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To:
Date: 3/17/2014 4:49:17 PM
Subject: Afternoon Clips – Monday, March 17, 2014

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S.C. Unemployment Rate Drops to 6.4:

Associated Press: SC jobless rate falls to 6.4 percent in January

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=bGhGvU8n

Meg Kinnard

South Carolina's unemployment went down in January for the eighth month in a row, dipping to 6.4 percent, state officials said Monday. The drop, announced by the Department of Employment and Workforce, is down from December's jobless rate of 6.6 percent. That mark, state officials said then, was the first time in more than a decade that South Carolina's unemployment had been below the national rate.

Note: "Today's news is a real testament to the hard working people of South Carolina and another sign that we are continuing to move in the right direction," Gov. Nikki Haley said in a statement. "With more South Carolinians working than ever before, we are consistently proving that our state has the skilled workforce and business environment that companies here and around the world need to grow and succeed."

WJBF: SC Jobless Rate Drops Again, Now 6.4%

<http://www.wjbf.com/story/24994121/sc-jobless-rate-drops-again-now-64>

Fred Cunningham

South Carolina's unemployment rate dropped in January as the number of people working in the state reached a historic high. The January 2014 rate was 6.4 percent, down two-tenths of a point from the 6.6 percent the Department of Employment and Workforce reported in December.

Note: "Today's news is a real testament to the hard working people of South Carolina and another sign that we are continuing to move in the right direction," said governor Nikki Haley in a written statement. "With more South Carolinians working than ever before - we are consistently proving that our state has the skilled workforce and business environment that companies here and around the world need to grow and succeed."
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Greenville News: Haley expected to address jobless rate at Greenville event

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140317/BUSINESS/303140047/Haley-expected-address-jobless-rate-Greenville-event>

David Dykes

Gov. Nikki Haley speaks twice in the Greenville area today, amid news South Carolina's unemployment rate continued its downward trend. Employment and workforce officials said the state's unemployment rate in January dropped to 6.4 percent from 6.6 percent in January. Greenville County's rate rose to 5.2 percent from 4.9 percent, but still ranked second-lowest in the state behind Lexington County.

Post and Courier: South Carolina unemployment rate drops to 6.4 percent, report says

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140317/PC05/140319464/1177/south-carolina-unemployment-rate-drops-to-64-percent-report-says>

Tyrone Richardson

The Palmetto State's unemployment rate continues to drop. South Carolina's unemployment rate for January was 6.4 percent, down 0.2 percent from December and down 1.8 percent compared to January 2013, according to the state Department of Employment and Workforce. South Carolina's 6.4 percent unemployment rate for January was below the 6.6 national average for the month of January.

Gov. Nikki Haley News:

WLTX: Governor Haley Thanks DMV Employees

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/local/2014/03/17/nikki-haley-thanks-dmv-employees/6525185/>

Governor Nikki Haley toured a Department of Motor Vehicles office Monday morning. She visited the office

on Wilson Boulevard in Blythewood to thank them for the job that they do, and strides they've made over the last several years.

Note: "This is a thankless job sometimes, and we just want them to know how much they're appreciated," Gov. Haley said.

S.C. Political News:

Associated Press: Wilson campaign correcting filings

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=qq6pz8W5

Seanna Adcox

The campaign for South Carolina's top prosecutor is working to correct nearly four years' worth of quarterly filings following questions from The Associated Press. Since Sunday, Attorney General Alan Wilson's campaign has filed more than 15 new reports for quarterly disclosures dating to October 2010.

The State: Lindsey Graham ad touts foreign policy chops in "dangerous world"

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/17/3331880/election-2014-lindsey-graham-touts.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham touts his foreign policy chops in his newest radio and television ads warning of a "dangerous world." The six-figure ad buy aired statewide starting this weekend, during college basketball tournaments. The 30-second television and one-minute radio ad are Graham's third round of statewide ad buys in his re-election campaign.

The State: GOP candidates for state schools' chief in Winnsboro Wednesday

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/17/3331560/election-2014-gop-candidates-for.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

Republicans vying for S.C. Superintendent of Education will participate in a candidate forum in Winnsboro on Wednesday in an event hosted by the Fairfield County Republican Party. The forum is at 6:30 p.m. at Christ Central Community Center, 235 South Congress Street. Audience members will be able to ask candidates questions.

Legislative Session News:

The State: Salvation and anguish over DUI repeat offenders mark Josiah's funeral

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/16/3330774/salvation-and-anguish-over-dui.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

It was the usual math: one repeat DUI offender in jail plus one innocent victim. And the usual result: hundreds of broken hearts. More than 600 family and friends of Josiah Jenkins, 3, a happy boy beloved by all who knew him said those who spoke, swelled the Refuge Temple Church's pews Sunday in North Columbia for his funeral.

Note: A State Senate-passed bill — called Emma's Law — authored by Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Richland, would implement tougher controls on DUI offenders. But it has been stalled for more than a year in an obscure S. C. House subcommittee.

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: Feds: SC MOX project 'not viable' as projected cost hits \$30 billion

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140317/NEWS03/303170028/Feds-SC-MOX-project-not-viable-projected-cost-hits-30-billion>

Tim Smith

The federal project at the Savannah River Site near Aiken to turn weapons-grade plutonium into commercial reactor fuel would cost \$30 billion over the project's lifecycle, according to U.S. Department of Energy budget documents. DOE has concluded that spending that much on the MOX option "is not viable within available resources."

Post and Courier: Sentencing scheduled for \$9M Medicaid fraud case

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140317/PC16/140319448/1006/sentencing-scheduled-for-9m-medicaid-fraud-case>

Lauren Sausser

Two men who ran a for-profit youth mentoring service will be sentenced Wednesday in federal court in

Charleston for committing nearly \$9 million in Medicaid fraud between 2009 and 2010. Truman Levi Lewis, 35, of Charlotte, and Norman Devi Lewis, 32, of Georgetown, were convicted in federal court in August.

Local News:

The State: Marina expansion project on Lake Murray rejected

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/17/3331904/marina-expansion-project-on-lake.html#storylink=cpy>

Tim Flach

Windward Point Yacht Club on Lake Murray lost its bid to add slips for 12 boats. The addition would create navigation hazards in a narrow cove near Irmo, officials at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission said. Adding slips "in an already overdeveloped cove would only exacerbate the problem," the agency's decision said.

National News:

USA Today: GOP reaches out to disaffected Obama voters with diverse ads

<http://onpolitics.usatoday.com/2014/03/17/republicans-obama-diversity-ads-senate-priebus/>

Catalina Camia

The Republican Party wants black, Hispanic, Asian-American and women voters who supported President Obama to know that they are the party of opportunity. In a new 14-state ad campaign announced Monday, the Republican National Committee is reaching out to disaffected Obama voters with testimonials from a diverse group of people who explain why they are Republican.

Associated Press: Ukraine Penalty: US, Europe order Russia Sanctions

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_UNITED_STATES_UKRAINE?](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_UNITED_STATES_UKRAINE?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-03-17-10-28-56)

[SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-03-17-10-28-56](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_UNITED_STATES_UKRAINE?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-03-17-10-28-56)

Matthew Lee

Unsuccessful with previous threats, the United States and its European allies stepped up their pressure on Russia to end its intervention in Ukraine on Monday by imposing the most comprehensive sanctions against Russian officials since the Cold War.

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