said in a news release that these meetings are an opportunity for parents and community to get to know him better. The meetings also are an opportunity for him to get feedback about challenges in the district, he said.

Sun News: Grant allows no-cost GED testing for some Horry Adult Education students

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2013/09/09/3698580/grant-allows-no-cost-ged-testing.html#storylink=cpy>

Vicki Grooms

A partnership between state education and workforce agencies is allowing Horry County Schools Adult Education to provide qualified students with no-cost General Educational Development testing, according to a news release from Adult Education. Adult Education students can take the computer-based GED test for free at either the Myrtle Beach Family Learning Center, 3101 N. Oak St., or the Conway Education Center, 1620 Sherwood Drive. The S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce awarded the S.C. Department of Education a \$100,000 grant to support the free testing and strengthen the state's workforce.

National News:

Associated Press: Clinton endorses Obama effort to punish Syria

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=bSPqnayz

Ken Thomas

Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton endorsed President Barack Obama's attempt to win congressional approval of a military strike in Syria, saying Monday that any move by the Assad regime to surrender its weapons to international control would be an "important step." But Clinton cautioned that the removal of its chemical weapons stockpile should not be an "excuse for delay and obstruction" by Syria. Clinton met with Obama at the White House as the administration sought to sway skeptical lawmakers in Congress to approve a plan to punish Syria's government for last month's chemical weapons attack. The former first lady offered her first public statements on the Syrian crisis, adding her voice to a series of Obama allies who have supported the military action.

Associated Press: Band of Republicans Pushes Immigration in US House

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_IMMIGRATION_HOUSE_REPUBLICANS?](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_IMMIGRATION_HOUSE_REPUBLICANS?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2013-09-09-02-53-11)

[SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2013-09-09-02-53-11](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_IMMIGRATION_HOUSE_REPUBLICANS?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2013-09-09-02-53-11)

Michael J. Mishak

In the five weeks since he declared his support for a comprehensive immigration overhaul, U.S. Rep. Daniel Webster has gotten an earful. One constituent told the second-term Republican that immigrants carry disease. Another said immigrants would steal jobs away from Americans. "You cannot stop illegal immigration by rewarding it," another man said at a recent town hall-style meeting in Groveland, a rural community west of Orlando. "Amnesty is a reward." As Congress returns to work this week after its summer break, Webster faces perhaps an even tougher crowd: fellow Republicans.

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