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To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips - Thursday, October 24, 2013

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: Malfunction Junction Could Get Some State Road Money

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=gg1YW9Ap

Adam Beam

The chairman of a powerful state transportation board wants to delay widening a portion of I-77 in Lexington County in favor of jumpstarting an overhaul of the dreaded malfunction junction interchange in downtown Columbia. Don Leonard, an appointee of Gov. Nikki Haley, a Lexington Republican, wants to delay a \$38 million widening project on I-77 in favor of spending the money on design work for malfunction junction – where I-26 and I-20 meet in Columbia. That project is No. 1 on the state's priority list, but it was passed over in this round of funding because it was too expensive.

Island Packet (Video): Gov. Nikki Haley addresses Imagination HHI

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/10/23/2752986/hilton-head-lecture-series-aims.html>

Tom Barton

Calling all smarty-pants. Time to put on that thinking cap. Years have passed since Nobel laureates, Pulitzer Prize and Emmy winners, scholars, CEOs and financiers gathered on Hilton Head Island to confab about pressing issues. A new group, however, hopes to rekindle that spirit of intellectual exchange this week. Technology and creativity, education issues and turning individual success into public good will be the focus of a three-day lecture and panel series that begins Thursday and ends Saturday. Keynote speakers include: Former Facebook marketing head Randi Zuckerberg, sister of founder Mark Zuckerberg; author William Paul Young, who wrote the spiritual novel "The Shack"; education expert Tony Wagner; and motivational speaker and former NFL quarterback Tom Flick.

Note: The state's initial contract was with credit bureau giant Experian. Gov. Nikki Haley negotiated that \$12 million contract last October as a no-bid, emergency situation.

Associated Press: SC taxpayers can sign up for second year of state-paid monitoring by different company

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/e44e79be9f25465288661488f4bb2eed/SC--Hacked-Tax>Returns>

Seanna Adcox

Taxpayers started signing up Thursday for a second year of credit monitoring the state is funding because of last year's massive hacking of South Carolina's tax collection agency. The consumer protection services provided by CSIdentity Corp. are free to the millions of residents and business owners whose unencrypted personal data was stolen last September from the Department of Revenue's computer servers. South Carolina is paying CSID up to \$8.5 million, depending on how many people sign up. By 2 p.m. Thursday, 12,000 adults and 112 businesses had already done so, said Heather Havins, CSID's vice president of client service.

GSA Business: DOT seeks to replace 90 bridges around state

<http://www.gsabusiness.com/news/49301-dot-seeks-to-replace-90-bridges-around-state>

The S.C. Department of Transportation is seeking public comment on a plan to spend \$52.9 million for the replacement of 90 bridges in 33 counties. Under the program, only load-restricted and closed bridges will be replaced. Most of the bridges are on secondary roads. The program focuses on bridges that can be replaced on existing alignment using precast voided box bridges with minimal approach work. The proposal includes \$8.5 million for 13 bridges in Engineering District 1, which covers five Midlands counties. Eight of the bridges are in Sumter County, two in Richland, and one each are in Kershaw, Lee, and Lexington counties.

Note: The legislation will translate into more than \$1 billion in transportation funding over the next 10 years, said Gov. Nikki Haley, who signed the legislation.

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: Money for I-85 projects delayed

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131024/NEWS/310240072/Money-85-projects-delayed>

Tim Smith

The State Transportation Infrastructure Bank voted today against a list of major Interstate projects so board members can consider tweaks to provide design money for other projects. The board voted against a motion by Johnny Edwards, chairman of the state Department of Transportation, to fund a list of projects as submitted by DOT. Board members argued while they agree with all the I-85 projects, they want to replace funding for an I-77 project to give design money for seven other projects.

The State: Sen. Graham's campaign donors include President George W. Bush

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/10/24/3056990/sen-grahams-campaign-donors-include.html>

Jamie Self

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham's campaign contributors include former U.S. President George W. Bush. Bush contributed \$5,000 to Graham's campaign, according to his most recent campaign finance report filed Oct. 15 for July through September. "I am extremely grateful and honored to have President George W. Bush's support. With every passing day, Americans appreciate more and more President Bush's clarity on the War on Terror and his strong support of the private sector," Graham said in a statement.

SCRN: Lt. Gov. McConnell: I have not made up my mind on whether to run again

<http://www.southcarolinaradionetwork.com/2013/10/24/lt-gov-mcconnell-right-now-i-have-not-made-up-my-mind-on-whether-to-run/>

Ashley Byrd

Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell has some decisions to make. He says he is struggling between completing a list of things he wants to accomplish for the Office on Aging and launching a primary campaign. He is also rumored to be a candidate for president of the College of Charleston, where his experience as the longtime Senate President Pro Tempore and one of the most powerful men in the State House would prove valuable to the state institution in his hometown.

Associated Press: Consumer protection panel head leaving for law job

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=n140LS3O

Jack Jones

The chairwoman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission said she will leave the agency and join a South Carolina law firm in December, after more than four years leading the panel. Tenenbaum told The Associated Press on Thursday that she will leave the Washington position Dec. 1 for a job with the firm Nelson, Mullins, Riley & Scarborough. Tenenbaum said she decided earlier this year that she didn't want another term leading the agency, charged with protecting the public from potential injuries or deaths from use of consumer products. The former South Carolina education superintendent said she's ready to return home.

Florence Morning News: Clemson elects Richardson to serve as trustee

http://www.scnw.com/news/state/article_7bc92ea2-3cd7-11e3-a4c2-0019bb30f31a.html

Charlotte business leader Mark Richardson, a class of 1983 alumnus who played on Clemson University's football championship team, was named to the Clemson board of trustees, effective immediately. Since August 2009, Richardson has served as manager and owner of MAR Real Estate LLC, a commercial real estate company that specializes in single tenant, build-to-suit projects in the quick-serve restaurant and educational center categories in North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Alabama. He is co-owner of the Carolina Panthers, Charlotte Thunder Road Marathon and more than 50 Bojangles' restaurants in North Carolina and Virginia.

Associated Press: How states fared on unemployment benefit claims

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=GSSH6EXm

The number of people seeking U.S. unemployment benefits dropped 12,000 to a seasonally adjusted 350,000 last week, though the total was elevated for the third straight week by technical problems in California. Applications spiked three weeks ago as California began processing claims that were delayed by a computer upgrade. The partial government shutdown also boosted applications earlier this month. Before the distortions, applications had fallen to pre-recession levels. Here are the states with the biggest changes in applications. The state level data are for the week ended Oct. 12, one week behind the national data.

Note: Note: South Carolina, Up 1,182, due to layoffs in manufacturing

Post and Courier: Conservative advocacy group releases catalog of private, public school options
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131024/PC16/131029668/1177/conservative-advocacy-group-releases-catalog-of-private-public-school-options>

Palmetto Policy Forum, a South Carolina-based conservative educational foundation, released on Thursday a catalog highlighting the state's public and private school options. "Empowering Students" features information on the state's educational choices, such as private, virtual, charter and home schools. Several pages of the publication were devoted to information on the state's new tax credit scholarships for special needs students, as well as other versions of private-school choice programs in other states.

Local News:

Post and Courier: S.C. DOT plans to replace four weight-restricted bridges in tri-county area
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131024/PC1610/131029693/1006/>

Prentiss Findlay

The state Department of Transportation has proposed that four load-restricted bridges in the tri-county area be replaced as part of a \$250 million statewide plan for 90 new spans in 33 counties. Greenville County, which has 10 weight-restricted or closed spans, is at the top of the bridge replacement list that the DOT released Tuesday. Sumter County is next with eight spans followed by Cherokee County with seven. At the top of the local list is a bridge on S.C. Highway 165 that spans a tidal creek near Meggett. It is restricted to 10 tons. "We're pretty desperate to get that bridge done," said Meggett Town Councilman Matt Zender.

Greenville News: Langenhan challenging Sofield for Water Commission seat
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131024/NEWS03/310240016/Langenhan-challenging-Sofield-Water-Commission-seat>

Rudolph Bell

As he runs for a seat on the Greenville Water Commission, General Electric engineer Dave Langenhan is wondering why the local water system keeps enough cash on hand to run the system for 500 days. Langenhan said he accepts the argument that a strong cash position helps with bond ratings, but he wonders if some of the money might be returned to ratepayers. His opponent in the citywide race, longtime incumbent Deb Sofield, said she wants to re-introduce native brown trout into northern Greenville County streams as part of the stewardship of 28,000 acres of timberland and two reservoirs in the Blue Ridge foothills.

Island Packet: Northern Beaufort County educators awarded nearly \$3,000 in grants
<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/10/24/2754593/northern-beaufort-county-educators.html#storylink=cpy>
Six teachers were awarded almost \$3,000 on Thursday by the revitalized Northern Beaufort County Public Education Foundation. Founded more than 20 years ago, the foundation was brought back in 2012 after several years of inactivity. "It's an exciting day when we can surprise the winning teachers in their classroom and hand them their check," said Jim Grimsley, the foundation's chairman in a news release. "We want them to put the money to use right away to help their students." The foundation awards grants to teachers in public and charter schools north of the Broad River. Those schools "historically have not had the outside support enjoyed by schools in other parts of the county," Grimsley said.

Associated Press: College sex assault warning criticized
<http://www.thestate.com/2013/10/24/3056545/college-sex-assault-warning-criticized.html>

Some are questioning a warning to students issued by the College of Charleston police after two reported sexual assaults near the college's downtown campus. The notification issued Tuesday provided basics about the assaults and but also noted that noted both victims had been drinking. The email also listed statistics about how often alcohol is a factor for victim or perpetrator in sexual crimes. Police are investigating the two incidents which happened within the last week and said no arrests have been made. One assault happened at an apartment and the victim was not a student. The second happened in a car off campus between two students who authorities said knew each other.

The State: USC president 'guardedly optimistic' about Five Points safety
<http://www.thestate.com/2013/10/24/3056883/usc-president-guardedly-optimistic.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

University of South Carolina president Harris Pastides said he expects Five Points will be safer this

weekend than when a freshman was shot and paralyzed last week with added policing. "How safe? I don't know," Pastides told The State on Thursday. The president sent an email to USC's 31,000 students announcing a shuttle service starting this weekend along with expected added patrols by the Richland County Sheriff's Department. The State Law Enforcement Division added agents to bolster enforcement in the nightlife hub by Columbia police starting last week.

National News:

Associated Press: Bank of America to cut 3,000 mortgage jobs

http://www.scnw.com/news/business/article_4d771ffe-3ce2-11e3-bbd6-001a4bcf6878.html

Bank of America is cutting 3,000 jobs by the end of the year as the number of refinancing applications and troubled loans has fallen. It is part of larger industry pull back in response to the changing housing market. Bank of America Corp. laid off 1,200 employees this week, primarily from a unit that handles mortgage origination. The company says this is in response to a "significant" drop in refinancing applications this year. The company plans to make the bulk of the remaining reductions in its unit that handles troubled mortgages as an economic recovery has eased the number of borrowers in distress.

USA Today: Government did not test health care site as needed

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131024/NEWS/310240078/Government-did-not-test-health-care-site-needed>

Kelly Kennedy

Not enough tests were performed on the HealthCare.gov website by the government and its contractors before the site was launched Oct. 1, a Department of Health and Human Services official said Thursday. "The system just wasn't tested enough," said Julie Bataille, communication director for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which is in charge of the site. "We all know we were working under a compressed time frame to launch this on Oct. 1." Her remarks came after contractors testified at a hearing Thursday morning that they had just two weeks to test the site before all the pieces from several contractors had to work together the day of the launch.

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