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Subject: Morning Clips – Tuesday, January 14, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley unveils Executive Budget:

Associated Press: Gov. Haley's proposed budget focuses on education

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=LiPI5yXe

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina Gov. Haley's proposed budget for 2014-15 focuses on education with a \$177 million increase to public schools while also providing most taxpayers a savings of about \$30. Haley released her \$6.6 billion plan for state taxes Monday, one day before the legislative session starts. It comes a week after the Republican governor laid out her plans to improve education by focusing on poor, rural districts.

Associated Press: Gov. Haley wants to spend more on schools, Medicaid and roads

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/jan/13/gov-haley-wants-spend-more-schools-medicaid-and-ro/?partner=RSS>

Kirk Brown

State spending on public schools, Medicaid and roads would rise under a budget that Gov. Nikki Haley proposed Monday. Haley is calling for a \$177 million increase in funding for K-12 education. More than half of that amount would be earmarked for impoverished students. Much of the rest would go toward placing reading coaches in elementary schools, for technology improvements and for buying new school buses.

Greenville News: Roads key issue in Haley budget

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014301140022>

Tim Smith

Gov. Nikki Haley said she thinks the state can find more than \$1 billion over the next decade to spend on roads just by dedicating the growth in revenue from the start of the year to the final estimate in May. As part of her executive budget plan for fiscal year 2014-15 unveiled Monday, Haley said the revenue growth from first to final estimates each year averages almost \$107 million, what she has called "the money tree." And that amount could top \$1 billion over a decade, a method for addressing road needs without raising taxes, she said.

Post and Courier: Gov. Haley outlines budget priorities

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140113/PC1610/140119772/1031/gov-haley-outlines-budget-priorities>

Cynthia Roldan and Jeremy Borden

South Carolina lawmakers should bolster funding for education, public safety and infrastructure, while also giving most taxpayers a slight income tax decrease, according to a budget plan laid out by Gov. Nikki Haley on Monday. Education topped her list of priorities, which will also serve as the backdrop for her ongoing campaign for re-election against Sen. Vincent Sheheen, D-Camden, who has outlined his own education and spending priorities. Sheheen could not be reached for comment.

The State: Haley: Revenue growth can fund road repairs

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/13/3205847/haley-revenue-growthcan-fund-road.html#storylink=cpy>

Adam Beam

After unveiling her \$6.6 billion budget proposal Monday, Gov. Nikki Haley spent a lot of time talking about what wasn't in her budget: \$106 million for road repairs. The money was not in her budget because, technically, the state does not have the money yet to spend. But, on average in recent years, projections of how much the state will have to spend have grown by \$106 million from the time Haley has announced her budget proposal to when lawmakers approve a spending plan in June. Haley said if lawmakers would decide to automatically spend that new money on road repairs, it would generate more than \$1 billion in road repairs over the next decade.

Governor Nikki Haley News:

Seneca Journal: Governor's plan would partially fund reading coaches in Oconee, Pickens school districts
<https://upstatetoday.com/2014/01/governors-plan-would-partially-fund-reading-coaches-in-oconee-pickens-school-districts/>

Greg Oliver

All elementary schools in South Carolina, including 11 in Oconee County and 16 in Pickens County, are eligible for full or partial funding for a new \$29.5 million reading coach program as part of Gov. Nikki Haley's K-12 Education Reform Initiative. The 20-page report lists Blue Ridge Elementary, James M. Brown Elementary and Westminster Elementary in Oconee County and Hagood Elementary School and McKissick Elementary School in Pickens County among those schools that will receive a 100 percent state-funded reading coach.

Associated Press: Legislature kicks off with old issues on agenda

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=V1GLUOVy

Seanna Adcox

Legislators will again attempt to pass bills that strengthen South Carolina's ethics laws and restructure state government. The 2014 legislative session kicks off Tuesday. Bills that don't become law before the session ends this summer officially die and would have to be reintroduced next year. Lawmakers of both parties have faced ethics violations over the past few years, prompting calls for reform. A bill passed by the House last year is up for debate on the Senate floor. A main sticking point is who handles allegations against legislators.

Note: Both Gov. Nikki Haley and her Democratic rival Sen. Vincent Sheheen will renew their push for restructuring as election-year politics heat up.

Speaker Bobby Harrell ethics investigation:

Associated Press: AG sends Harrell ethics case to State Grand Jury

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

Meg Kinnard

South Carolina's chief prosecutor said Monday he had handed over his review to the State Grand Jury of a state police report on ethics allegations against Speaker Bobby Harrell, who called on authorities to release their findings to the public. The announcement comes a month after Attorney General Alan Wilson's office received what it called a "voluminous" report from the State Law Enforcement Division.

The State: State grand jury to investigate ethics allegations against SC House Speaker Bobby Harrell

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/13/3205348/state-grand-jury-to-investigate.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

A state grand jury will investigate allegations that House Speaker Bobby Harrell, R-Charleston, misused campaign money and his legislative position for personal gain. Harrell, one of the Legislature's most powerful leaders, said Monday that he was "shocked" by the move, adding, in an email statement, the decision to give the allegations to the grand jury runs counter to what he has been hearing from investigators.

Post and Courier: House Speaker Bobby Harrell matter referred to grand jury

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140113/PC16/140119769/1177/house-speaker-bobby-harrell-matter-referred-to-grand-jury>

Jeremy Borden and Schuyler Kropf

As the annual Statehouse session gets underway, the ethics questions hanging over House Speaker Bobby Harrell are taking center stage. Attorney General Alan Wilson's office announced Monday the probe into Harrell's conduct has been referred to a state grand jury, where it will be evaluated behind closed doors for possible wrongdoing. Harrell, R-Charleston, issued his own statement later in the day expressing disappointment that Wilson notified the press before contacting him or his attorneys of the decision, an assertion that was denied by the Attorney General's office.

WIS: State Grand Jury has Speaker Bobby Harrell investigation

<http://www.wistv.com/story/24437339/state-grand-jury>

Jody Barr

South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson announced Monday that the investigation into ethics complaints against Speaker of the House Bobby Harrell is now being referred to the State Grand Jury. The report was passed on to Wilson last month, according to the Associated Press. The complaint that sparked the investigation was filed by Ashley Landess of the South Carolina Policy Council.

S.C. Political News:

The State: 2014 elections: SC comptroller draws GOP primary opponent

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/13/3205915/2014-elections-sc-comptroller.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Michael Luppe, an executive committeeman of the Darlington County GOP, said Monday that he will challenge Richard Eckstrom in the Republican primary for S.C. comptroller general. Eckstrom, a former state treasurer from Lexington County, has held the seat since winning the 2002 election. Luppe, who works as a buyer for a Florence manufacturer, has never run for political office before but worked on the campaigns of Hartsville Mayor Mel Pennington and U.S. Rep. Tom Rice, R-Myrtle Beach. He also runs a chess school.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Stamper takes campaign to unseat Graham to Spartanburg Democrats

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140113/ARTICLES/140119876/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Stamper-takes-campaign-to-unseat-Graham-to-Spartanburg-Democrats#gsc.tab=0>

Felicia Kitzmiller

Even as controversy permeates his candidacy, Jay Stamper is plotting his campaign as a Democratic candidate in a Republican stronghold. During a lunch with Spartanburg County Democrats at Golden Corral on Monday, Stamper attacked Graham's loyalty to conservative principles and said spending trillions of dollars on foreign engagements isn't fiscal conservatism, limiting abortion and marriage isn't limited government conservatism, and supporting the National Security Administration's data collection isn't Constitutional conservatism.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Times and Democrat: Haley education shift on target locally, for state

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/haley-education-shift-on-target-locally-for-state/article_50ba83c2-7ca2-11e3-ad25-0019bb2963f4.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Education in South Carolina. OUR OPINION: Bipartisan support for focus on rural, poor school districts is hopeful sign. Whether Gov. Nikki Haley's proposals for education announced this past week are labeled a transformational shift in her approach to schools or political maneuvering in an election year, she has shifted the emphasis in two key areas. First, the concept of public funding for private education has been a key ingredient of Republican education policy since the administration of Gov. Mark Sanford.

Aiken Standard: Protecting students should be priority

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140114/AIK0201/140119790/1021/AIK0201/editorial-protecting-students-should-be-priority>

Editorial

It should be considered an initial step at this point, but a bill introduced in the S.C. House of Representatives will hopefully help to reduce bullying in our schools. The bill would allow students to report bullying anonymously through a website – the perfect outlet for students because that's the place that they would visit the most. The legislation was introduced by S.C. Rep. Chip Limehouse, R-Charleston, who was motivated to sponsor the bill after reading stories from around the country about children committing suicide because they were bullied or harassed by others.

Rock Hill Herald: Collecting fines for ethics offenses

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/01/13/5577057/collecting-fines-for-ethics-offenses.html>

Editorial

It would be easy to get the impression from the S.C. Ethics Commission's backlog of uncollected fines that the Palmetto State is the most corrupt in the nation. But the figures are misleading. The Ethics Commission collected nearly \$230,000 in fines last fiscal year, but that's just a fraction of the nearly \$2.5 million that candidates, lobbyists and committees across the state still owe. That would seem to suggest that scores of South Carolinians involved in elections committed serious misdeeds for which they were fined thousands of

dollars that they haven't paid.

Post and Courier: Fix state governance now

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140114/PC1002/140119730/1022/fix-state-governance-now>
Editorial

The Legislature's repeated failure to finish a meaningful restructuring agenda year after year is a clear indication that many lawmakers really aren't all that unhappy with a dysfunctional system that shortchanges their constituents on accountability, frugality and oversight. Early action to create a Department of Administration would signal that this session is going to be different. The Department of Administration bill appeared to be headed for approval last year, but it faltered for the third year in a row at the end of the session.

The State: A half-full take on the upcoming legislative session

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/13/3205519/scope-a-half-full-take-on-the.html#storylink=cpy>
Cindi Scoppe

If you think of the 2013 and 2014 legislative sessions as separate events, there's no reason to be optimistic about what could happen in the coming six months. Our Legislature has been disappointing us for years, and if last year seemed any different, it was only because it was worse. But if you remember that they are in fact the first and second halves of a single session, then there is reason for a glass-half-full sort of optimism. Well, as much as anyone who isn't paid to make sure nothing happens can possibly muster for our Legislature.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

The State: U.S. Sen. Tim Scott shares 2014 legislative agenda in West Columbia

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/13/3206039/politics-us-sen-tim-scott-stops.html#storylink=cpy>
Jamie Self

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott spoke Monday at the Brookland-Lakeview Empowerment Center in West Columbia while business, church and advocacy group leaders ate lunch. Scott shared details of his 2014 legislative agenda, which includes introducing bills aimed at allowing a more flexible workday for some working parents, increasing school-choice opportunities, encouraging business growth, and retraining workers to qualify for higher-skilled, higher-paying jobs.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Graham speaks to boost German-American economic development

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140113/ARTICLES/140119877/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Graham-speaks-to-boost-German-American-economic-development#gsc.tab=0>

Trevor Anderson

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham made a stop in Spartanburg County Monday, promoting a "new chapter" in economic relations between South Carolina and Germany. Graham spoke before a crowd of about 100 Upstate business officials at DAA Draexlmaier Automotive of America LLC in Duncan during an event celebrating the appointment of Vincenc Pearson as the new state director of the Atlanta-based German-American Chamber of Commerce South.

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: More than 24K in SC registered online for health coverage in December

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014301140021>

Mary Orndorff Troyan

More than 24,000 people in South Carolina have chosen a private health insurance plan through the HealthCare.gov marketplace, according to data released Monday. The new numbers from the Obama administration reflect a spike in enrollment since the end of November. In the first two months of enrollment in October and November, 2,761 people in South Carolina found private coverage through HealthCare.gov, the federal government's online health insurance marketplace created under the Affordable Care Act.

Associated Press: Most SC health care signups are people over 45

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=07MX8cuK

More than half of the 24,000 people who have signed up in South Carolina for health insurance under President Barack Obama's law are 45 years old or older. The Obama administration released age and gender breakdowns of the people who have enrolled in government-subsidized private insurance by the end

of December. Less than 30 percent of South Carolina enrollees are under 35. The administration reports 57 percent of them are women and four in five received financial help to pay for their plans.

Florence Morning News: Pee Dee lawmakers weigh in on state infrastructure

http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article_0f72ad82-7cb0-11e3-9b7d-0019bb30f31a.html

Gavin Jackson

Last year lawmakers passed a \$550 million bond to improve interstates, but that amount is just a small part of the \$48.3 billion in road infrastructure needs over the next 20 years. Based on projections, the state will only have \$19.3 billion to pay for those roads, leaving a \$29 billion deficit that lawmakers are exploring how to fix. Much funding talk in 2014 will center around raising the 16 cent gas tax to fund road improvements, however in an election year it is doubtful such an increase would get far.

Seneca Journal: PC Council member, residents address infrastructure issues to delegation

<https://upstatetoday.com/2014/01/pc-council-member-residents-address-infrastructure-issues-to-delegation/>

Greg Oliver

When the South Carolina General Assembly convenes for the 2014 legislative session today, one of the primary issues they are expected to address between now and June is improving infrastructure. That issue was also on the mind of Pickens County Council member Tom Ponder and a number of residents attending the annual Pickens County Legislative Delegation meeting held last week in Dacusville. Ponder told the delegation that every other state has better roads than South Carolina is repaving.

Island Packet: Sen. Davis seeks more money for Beaufort County

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/01/13/2891965/sen-davis-seeks-more-money-for.html#storylink=cpy>

Sarah Bowman

State Sen. Tom Davis has been known to hold court on national issues such as Federal Reserve policy and acknowledges that he has mulled runs for statewide offices. But the Beaufort Republican said when the legislative session resumes Tuesday, expect a greater emphasis on issues directly affecting his home district -- for instance, securing an equitable share of state funding for Beaufort County projects.

Aiken Standard: Poll: Most South Carolinians approve states' convention

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140114/AIK0101/140119768/poll-most-south-carolinians-approve-states-convention>

Derrek Asberry

Seventy-five percent of South Carolina's voters are dissatisfied with the federal government and 71 percent are in favor of an Article V Convention of States, according to S.C. Rep. Bill Taylor, R-Aiken. In a statewide poll that included 1,264 voters from various ethnicities, age groups and from every county conducted by True South Communications, Taylor posed two main questions.

Aiken Standard: McConnell passionately cites needs of state's seniors

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140114/AIK0101/140119786/1004/mcconnell-passionately-cites-needs-of-states-seniors>

Rob Novit

Ten months ago, Glenn McConnell – the then-S.C. Senate's President Pro Tempore – found himself thrust into a role he didn't want, and the unexpected oversight of a state agency he has come to passionately support. At an Aiken Rotary Club meeting on Monday, McConnell described the importance of the S.C. Council of Aging and the additional funding from the S.C. General Assembly that the agency must have to help South Carolina's growing senior population.

The State: Dueling rallies to greet returning S.C. legislators

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/13/3205841/dueling-rallies-to-greet-returning.html#storylink=cpy>

Adam Beam

At noon Tuesday – as House and Senate leaders bang their gavels for the first time in 2014 – S.C. progressive leaders will place a coffin on the State House steps, representing the 1,400 people who they say will die this year because South Carolina did not expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. Meanwhile, several hundred conservative activists are expected to cram the State House lobby to pressure state senators to pass a law that would restrict the “horrors of Obamacare,” as state Sen. Lee Bright puts it.

Associated Press: Protests to greet lawmakers returning to Columbia

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=XXa9KL4h

A pair of protests from the opposite ends of the political spectrum will meet South Carolina lawmakers as they return to Columbia. A group that wants the state to refuse to abide by the new federal health care law will hold a rally Tuesday morning on the front side of the Statehouse. Then at noon, a collection of groups will hold what is being called Truthful Tuesday rallies at the back of the Statehouse. The protest will call on the state to accept money to expand Medicaid health insurance for the poor and spend more on education.

The State: 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 farming corporation would face tighter controls on major water withdrawals it plans 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'll introduce a bill as early as Tuesday 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.

Local News:

Greenville News: Distracted driving proposal draws support

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014301140018>

Anna Lee

One woman said she lost a relative to a driver who was texting while driving. A former firefighter said he has responded to wrecks that texting caused. They all had a story to share about the consequences of distracted driving, and those who spoke Monday at a City Council public hearing seemed to support what Greenville has proposed to do. At issue is a proposed citywide ban that would prohibit the use of cell phones and other hand-held devices while driving.

Florence Morning News: City of Florence redistricting in planning stages

http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article_780a9cbe-7cbb-11e3-8834-0019bb30f31a.html

Gavin Jackson

City officials held their last Florence City Council redistricting informational session Monday evening and will continue to speak with groups as staffers begin to solidify a plan to submit to council for approval in February. Over the past week, officials have been attending sessions with neighborhood groups and three meetings in locations within each of the three city council districts to solicit feedback. Each district will have some part of their district lines changed due to fluctuations in populations, based on the 2010 census.

Post and Courier: New writing program for Charleston County elementary schools OK'd after controversy

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140113/PC16/140119727/1389/new-writing-program-for-charleston-county-elementary-schools-ok-x2019-d-after-controversy>

Diette Courrage Casey

A new writing program for Charleston County elementary schools became tangled in controversy Monday night before eventually getting the go-ahead. The school board signed off in a 6-3 vote on spending \$110,000 for the Lucy Calkins' Writing Units of Study program for all of its kindergartners through fifth-graders. Those voting against were board Vice Chairman Tom Ducker and members Michael Miller and Tripp Wiles.

Aiken Standard: Lawmakers could help Aiken see penny sales tax option for schools

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140114/AIK0101/140119770/1004/lawmakers-could-help-aiken-see-penny-sales-tax-option-for-schools>

Rob Novit

Aiken School Board members are looking for help from Aiken County legislators who appear ready to do just that. At an Aiken County Legislative Delegation meeting on Monday, S.C. Sen. Tom Young, R-Aiken, said he plans to introduce a state bill that, if approved by the S.C. General Assembly, would allow the Aiken County School Board to make a specific request of county voters in the November election.

Anderson Independent: Chuck Anderson pleads guilty to lying to feds, resigns from city council

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/jan/13/chuck-anderson-pleads-guilty-lying-feds-resigns-ci/?partner=RSS>

Nikie Mayo

Anderson City Council member Chuck Anderson has admitted lying to federal agents who were

investigating a large-scale cocaine case and has resigned from office. A federal judge formally accepted Anderson's guilty plea Monday, but records recently made public indicate that Anderson agreed to a plea deal more than a month ago. According to court records, Anderson, a lawyer, was last year representing Lonnie Maddox, a man who is facing charges in the cocaine case.

The State: City declines to prosecute NAACP leader Randolph for trespassing

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/13/3205843/city-declines-to-prosecute-naacp.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

In an unexpected move Monday morning, the city of Columbia dismissed all three misdemeanor disturbance charges against S.C. NAACP president Lonnie Randolph minutes before his jury trial was set to begin in city court. The charges stemmed from an incident when Randolph, apparently suffering from a diabetic condition, became confused in a Five Points dry cleaners last July 12 and caused a disturbance. Worried employees called police, who charged Randolph with trespassing after notice, public disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

National News:

Associated Press: Dozens of trade-offs in \$1.1 trillion budget bill

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=2MrbTRDe

Andrew Taylor

The sales job is on for a bipartisan \$1.1 trillion spending bill that would pay for the operations of government through October and finally put to rest the bitter budget battles of last year. The massive measure contains a dozens of trade-offs between Democrats and Republicans as it fleshes out the details of the budget deal that Congress passed last month. That pact gave relatively modest but much-sought relief to the Pentagon and domestic agencies after deep budget cuts last year.

Associated Press: Health care signups: More older Americans so far

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=V2ThvsER

Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar

Younger people went for President Barack Obama at election time, but will they buy his health insurance? New government figures show it's an older, costlier crowd that's signing up so far for health insurance under Obama's health care law. Enrollments are lower for the healthy, younger Americans who will be needed to keep premiums from rising. Young adults from 18 to 34 are only 24 percent of total enrollment, the administration said Monday in its first signup figures broken down for age, gender and other details.

Brian Symmes

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