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Subject: Afternoon Clips - Thursday, January 9, 2014

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## Afternoon Clips – Thursday, January 9, 2014

### Gov. Nikki Haley Education Reform Initiative:

Washington Post: South Carolina's Haley pitches education reform package

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/govbeat/wp/2014/01/09/south-carolinas-haley-pitches-education-reform-package/>

Reid Wilson

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley (R) will propose spending \$160 million on new education programs aimed at low-income children and those learning to speak English, a modest move toward an ambitious education reform package Haley laid out early in her term but has yet to complete. Haley's proposal, delivered Wednesday before a group of lawmakers and educators in West Columbia, S.C., would provide an extra \$97 million in funding for schools in the poorest school districts.

**Note:** "The big bear in the room is K through 12, and it's the one thing we have to focus on if we are going to continue to be successful in bringing these highly technical jobs to the state," Haley said. Too often, she said, students are being promoted past third grade without being able to read.

**GSA Business:** Gov. Haley reveals education reform plan

<http://www.gsabusiness.com/news/50069-gov-haley-reveals-education-reform-plan?rss=0>

Ashley Barker

Gov. Nikki Haley unveiled details of her K-12 Education Reform Initiative Wednesday, which includes funding for children living in poverty, reading coach programs and technology improvements. Haley met with 16 different groups of teachers, administrators, business leaders, education stakeholders and members of the state's General Assembly over the past year to develop the plan, according to a news release from the governor's office.

**Note:** "Providing every child in South Carolina with the same educational opportunities isn't just something we should talk about — it's something we should be actively fighting to achieve, and that is what we are doing today," Haley said in a statement.

**ColaDaily:** Gov. Nikki Haley unveils education plan to send millions of dollars to impoverished school districts

<http://coladaily.com/2014/01/09/gov-nikki-haley-unveils-education-plan-to-send-millions-of-dollars-to-impoverished-school-districts/>

Rachel Ham

Schools in South Carolina will receive more money for the next several years for literacy and technology if Gov. Nikki Haley's new educational funding reform initiative goes through the 2013-14 budget process intact. Some Midlands districts would stand to receive more than \$1 million each. Haley unveiled her plan Wednesday at BC Grammar No. 1 in Lexington School District Two. Legislators, industry CEOs and State Superintendent of Education Mick Zais were among those in attendance.

**The State:** POLITICS: Gov. Nikki Haley visiting schools after unveiling education plan

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/09/3197676/politics-gov-nikki-haley-visiting.html>

Andrew Shain

Gov. Nikki Haley, who introduced an education reform plan Wednesday, has added another school visit this week. The first-term Republican's visits are in three counties won by her expected 2014 Democratic gubernatorial foe, state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, in their first meeting in 2010. Haley added a trip to Forest Hills Elementary School in Walterboro at 9:30 a.m. Friday in addition to a announced visit at Marshall Elementary School in Orangeburg at 12:30 p.m.

### Governor Nikki Haley News:

**USA Today:** Gov. Haley, Sen. Graham weigh in on Christie scandal

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/onpolitics/2014/01/09/nikki-haley-chris-christie-bridge-scandal/4394913/>  
Catalina Camia

Two Republicans from the key presidential state of South Carolina have different takes on New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's bridge scandal. Gov. Nikki Haley is backing Christie on the bridge scandal that is threatening his political future. Sen. Lindsey Graham says Christie's actions might spell trouble for him in the state that holds the first-in-the-South primary.

**Note:** "I've watched my friend Gov. Christie work through a difficult situation today," Haley posted on Facebook. "He did the right thing in taking responsibility in a tough situation. That's the kind of leadership that earned him the huge level of trust he has in New Jersey."

**TPM:** Nikki Haley Offers Christie Her Support: 'He Did The Right Thing'

<http://talkingpointsmemo.com/livewire/nikki-haley-offers-christie-her-support-he-did-the-right-thing>

Igor Bobic

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) found support from a fellow Palmetto state conservative on Thursday, after he apologized for the growing George Washington Bridge scandal.

**Note:** "I've watched my friend Gov. Christie work through a difficult situation today," South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley (R) wrote on Facebook. "He did the right thing in taking responsibility in a tough situation. That's the kind of leadership that earned him the huge level of trust he has in New Jersey."

**The State:** BUZZ: Gov. Nikki Haley backs embattled N.J. Gov. Chris Christie

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/09/3198149/buzz-gov-nikki-haley-backs-embattled.html>

Andrew Shain

Gov. Nikki Haley stuck up for her New Jersey counterpart, Chris Christie, who is getting heat after firing an aide who arranged traffic jams in a city where the mayor did not support the governor's re-election bid. Christie said he had no idea his staff was involved.

**Colleton Today:** Governor to visit Forest Hills Elementary on Friday

[http://www.colletontoday.com/news/breaking-governor-to-visit-forest-hills-elementary-on-friday/article\\_f7430df6-77cd-11e3-bdac-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.colletontoday.com/news/breaking-governor-to-visit-forest-hills-elementary-on-friday/article_f7430df6-77cd-11e3-bdac-0019bb2963f4.html)

Brantley Strickland

The Governor of South Carolina is finally headed to Walterboro. Forest Hills Elementary School principal Cindy Riley confirmed Tuesday that Gov. Nikki Haley would visit the school Friday morning as part of a re-election campaign stop in the Lowcountry. The trip will mark Haley's first visit to Colleton County.

**WLTX:** Judge: Overhaul Corrections Mental Health Policies

<http://www.wltx.com/news/article/260740/2/Judge-Overhaul-Corrections-Mental-Health-Policies>

Jasmine Syles

A judge has ordered the South Carolina Department of Corrections to do a major overhaul of its mental health lawsuit policies. "It's extremely upsetting to see people treated in such an inhumane manner," The Protection and Advocacy For People With Disabilities Executive Director Gloria Prevost said. A circuit court judge is saying he agrees with serious allegations made against the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

**Note:** "We're aware of it, we've heard about it, we're going to get together with our attorneys and see what it means, but we'll follow through on that accordingly," Gov. Nikki Haley said.

**ABC News 4:** Haley to visit Lowcountry on Friday

<http://www.abcnews4.com/story/24408408/haley-to-visit-lowcountry-on-friday>

Gov. Nikki Haley will stop in the Lowcountry on Friday. According to a release from her office, she will visit Forest Hills Elementary School in Walterboro. That appearance is set to happen at 9:30 a.m. After that, she will visit Marshall Elementary School in Orangeburg. Haley is expected to arrive around 12:30 p.m. for that school visit. On Wednesday, Haley released her education plan. Haley wants to improve education in South Carolina by spending more money on poor children, focusing on reading and improving technology.

**The State:** POLITICS: Gov. Nikki Haley gets 'D' from SC conservation group

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/09/3197721/politics-gov-nikki-haley-gets.html>

Andrew Shain

Gov. Nikki Haley received a "D" grade for what the the Conservation Voters of South Carolina said Thursday was her lack of attention to protecting the state's natural resources. The advocacy group said in its first

report card for the governor that Haley fumbled in four areas: protecting natural resources, energizing the economy, defending health and leading for the future.

### **S.C. Federal Delegation News:**

**NBC News:** Graham: Bridge controversy reinforces 'troublesome' rap on Christie

[http://firstread.nbcnews.com/\\_news/2014/01/09/22245244-graham-bridge-controversy-reinforces-troublesome-rap-on-christie](http://firstread.nbcnews.com/_news/2014/01/09/22245244-graham-bridge-controversy-reinforces-troublesome-rap-on-christie)

Kasie Hunt

To hear one key Republican senator tell it, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie isn't exactly building any bridges to the key presidential primary state of South Carolina. South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said that a controversy involving a Christie aide's retaliation against a local Democratic mayor reinforces the image of the Republican governor as a bully. Graham suggested that Christie's staffers wouldn't have sent such emails if it weren't part of the way Christie governed.

**The State:** Catch the Democrat running to replace U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham at the Golden Corral

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/09/3198102/election-2014-catch-the-democrat.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

The only Democrat running to replace U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham will be speaking at the Spartanburg Democratic Party's monthly meeting on Monday. Jay Stamper -- whose history includes political pranks and running an online investment business that ended with felony pleas -- moved to Columbia last year from Seattle to run for the Senate seat. Stamper's road to his party's nomination so far is clear, with no other Democrats having announced a run against Graham.

### **South Carolina News:**

**Greenville News:** DOT reform needed before backing spending hikes, legislators say

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014301090068>

Tim Smith

Legislators say they want to see changes in the way the state Department of Transportation is structured and functions before they will support any massive funding increase on roads and bridges. Among those who want to see some change is Rep. Brian White, an Anderson Republican and chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, who said he will take a "hard look" at DOT funding this year. Some rural lawmakers say rural roads are not getting enough priority, while others think the DOT structure set up by reforms in 2007 is not working.

**Associated Press:** South Carolina farmers suffer from cold

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=DZGtEs9L](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=DZGtEs9L)

The cold snap has damaged crops for some South Carolina farmers. State Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers says it will take about a week to determine how much damage has occurred. Weathers says there may not be much effect on prices because the cold snap did not last very long. But he says another cold snap could raise prices for local crops. Clayton Rawl Farms in Lexington was able to cover some of their greens to protect them from the weather, but they could not cover everything.

**Anderson Independent:** Email records reveal truth behind Greenwood County TB outbreak

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/jan/09/email-records-reveal-truth-behind-greenwood-county/>

Gordon Dill

Using the Freedom of Information Act, WSPA News Channel 7 combed through more than 5,000 emails from staff at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control starting with the first ones sent after learning of a patient with tuberculosis in Greenwood County until parents at Ninety Six Primary School were notified of the outbreak. The first red flags come March 12th when nine D-HEC employees are warned of a "TB suspect" at "Ninety Six Primary School". It would be three months before parents were notified.

**Post and Courier:** MUSC doctors express concerns to DHEC about infant mortality if more hospitals build high-level nurseries

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140109/PC16/140109417/1177/musc-doctors-express-concerns-to-dhec-about-infant-mortality-if-more-hospitals-build-high-level-nurseries>

Lauren Sausser

Medical University Hospital physicians told the state health department board on Thursday that they fear if more hospitals in South Carolina are allowed to build neonatal intensive care units, more babies will die. "We know there are other hospitals that want to open Level III NICUs," said Dr. Rita Ryan, medical director of the MUSC Children's Hospital, during a public meeting at the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control in Columbia Thursday. "Children will be harmed by that."

**Associated Press:** Group appeals SC judge's refusal to block prayer

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=vsQ6Nli3](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=vsQ6Nli3)

A group is appealing the refusal of a federal judge to stop Greenville County schools from holding events in churches. The Greenville News reported (<http://grnol.co/1d2E2mZ>) the American Humanist Association is appealing the decision by U.S. District Judge G. Ross Anderson Jr. Court records show the humanist group has filed notice of appeal with the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va. The group wanted Anderson to block the school district from holding events at places of worship and allowing student-led prayers while its lawsuit proceeds.

**Greenville News:** Uninsured smokers can get free patches from state to help quit

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140109/NEWS/301090075/Uninsured-smokers-can-get-free-patches-from-state-help-quit>

Liv Osby

Uninsured smokers in South Carolina can get free nicotine replacement therapy from the Department of Health and Environmental Control, state health officials announced today. Tobacco use accounts for about one in five U.S. deaths — the most preventable cause of death in the country, killing some 443,000 every year — more than alcohol, AIDS, car accidents, suicide, homicide and illegal drugs combined, according to the American Cancer Society.

**Associated Press:** SC high court to decide whether autopsy records are public

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/09/3197734/sc-high-court-to-decide-whether.html#storylink=cpy>

The South Carolina Supreme Court will hear an appeal by The Item of Sumter's parent company over the release of a 2010 autopsy. The Item reported Thursday the lawsuit involves the autopsy of 25-year-old Aaron Leon Jacobs, who was shot in the back by officers investigating a carjacking. At issue is whether the autopsy records should be made available under the state's Freedom of Information Act. The hearing is set for Feb. 5. Lawyers for Osteen Publishing Co. and Sumter County Coroner Harvin Bullock are to present their arguments.

**Post and Courier:** MUSC's online nursing program ranked among the best in annual survey

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140109/PC16/140109430/1177/muscs-online-nursing-program-ranked-among-the-best-in-annual-survey>

MUSC's online nursing degree program is one of the best in the country, according to U.S. News & World Report's annual ranking of online degree programs. The Medical University of South Carolina's program was ranked No. 2, behind only St. Xavier University in Chicago. But MUSC was the top-ranked school among those that offer a doctorate of nursing online.

**Post and Courier:** Profit at Charleston's Bank of S.C. dips in 4Q, hits record for year

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140109/PC05/140109429/1177/profit-at-charlestons-bank-of-sc-dips-in-4q-hits-record-for-year>

John McDermott

Earnings at The Bank of South Carolina Corp. edged slightly lower to close out 2013. The Charleston-based community lender said in statement today that it earned \$969,868 in the fourth quarter, down about 2 percent from the last three months of 2012. Full-year profits rose 11 percent to almost \$4.1 million. "We were quite pleased with the bank's earnings for 2013, which were a record in our company's history," said Fleetwood S. Hassell, CEO and president. "Consistent lending, excellent control of expenses, and strong deposit growth highlight the year for us."

## Local News:

**Post and Courier:** Guilty verdict in 2011 Mall Playground murder 'huge victory' for Charleston's East Side, prosecutor says

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140109/PC16/140109432/1006/guilty-verdict-in-2011-mall-playground-murder-huge-victory-for-charlestons-east-side-prosecutor-says>

Andrew Knapp

If it were not for the one witness who implicated Tyrel Collins in a 2011 execution-style killing of a feared felon on Charleston's East Side, a judge said that he would have acquitted the 26-year-old before a jury had a chance to deliberate. The man had taken the stand early in Collins' four-day murder trial even after authorities said his mother's downtown home was riddled with bullets Sunday night. That shooting, the police said, was an attempt by Collins' brother to dissuade the man from testifying.

**Island Packet:** Hilton Head mayor cites progress, looks to advance Coligny, USCB plans

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/01/08/2883891/hilton-head-mayor-cites-progress.html#storylink=cpy>

Tom Barton

Hilton Head Island Mayor Drew Laughlin's to-do list looks somewhat lighter than when he took office three years ago. The first-term mayor has been able to cross off several key campaign promises made during the 2010 election, he told members of the League of Women Voters of the Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area during his "State of the Town" address Wednesday. But many big-ticket items remain unfinished -- as the town continues to discuss redeveloping the Coligny area and adding a campus for the University of South Carolina Beaufort.

**Sun News:** Business leaders see better economy for the Grand Strand in 2014

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/01/09/3948561/business-leaders-see-better-economy.html#storylink=cpy>

Steve Jones

Grand Strand business leaders at a Thursday morning meeting expressed cautious optimism for the Grand Strand's 2014 economy -- with an emphasis on "cautious." Marc Jordan, CEO of the North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce, said he cautiously budgeted for this fiscal year to have a 2 percent to 3 percent growth in operations, but that the city's overall economy has jumped more than his projections. The fiscal year began on July 1, so Jordan was looking at six months growth. But he doesn't see any reason that 2014 shouldn't also do well.

## **National News:**

**Associated Press:** Christie fires aide, apologizes for traffic jams

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=YWbTTb6K](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=YWbTTb6K)

Angela Della Santi, Geoff Mulvihill

Moving quickly to contain a widening political scandal, Gov. Chris Christie fired one of his top aides Thursday and apologized repeatedly for the "abject stupidity" of his staff, insisting he had no idea anyone around him had engineered traffic jams to get even with a Democratic mayor. Christie, who had previously assured the public that his staff had nothing to do with the lane closings in September that caused major backups at the George Washington Bridge, said he fired Deputy Chief of Staff Bridget Anne Kelly "because she lied to me" when he demanded weeks ago that anyone who knew anything about the episode come forward.

**Associated Press:** Lawmakers: Obama weighing changes in NSA policy

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=rOCQUctJ](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=rOCQUctJ)

Julie Pace, Kimberly Dozier

President Barack Obama is still grappling with key decisions on the future of the National Security Agency's phone collection program and the makeup of the secret court that approved the surveillance, congressional lawmakers said Thursday following a 90-minute meeting at the White House. Obama is expected to back tighter restrictions on foreign leader spying and also is considering a presidential commission's recommendation to strip the NSA of its ability to store telephone records from millions of Americans. The president could announce his final decisions as early as next week.

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