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To:

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Subject: Afternoon Clips - Wednesday, September 18, 2013

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Greenville News: Ga., S.C. seek water sharing solutions at first summit

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130918/NEWS/309180102/Ga-S-C-seek-water-sharing-solutions-first-summit>

Nathaniel Cary

Surrounded on three sides by Lake Hartwell, several hundred Savannah River Basin stakeholders gathered today in what was billed as a historic first water summit between officials from South Carolina and Georgia to solve ongoing water issues in the basin. The two states hope to avoid court action as they mitigate how each state divides the water that flows down the Savannah River from Lake Hartwell to the ocean.

Note: "I think that as long as states are talking you stay out of court," Haley said afterwards. "There are going to be disagreements from time to time but they usually happen when you don't even sit in a room together." Haley said it's important that the two states don't stop negotiating now that they're both at the table. "This is about as big of a congregation of two states that I think I've ever seen. I think it shows right now that we both have a willingness to get a lot of things done in our two states, that we don't always have to go to court as our solution."

Anderson Independent: Study kicks off to look at Hartwell drought rules

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/sep/18/study-kicks-look-hartwell-drought-rules/>

Michael Eads

Just months removed from some of the worst drought conditions on record, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials formally kicked off a new study Wednesday to look at ways to better manage the Savannah River Basin in future droughts. Col. Thomas Tickner signed the appropriate documents at the two-state Savannah River Caucus meeting at Big Oak Recreation Area, next to the Hartwell Dam. The meeting and signing were aimed at addressing loud public concerns about the mud flats and falling lake levels during the 2007-09 and 2011-12 droughts.

Note: "We are better together every day of the week than we are separately," said South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, with Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal looking on. "What is good for South Carolina is good for Georgia, and what is good for Georgia is good for South Carolina."

Associated Press: Govs. Nathan Deal and Nikki Haley meet with lawmakers to discuss Savannah River issues

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Y5ixtt0M

Bill Barrow

The governors and lawmakers from South Carolina and Georgia have promised cooperation on water management issues in the Savannah River Basin. Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal and his South Carolina counterpart, Nikki Haley, headlined a meeting of elected officials, conservationists and Army Corps of Engineers representatives on Wednesday. The group met with fanfare at Lake Hartwell, a man-made reservoir near the top of the Savannah River that divides the two states. Officials signed an agreement to update drought management plans for the basin.

The State: USC offers 3-year tuition freeze in exchange for more state funding

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/09/18/2987146/usc-offers-3-year-tuition-freeze.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

The University of the South Carolina will freeze tuition for three years in exchange for more money from the state General Assembly, president Harris Pastides said in his annual state of the university address Wednesday. The state's flagship university also will not ask the Legislature for any added money for special projects until 2017 if lawmakers adopt a performance-based funding plan, and cover rising employee pay, health-insurance premiums and energy bills, he said. Tuition for in-state students has risen by nearly \$2,500

a year to \$10,816 since the economic downturn started in 2007. Tuition rose 3 percent this year but has increased as much as 7 percent a year during the slowdown.

Note: USC, along with other S.C. public colleges, has worked with Gov. Nikki Haley and legislators to develop a plan to fund schools based on their performance, including their graduation rate.

Triangle Business Journal: McCrory to S.C. Gov. Haley: We're taking you down
<http://www.bizjournals.com/triangle/blog/2013/09/mccrory-to-sc-gov-haley-were.html>

Lauren K. Ohnesorge

South Carolina? We have your number. That's part of the message delivered by Gov. Pat McCrory at the CED Tech Venture Conference on Wednesday. McCrory was bullish in his claims — to recruit new and established business to North Carolina, and where better to start than with our neighbors to the south? "I told Nikki Haley, we're taking you down in South Carolina for jobs," he says, referring to the governor of South Carolina. "She said, let the best woman win. I said, whatever it takes."

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Greenville News: Pastides offer to freeze USC tuition gathers praise
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013309180096>

Tim Smith

Democratic gubernatorial hopeful Vincent Sheheen today praised University of South Carolina President Harris Pastides for offering to freeze tuition in return for more state dollars. Sheheen said the offer by Pastides, which would freeze tuition for three years in return for more funding from the Legislature, "is exactly what we need."

The State: Experian to offer refunds on credit renewals for SC hacking victims
<http://www.thestate.com/2013/09/18/2987677/experian-to-offer-refunds-on-credit.html>

Andrew Shain

Experian will refund credit-report monitoring renewals to S.C. hacking victims, the company said Wednesday. Experian started emailing renewal notices Friday to the 1.5 million S.C. taxpayers who enrolled in state-funded free monitoring after last year's massive data breach at the state Department of Revenue. The renewals arrived before the state was ready to announce plans to offer another year of free credit monitoring. Some hacking victims already paid to renew with Experian -- and now want out.

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: Wilson, Hutto to testify at Affordable Care Act hearing
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130918/NEWS/309180088/Wilson-Hutto-testify-Affordable-Care-Act-hearing>

Mary Orndorff Troyan

New online marketplaces where people can start shopping for health insurance next month aren't as secure as they should be and will be subject to fraud and abuse, South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson plans to tell Congress this morning. Wilson, who was among those who tried unsuccessfully to have the Affordable Care Act declared unconstitutional, said his testimony wasn't about the merits of the law, but about consumer privacy. "Ironically, the implementation of a federal program, designed to provide health care to all Americans, puts us all at severe risk because it is riddled with scams and security breaches," Wilson said in a statement prepared for the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

The State: SC Attorney General Takes Insurance Concerns To Congress
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=0KIKDWGJ

Joey Holleman

S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson believes the health insurance system set up by the Affordable Care Act is a security nightmare. Wilson, speaking for several state attorneys general at a U.S. House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing in Washington on Wednesday, said those concerns include the data hub that will connect various federal agencies as well as the local groups tasked with helping people sign up for health insurance starting Oct. 1. Wilson asked Congress to "suspend implementation of the Affordable Care Act until security risks are mitigated; privacy protections are provided; and legally mandated deadlines are properly met."

Associated Press: SC prosecutor Wilson testifying on health care

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=tDuw5b8b

South Carolina's top prosecutor said Wednesday he's concerned citizens' personal information won't be properly protected as they sign up for insurance under the federal health care overhaul. Attorney General Alan Wilson testified before a joint hearing of two U.S. House panels. The testimony follows a letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius last month regarding security concerns about the law's implementation. Wilson said the letter outlined 21 questions about protecting personal data and potential fraud. A spokesman from the federal agency did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Post and Courier: S.C. revenue department urges hacked taxpayers to wait for free credit protection

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130918/PC1610/130919323/1006/south-carolina-urges-hacked-taxpayers-to-wait-for-free-credit-protection>

Doug Pardue

The S.C. Department of Revenue recommends that victims of last year's identity hacking avoid buying credit monitoring services until they see what protection the state soon will provide for free. The state expects to hire a company next week to provide a second year of credit monitoring, and have those services available to taxpayers by Oct. 24. The state bought the credit monitoring for \$12 million last year from Experian and offered it for free for one year to 5.7 million present and former South Carolina taxpayers whose financial identity information was stolen when a hacker broke into the Revenue Department's computers.

Associated Press: Duke Energy stops insuring retirees, joining trend

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

Duke Energy Corp. is joining a growing list of corporations scrapping long-held practices of providing retirees with health insurance and giving former workers a fixed amount to buy their own supplement to Medicare coverage. The country's largest electric company last week began notifying about 14,500 retirees of Duke Energy and predecessors or subsidiaries in North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky, The News & Observer of Raleigh reported Wednesday (<http://bit.ly/16IHxOY>). The retirees previously worked for Duke Energy, Progress Energy, Carolina Power & Light, Cinergy, Florida Progress and others, and the changes apply to all Duke retirees except union members in Florida.

Post and Courier: Capobiancos, Dusten Brown appear for third day of appeals hearing

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130918/PC16/130919324/1006/capobiancos-dusten-brown-appear-for-third-day-of-appeals-hearing-in-veronica-adoption>

A third day of an appeals hearing began this morning in Tulsa, Okla., in the adoption dispute over 4-year-old Veronica. The girl's adoptive parents, Matt and Melanie Capobianco of James Island, and her birth father, Dusten Brown, were seen at the downtown courthouse, the Tulsa World newspaper reported. They also appeared there Monday and Tuesday. It's unknown when the court might issue a decision about whether the South Carolina adoption decree should be enforced in Oklahoma.

Associated Press: Bishop asks judge to reconsider in SC Episcopal case

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2013/09/18/5220461/bishop-asks-judge-to-reconsider.html#storylink=cpy>

Bruce Smith

U.S. District Judge C. Weston Houck has been asked to reconsider his dismissal of a federal lawsuit arising from the Episcopal schism in eastern South Carolina. Houck last month dismissed the action brought by Bishop Charles vonRosenberg and ruled that the legal issues should be settled in state court. The bishop represents parishes remaining with the national Episcopal Church following last year's schism. VonRosenberg had asked the court to block Bishop Mark Lawrence, heading parishes that left, from using the name and symbols of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina.

Associated Press: State regulators OK SCE&G rate increase

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/09/18/2690985/state-regulators-ok-sceg-rate.html#storylink=cpy>

Meg Kinnard

State regulators have approved a request by South Carolina Electric and Gas to increase its electric rates by about 3 percent to help pay for the costs of building two new nuclear reactors. The state Public Service Commission on Wednesday approved the increase, which goes into effect Oct. 30. The change means that residential customers using 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity would see their bills increase \$4.17 per month, to \$142.28. SCE&G asked for the increase in June, its sixth such request in four years.

Greenville News: 1 in 4 S.C. households with children struggle to afford food, study finds

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130918/NEWS/309180093/1-4-S-C-households-children-struggle-afford-food-study-finds>

Liv Osby

One in four households with children in this state struggles to afford enough food, new research shows. The Food Research and Action Center found that between 2008 and 2012, 26.7 percent of these households in South Carolina experienced food hardship, while the rate for households without children was 19.5 percent. "So many families, especially with kids, are working poor families, doing everything they can," said Sue Berkowitz, director of the South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center. "But despite that, there's food hardship."

Local News:

Anderson Independent: Pickens county council opposes Duke Energy re-licensing agreement

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/sep/18/pickens-county-council-opposes-duke-energy-re/>

Vince Jackson

The Pickens County Council voted 6-0 this week to oppose Duke Energy's relicensing agreement on the Keowee-Toxaway hydroelectric project. Council member Trey Whitehurst said he hopes the vote sends a strong message about how Pickens County feels about the use of its water resources. County administrator Chap Hurst said the Greenville Water Authority has two intake pipes in Lake Keowee, while the county has none.

Sun News: Myrtle Beach area lands another corporate headquarters that will bring 51 jobs

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2013/09/18/3716983/myrtle-beach-area-lands-another.html#storylink=cpy>

Steve Jones

A manufacturer now located in the Northeast will announce within a month that it is locating its operation and corporate headquarters to Horry County, Brad Lofton, CEO of the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corp., said at a meeting Wednesday morning. Lofton told the EDC's executive committee that the company has already signed a performance agreement that includes no local incentives. It will get state tax credits because of the 51 jobs its move will create. When it moves, it will be the third corporate headquarters move engineered by the EDC in the past year. BauschLinneman, a Greensboro-N.C., manufacturer of paper-based wood laminates has scheduled an Oct. 7 grand opening of its new headquarters facility near Myrtle Beach International Airport.

Sun News: No timeline set yet to replace Horry County airports director

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2013/09/18/3717286/no-timeline-set-yet-to-replace.html#storylink=cpy>

Jason Rodriguez

No timeline has been set to find a replacement and no explanation has been given in the abrupt termination of former Horry County Department of Airports Director Mike La Pier. In an email request sent to Lisa Bourcier, spokeswoman for Horry County, The Sun News asked what the next step is, when the county is slated to begin and what the county is looking for in a new director. Bourcier responded: "No official timeline has been set to select an airport director at this time. The position will be hired by the county administrator."

National News:

Associated Press: GOP revises plan on debt limit to avert shutdown

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/09/18/2986823/ap-sources-a-revised-gop-attack.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Taylor

House GOP leaders Wednesday announced that they will move quickly to raise the government's borrowing cap by attaching a wish list of GOP priorities like blocking "Obamacare," forcing construction of the Keystone XL pipeline and setting the stage for reforming the loophole-cluttered tax code. They also, as expected, promised tea party lawmakers a chance to first use a routine temporary government funding bill to try to muscle the Democratic-controlled Senate into derailing President Barack Obama's health care law. "That fight will continue as we negotiate the debt limit with the president and the Senate," said House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va.

Politico: Jeb Bush: DOJ's school voucher suit is 'payback'

<http://www.politico.com/story/2013/09/jeb-bush-doj-school-voucher-suit-is-payback-96997.html#ixzz2fHJ4O6u7>

Caitlin Emma

Former Gov. Jeb Bush on Wednesday called the Justice Department's lawsuit against Louisiana over school vouchers possible "payback for political elections of the past. Bush, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina addressed the National Press Club in protest of the suit. The Louisiana Scholarship Program provides low-income students with the option of transferring from poorly performing public schools into private schools on the public dime. The Justice Department in an August suit said it wants to block the program next school year in districts with desegregation orders. Allowing students to use vouchers, it says, may disrupt the racial balance at schools protected by the orders, which outline rules for student transfers.

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