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To:
Date: 1/21/2014 6:21:34 PM
Subject: Afternoon Clips – Tuesday, January 21, 2014

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Department of Administration passed by Senate and House:

Associated Press: Restructuring bill heading to governor's desk

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=7neGVums

Seanna Adcox

A bill called the largest restructuring of state government in two decades is finally heading to the desk of South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley. The Senate approved 39-4 on Tuesday a compromise worked out last week by a panel of Senate and House members. The vote came hours after the House gave unanimous approval. The votes give a victory to both Haley and her Democratic opponent, Sen. Vincent Sheheen, the bill's main sponsor.

The State: Dept. of Administration passes in Senate, House

http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/21/3219204/state-house-dept-of-administration.html?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter&utm_destination=buzzatthestate

Adam Beam

Martin asked to hear what the governor thought and tried to adjourn the senate. He feared the senate would vote on restructuring if he left the floor to speak with Haley. Senators voted to stay in session, but they agreed to recess while Martin, Sen. Tom Corbin, R-Greenville, and Senate Majority Leader Harvey Peeler, R-Cherokee, met with Haley in her office. After their 20-minute meeting, Martin thanked Haley for talking with home "on a personal level" and ended his blocking of the bill.

Note: "Carroll Campbell is smiling today as the House and Senate passed the biggest piece of government reform since he was governor almost 20 years ago," Haley posted on Facebook. "South Carolina is showing the world that we are no longer in the dark ages!"

Post and Courier (Blog): SC Senate and House approve restructuring effort

<http://blog.postandcourier.com/palmetto-politics/2014/01/21/sc-senate-house-approve-restructuring-effort/>

Jeremy Borden

South Carolina's Senate and House both overwhelmingly passed on Tuesday a fundamental restructuring of the state's government, but not before a state senator demanded — and received — a meeting with Gov. Nikki Haley. The bill's passage also means a bipartisan compromise between two gubernatorial candidates — Haley and presumptive Democratic nominee Sen. Vincent Sheheen, whose colleagues praised him for shepherding the bill.

Note: "Carroll Campbell is smiling today as the House and Senate passed the biggest piece of government reform since he was governor almost 20 years ago," Haley said. "South Carolina is showing the world that we are no longer in the dark ages! Another Great Day in South Carolina!"

Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Motorcycle helmet bill filed by Charleston, Georgetown state representatives

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140121/PC1610/140129930/1437/motorcycle-helmet-bill-filed-by-charleston-georgetown-state-representatives>

Cynthia Roldan

An increase in motorcycle-related fatalities has driven three state representatives to file a bill that would require all riders wear helmets. House Bill 4500 was filed Wednesday by Reps. Wendell Gilliard, Carl Anderson, and J. Seth Whipper, D-North Charleston. Gilliard and Anderson said it's time Palmetto State residents consider such a measure because state roads are getting crowded.

Note: At the time, Gov. Nikki Haley also threatened to veto Anderson's bill, had it been approved by the legislature. Haley's stance on the matter has not changed since, said her spokesman on Thursday.

Anderson Independent: Sandvik announces \$12 million expansion in Oconee County

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/jan/21/no-headline---oconeejobs/?partner=RSS>

Officials with Sandvik Inc., manufacturer of carbide inserts for the metal cutting industry, have announced a \$12 million expansion for its plant in Oconee County. The \$12 million investment is expected to increase the company's production at its Westminster facility.

Note: "We are quickly becoming known for work in advanced manufacturing and technology, and it's companies like Sandvik which makes that possible," said Gov. Nikki Haley. "We celebrate Sandvik's decision to invest \$12 million in their Westminster facility and look forward to their continued success."

Legislative Session News:

The State: Democratic senator introduces bi-partisan bill to raise teacher pay

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/21/3219170/state-house-democratic-sc-sen.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

S.C. Sen. Darrell Jackson, D-Richland, introduced a bill Tuesday to raise S.C. teacher pay to the national average. The bill so far has the support of four Republicans and five Democrats, including Gov. Nikki Haley's likely Democratic challenger, Sen. Vincent Sheheen of Camden. Jackson said he is not sure yet how much money increasing teacher pay will cost the state. Budget forecasters are working on those numbers, he said.

Associated Press: Bill raises teachers' salaries to national average

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4e0fFhmY

A bill raising teachers' salaries to the national average has been introduced in the South Carolina Senate. The idea is being pushed by Gov. Nikki Haley's Democratic opponent, Sen. Vincent Sheheen of Camden. He's a co-sponsor of the measure that would phase in the increase over five years. Five Democrats and four Republicans have signed on to the bill filed Tuesday.

The State: Lawmaker says DOT acts as if 'they are God'

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/21/3218896/state-house-lawmaker-says-dot.html>

Adam Beam

House lawmakers thrashed the Department of Transportation on Tuesday, saying the agency needed to make some changes before it receives more money to repair roads and bridges. "People over (at DOT), you try to talk to them, they think they are God. Guess what? They are not God," said Rep. Roland Smith, R-Aiken. "We want to support DOT and make this the best state in the nation. DOT has to wake up in some areas, too."

Associated Press: House members critical of DOT's maintenance work

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140121/AIK0105/140129924/1007/AIK0101/house-members-critical-of-dots-maintenance-work>

Seanna Adcox

Legislators say the South Carolina Department of Transportation needs to do a better job repairing potholes and responding to other constituent complaints to prove it can spend any extra allotment correctly. Agency Director Robert St. Onge encouraged a House budget-writing subcommittee Tuesday to put more money toward fixing the state's roads. The agency has said it needs an additional \$1.5 billion yearly over 20 years to bring roads to good conditions.

The State: Dems propose boosting minimum wage \$1 above federal level

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/21/3219065/state-house-dems-propose-boosting.html>

Andrew Shain, Jamie Self

S.C. employers would have to pay workers at least \$1 an hour more than the federal minimum wage and adjust the minimum wage based on inflation each year if bills filed Tuesday pass in the General Assembly. The bills, introduced by six Democratic state senators, allows workers to file complaints about employers who fail to pay the minimum wage. Businesses have 15 days to give unpaid wages before legal action is taken.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

USA Today: Black GOP senator compared to ventriloquist's dummy

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/onpolitics/2014/01/21/tim-scott-ventriloquist-dummy-black-senate/4722897/>

Catalina Camia

An NAACP official suggested Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, the only black Republican in the Senate, is a GOP puppet. "A ventriloquist can always find a good dummy," said Rev. William Barber, president of the North Carolina NAACP. "The extreme right wing down here finds a black guy to be senator ... and then he goes to Washington, D.C., and articulates the agenda of the Tea Party."

Note: "To reflect seriously on the comments a person, a pastor, that is filled with baseless and meaningless rhetoric would be to do a disservice to the very people who have sacrificed so much and paved the way," Scott said in a statement. "Instead, I will honor the memory of Dr. King by being proactive in holding the door for others and serving my fellow man. And Rev. Barber will remind me and others of what not to do."

South Carolina News:

The State: POLITICS: Bobby Harrell featured guest at Palmetto Leadership Council fundraiser
http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/21/3218752/politics-bobby-harrell-featured.html?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter&utm_destination=buzzatthestate

Jamie Self

S.C. House Speaker Bobby Harrell is headlining a fundraiser for the Palmetto Leadership Council scheduled tonight. The Leadership Council is a political action committee that donates to the campaigns of lawmakers. The PAC, and Harrell's ties to it, came under scrutiny when allegations that he may have broken state ethics laws surfaced along with news that the PAC had donated to the campaigns of representatives tasked with policing House members, including Harrell.

The State: U.S. Rep. Xavier Becerra to keynote S.C. Dems issues conference
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/21/3218708/politics-us-rep-xavier-becerra.html>

Adam Beam

The chairman of the U.S. House Democratic Caucus will give the keynote address at the 2014 John M. Spratt Issues Conference next month. U.S. Rep. Xavier Becerra, D-Calif., has represented Los Angeles in the U.S. House since 1993. The conference, sponsored by the S.C. Democratic Party, is a training ground for party activists on issues including the Affordable Care Act, unemployment and grassroots organizing.

Associated Press: Prosecutor: New trial not needed for executed boy
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=QveJolXp

Jeffrey Collins

The judge, prosecutor and defense lawyers all agree that justice, at least by today's standards, wasn't carried out 70 years ago when a 14-year-old black boy was sent to the electric chair for killing two white girls. But figuring out exactly what happened in March 1944 may be elusive, they said during the first day of a hearing into whether the boy, George Stinney, should get a new trial. People who attended the original trial have died and most of the evidence, including a transcript of the trial, has disappeared.

Associated Press: Govt accuses military moving company of fraud
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=soNQCNe

Meg Kinnard

A company that handles moves for some military members in South Carolina and Georgia is being accused of inflating costs and overbilling the federal government, allegations that could potentially result in millions of dollars in penalties and fines. Covan World-Wide Moving Inc., and an affiliate, Coleman American Moving Services, Inc., move soldiers to and from South Carolina's Fort Jackson and Georgia's Fort Gordon, according to the lawsuit.

Local News:

The State: Columbia council votes to negotiate with owner of minor league baseball teams
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/21/3218916/columbia-braces-for-clash-over.html#storylink=cpy>

Clif LeBlanc

Columbia City Council on Tuesday voted to open formal negotiations with a minor-league baseball team owner to build a public stadium in the proposed Bull Street neighborhood. Council members Leona Plough and Moe Baddourah were the "no" votes in a 5-2 decision. Council asked city manager Teresa Wilson to update members about the negotiations with Atlanta-based Hardball Capital at the Feb. 4 City Council meeting.

National News:

Associated Press: Higher-income Americans hit hardest by tax changes

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=J5wFn8Hb

Carole Feldman

Higher-income Americans and some legally married same-sex couples are likely to feel the biggest hits from tax law changes when they file their federal returns in the next few months. Taxpayers also will have a harder time taking medical deductions. In other changes for the 2013 tax year, the Alternative Minimum Tax has been patched - permanently - to prevent more middle-income people from being drawn in, and there's a simpler way to compute the home office deduction.

Associated Press: Christie takes oath amid scandal, touts mandate

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1KNQ8vWr

Angela Delli Santi, Geoff Mulvihill

Gov. Chris Christie sought to turn back the clock as he was sworn into a second term Tuesday, saying voters gave him a mandate in November to "stay the course" and put aside partisan differences, even as Democrats ramped up an investigation into whether his administration abused its power.

Washington Post: Former Va. Gov. McDonnell and wife charged in gifts case

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/former-va-gov-mcdonnell-and-wife-charged-in-gifts-case/2014/01/21/1ed704d2-82cb-11e3-9dd4-e7278db80d86_story.html

Rosalind Helderman, Carol Leonnig, Sari Horwitz

Former Virginia governor Robert F. McDonnell and his wife Maureen were charged Tuesday with illegally accepting gifts, luxury vacations and large loans from a wealthy Richmond-area businessman who sought special treatment from state government. Authorities alleged that McDonnell and his wife received gifts from executive Jonnie R. Williams again and again, lodging near constant requests for money, clothes, trips, golf accessories and private plane rides.

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