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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Tuesday, January 14, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Greenville News: Haley says ruling on mentally ill inmates based on old facts; advocate disagrees
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140113/NEWS/301130057/Haley-says-ruling-mentally-ill-inmates-based-old-facts-advocate-disagrees>

Tim Smith

Gov. Nikki Haley says a judge's ruling over the state prison system's treatment of mentally ill inmates deals with dated allegations and the state has "come a long way" since they surfaced in a 2005 lawsuit. Last week, in a ruling connected to the lawsuit, Circuit Judge Michael Baxley issued a 45-page order finding the prison system had repeatedly violated the rights of mentally ill inmates, who in some cases lost their lives. He gave the agency six months to develop a plan of improvements for its handling of such inmates.

The State: POLITICS: Nikki Haley on Bobby Harrell -- 'We'll watch this play out'
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/14/3207026/politics-nikki-haley-on-bobby.html>

Andrew Shain

Gov. Nikki Haley took a pass Tuesday on commenting about the House Speaker Bobby Harrell's ethics case going to a grand jury. "I've never been involved in those (kinds of) situations," she said after speaking to the S.C. Business & Industry Political Education Committee. "We'll watch this play out as we have done in the past."

Charleston Business Journal: Gov. Haley lays out state executive budget for fiscal 2014-2015
<http://charlestonbusiness.com/news/50112-gov-haley-lays-out-state-executive-budget-for-fiscal-2014-2015>
Gov. Nikki Haley detailed her \$6.61 billion executive budget in Columbia on Monday, in what traditionally serves as an annual event to highlight the governor's fiscal priorities for the coming year. Haley said this is the third year she has proposed a balanced budget with a tax cut for South Carolinians, including small businesses.

Note: "This year's budget builds upon the themes that have been at the core of our priorities from the very beginning — creating jobs and improving the business climate, providing a better education for our children, making our state a safer place to live and work, strengthening our infrastructure without raising taxes, and protecting the most vulnerable members of our society," Haley said in a statement.

Greenville News: Fountain Inn metal stamping company expanding, adding jobs
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140114/BUSINESS/301140039/Fountain-Inn-metal-stamping-company-expanding-adding-jobs>

A metal stamping company is expanding its Fountain Inn facility in a move that will include a \$3.2 million investment and add at least 27 new positions "in the near future," Gov. Nikki Haley's office says. Stueken LLC, which provides precision deep draw and metal stamping components to the automotive, electronics and consumer goods markets, will expand its Fountain Inn location to address growing customer demand, according to the governor's office.

Note: "South Carolina is continuing to see existing companies expand and invest here, proving to the nation that this is the right place for manufacturing," Haley said. "I believe this will be an exciting year for South Carolina as our manufacturing sector continues to grow, and Stueken's creation of 27 new jobs in Fountain Inn is a great start."

My Horry News: National focus growing in search for Heather Elvis
http://www.myhorrynews.com/news/crime/article_4170d766-7d30-11e3-a2db-001a4bcf6878.html

Michael Smith

Mattresses, a sofa and even a grill were among the items found during an expanded search for Heather Elvis. A few animal bone fragments and signs of an outdoor bonfire were also found in the woods near Dick

Scobee Road where the latest search for Elvis took place. Teams also scoured much of River Oaks Drive, but no signs of Elvis - missing since the early morning hours of Dec. 18 - were found Saturday.

Note: With Elvis gone for nearly 30 days now, family and friends are calling out to S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley to reach out to the family, according to a post to the "Findheatherelvis" Facebook page.

Speaker Bobby Harrell ethics investigation news:

Post and Courier: House Speaker Harrell says investigation won't distract House from its work

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140114/PC1610/140119709/1177/house-speaker-harrell-says-investigation-won-t-distract-house-from-its-work>

Cynthia Roldan

House Speaker Bobby Harrell once again expressed disbelief concerning the announcement that a report into his conduct has been referred to a state grand jury. During a press conference held Tuesday morning, Harrell, R-Charleston, said he was blindsided by Attorney General Alan Wilson's decision to announce the involvement of the grand jury on Monday. Harrell said he believed it was no coincidence the announcement was made on the eve of the 2014 legislative session, which kicked off Tuesday at noon.

Associated Press: House Speaker Harrell: Release SLED report

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

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina House Speaker Bobby Harrell again Tuesday called on the attorney general to immediately release a state police review of ethics allegations against Harrell, saying he believes it will exonerate him. Harrell repeated his request in a news conference shortly before the opening of the 2014 legislative session. He said he believes the timing of Attorney General Alan Wilson's decision to send the case to the State Grand Jury on Monday was deliberate but that it won't affect his job as speaker.

The State: Bobby Harrell said Attorney General Wilson 'intended to inflict political damage'

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/14/3206626/state-house-bobby-harrell-said.html#storylink=cpy>

Adam Beam

S.C. House Speaker Bobby Harrell, R-Charleston, doubled down Tuesday on his request for the S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson to release the SLED report detailing findings of an investigation into Harrell, and called the timing of news that a grand jury would review the case a move "intended to inflict political damage to me."

Greenville News: Harrell in ethics case: 'I haven't broken the law'

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140114/NEWS03/301140044/Harrell-ethics-case-haven-t-broken-law->

Tim Smith

House Speaker Bobby Harrell this morning said in a news conference that an ethics complaint against him was being sent to a state grand jury the day before the Legislature returns was designed to inflict "political damage." He repeatedly called for State Attorney General Alan Wilson to publicly release a State Law Enforcement Division report on the matter. "The facts are that I haven't broken the law," he said.

Legislative Session News:

The State: S.C. lawmakers return to Columbia amid healthcare protests and Speaker's looming cloud

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/14/3206299/the-morning-buzz-sc-lawmakers.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

When state legislators pack the State House Tuesday to begin the second session of the two-year General Assembly, the likely fodder for chatter will be S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson's announcement Monday that he referred ethics allegations against House Speaker Bobby Harrell -- and a subsequent SLED inquiry and report -- to a state grand jury for further investigation. Harrell, a Charleston Republican and arguably one of the most powerful men in the state, has been under investigation by SLED since February, after Ashley Landess, president of the S.C. Policy Council, raised questions about whether Harrell used his campaign account and position unlawfully.

Associated Press: SC lawmakers return to Columbia to dueling rallies

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1WQtFCeU

Jeffrey Collins

South Carolina lawmakers returned Tuesday to the Statehouse and were greeted by dueling protests over health care. On one side of the capitol, protesters called for the Legislature to pass a bill that would keep the state from implementing some parts of the new federal health care law backed by President Barack Obama. On the other side of the Statehouse, protesters gathered for what they said would be the first of many Truthful Tuesday rallies to call for more spending on health care and education and more social justice in South Carolina.

Reuters: South Carolina lawmakers take aim at healthcare law

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/01/14/us-usa-healthcare-southcarolina-idUSBREA0D0YB20140114>

Harriet McLeod

South Carolina lawmakers say they have found a way to stop implementation of the U.S. Affordable Care Act in their state, an effort that could provide a template for other Republican-led legislatures looking to derail the federal program. The proposed measure would ban state agencies from helping carry out President Barack Obama's signature healthcare reform law and prevent federal money flowing through state coffers from being spent on it, said Republican state Senator Tom Davis.

South Carolina News:

The State: SC DOR looking to move on from data breach

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/01/14/3206633/politics-sc-dor-looking-to-move.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

The S.C. Department of Revenue is working to move forward after the nation's largest data security breach at a state agency. The department asked a state budget subcommittee Tuesday for annual funding of security measures for the first time and spend \$40.5 million for a new tax processing over the next four years. The agency has been training employees and improving security since hackers stole personal information belonging to 6.4 million taxpayers, their children and businesses in 2012.

Local News:

Sun News: Horry County school board scraps Carolina Forest options, will look at new schools

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/01/13/3957123/horry-county-school-board-scraps.html#storylink=cpy>

Vicki Grooms

More new schools may be coming to the county as the Horry County school board on Monday scrapped two unpopular plans to combat overcrowding in the Carolina Forest attendance area in favor of revisiting the short-term capital plan for the entire district. The board had considered two plans to ease overcrowding at Ocean Bay Middle School – a K-6 option that would have moved the sixth grade at Ocean Bay Middle to River Oaks, Carolina Forest and Ocean Bay elementary schools, and the district's original recommendation that would have shifted most students who attend Carolina Forest Elementary School to Black Water Middle School.

Sun News: Myrtle Beach halts licenses to adult businesses, planning department to study zoning

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/01/14/3958298/myrtle-beach-halts-licenses-to.html#storylink=cpy>

Maya T. Prabhu

As of Tuesday, Myrtle Beach will not issue business licenses to sexually oriented businesses while the planning department researches whether changes need to be made to the city's zoning laws after changes were made in the county. Myrtle Beach City Council voted Tuesday to approve a pending ordinance doctrine that puts the moratorium in place. There is no time limit for the moratorium to be in place. "A moratorium is a good thing right now," Mayor John Rhodes said. "We don't know what's going to happen with this new ordinance and people coming into the city."

National News:

Associated Press: NJ's Christie apologizes again for payback scheme

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

Angela Delli Santi

Faced with a widening political scandal that threatens to undermine his second term and a possible 2016 presidential run, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie apologized again Tuesday, saying his administration "let down the people we are entrusted to serve" but that the issue doesn't define his team or the state.

Sun News: Spending bill delays some flood insurance hikes

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/01/14/3957879/spending-bill-delays-some-flood.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Taylor

Homeowners worried that new federal flood maps will send their flood insurance premiums skyrocketing would get some short-term relief under a provision tucked into a massive government-wide funding bill. But other changes to the federal flood insurance program, including higher premiums on businesses, vacation homes and frequently flooded properties will remain in place, as well as a new rule blocking homeowners from passing insurance subsidies on to the people who buy their homes.

Associated Press: GOP constituents want jobless aid renewed

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=b8ZWDwd2

Nicholas Riccardi

In her 17 months out of work, Lita Ness has heard all the criticisms of extended unemployment insurance that has led to the program getting suspended amid a partisan standoff in Congress. "I find it very offensive when they say people on unemployment are just milking it," said Ness, 58, who spent 17 years as a civilian contractor at a local Air Force base and has worked since she was 16. "I'm not a big fan of rejection and I get rejected every day."

Brian Symmes

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