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To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, June 4, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, electric co-op leaders blast EPA carbon limits
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140604/PC05/140609653/1382&source=spreed>

Warren L. Wise

Gov. Nikki Haley and officials from South Carolina's electric cooperatives Wednesday blasted a proposed federal mandate to reduce emissions, saying it would stifle economic growth and cause power rates to soar in the state.

Note: "This is exactly what we don't need," the governor said after addressing a gathering of the S.C. Electric Cooperatives at Wild Dunes Resort on the Isle of Palms. "This is exactly what hurts us. You can't mandate utility companies which, in turn, raises the cost of power. That's what's going to keep jobs away. That's what's going to keep companies away."

Manning News: Ruiz Foods coming to Florence County

<http://manninglive.com/2014/06/04/ruiz-foods-coming-florence-county/>

Robert J. Baker

Gov. Nikki Haley announced Tuesday that Ruiz Foods will create more than 500 jobs as it begins operations in a new manufacturing facility there during the next few years.

Note: "Ruiz Foods choosing Florence County for their first facility on the East Coast is a big deal for this local community and for the state as a whole," Haley said. "We share their commitment to quality and customer service, and celebrate their decision to invest \$55 million and create more than 500 new jobs."

Post and Courier: Food packager SoPakCo to add 120 jobs in Marion County

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140604/PC05/140609709/1010&source=spreed>

Warren L. Wise

A Tennessee-based company that makes ready-to-serve foods will invest \$3.4 million and create 120 jobs in Marion County, where the state's jobless rate is the highest.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley called SoPakCo "a major employer and important part of the economy in Marion County."

Associated Press: Pharmaceuticals plant opening in West Columbia

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

A multi-million-dollar pharmaceuticals plant in Lexington County is officially opening. On Wednesday, officials from Nephron Pharmaceuticals Corp. are holding a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the company's West Columbia facilities.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

The State: Poll: Lindsey Graham at 49 percent among GOP primary voters, challengers in single digits
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/06/04/3486704/poll-lindsey-graham-at-49-percent.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham would get 49 percent of the Republican primary vote with his challengers trailing in single digits and one-in-three voters still undecided, according to a new Clemson University poll.

Note: GOP primary voters picked Gov. Nikki Haley, R-Lexington, overwhelmingly when asked how they plan to vote in November's general election.

Note: Haley received 73 percent support from Republicans, state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, a Camden Democrat, earned 6 percent of the GOP vote in the poll, and Greenville attorney Tom Ervin, who dropped out of the GOP primary to run as an "Independent Republican" petition candidate, earned 2 percent of the vote.

Anderson Independent: Clemson's Palmetto Poll finds strong support for Sen. Graham, Gov. Haley
<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/jun/04/clemsons-palmetto-poll-finds-strong-support-sen-gr/?partner=RSS>

Kirk Brown

Front-runner U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham is on the cusp of avoiding a runoff in this month's Republican primary, according to the results of a Clemson University Palmetto Poll released Wednesday.

Note: The poll also showed strong GOP support for Gov. Nikki Haley.

Note: The poll found that 73 percent of Republicans would vote to re-elect Haley as governor. Democratic state Sen. Vincent Sheheen received 6 percent and 2 percent supported Tom Ervin, a former Anderson County legislator who is running as a petition candidate.

Greenville News: Poll: Graham close to majority in primary

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/06/04/voter-poll-reveal-senate-race-details/9950653/>

Rudolph Bell

A new poll from Clemson University is bad news for the six Republicans challenging U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham in the June 10 primary. It found Graham supported by 49 percent of frequent Republican voters – just shy of the 50 percent plus one vote he needs to avoid a runoff.

Post and Courier: Sheheen's web advertisement hits on Haley's support for Koller

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140604/PC1603/140609718/1031&source=spreed>

Cynthia Roldan

Democratic candidate for governor and state Sen. Vincent Sheheen has released a web-based advertisement criticizing Gov. Nikki Haley's continued support for the now-former DSS chief.

Note: "Just more politics from trial lawyer Vince Sheheen," said Rob Godfrey, Haley's campaign spokesman, of the advertisement. "One has to wonder whether Vince was more concerned about children's welfare when he was defending drug dealers in court or when he was trying to get a child molestor's sentence reduced."

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Bright making last-minute push in US Senate bid

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140604/ARTICLES/140609828/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Bright-making-last-minute-push-in-US-Senate-bid>

Jason Spencer

Barbecue and bus tours are pretty common fare this time of the year. But rather than crisscrossing South Carolina, state Sen. Lee Bright spent Tuesday in the Statehouse before returning a flurry of text messages and voice messages and then hunkering down to a long evening of calling voters.

Senator Courson Resigns as President Pro. Tem.:

Associated Press: Courson resigns his position as SC Senate leader

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=lurC0EKn

Seanna Adcox

The Columbia Republican stepped down Wednesday as Senate president pro tem. He said he made the decision after learning Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell still planned to resign his office Thursday, rather than wait until the Legislature wraps up its work in two weeks.

Note: Both McConnell and Gov. Nikki Haley have said the office shouldn't be vacant that long.

Post and Courier: John Courson resigns as Senate leader to avoid becoming lieutenant governor

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140604/PC1603/140609658/1177&source=spreed>

Cynthia Roldan, Jeremy Borden

Sen. John Courson, the president pro tempore or leader of the Senate, resigned his position Wednesday from the Senate floor, saying he does not want to become lieutenant governor. "This resignation has nothing to do with y'all," Courson said.

Note: He called on Gov. Nikki Haley to ask Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell, the incoming president of the College of Charleston, to serve out the remainder of his term. Haley had criticized Courson previously when he said he would not take the post.

The State: Courson resigns SC Senate leadership post in spat with Lt. Gov. McConnell

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/06/04/3487341/courson-resigns-senate-leadership.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Senate President Pro Tempore John Courson resigned his Senate leadership position Wednesday to avoid becoming lieutenant governor with the expected departure of Glenn McConnell on Thursday. The Senate president pro tempore, one of the Legislature's more powerful positions, is next in line to become lieutenant governor, one of the least powerful, by the state Constitution.

Greenville News: Senate's president pro tem resigns position

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/06/04/senates-president-pro-tempore-resigns/9968569/>

Tim Smith

The Senate's top officer announced today he is resigning his position. Sen. John Courson, a Columbia Republican, who has served as president pro tempore since Glenn McConnell ascended to become lieutenant governor two years ago, said he had no desire to become lieutenant governor.

Note: Courson said if Gov. Nikki Haley really values the position of lieutenant governor, she will try to persuade McConnell to serve out his term instead of resigning.

Anderson Independent: S.C. Senate leader steps down to avoid becoming lieutenant governor

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/jun/04/sc-senate-leader-steps-down-avoid-becoming-lieuten/?partner=RSS>

Kirk Brown

Sen. John Courson abruptly resigned his position as leader of the state Senate on Wednesday to avoid being forced to become lieutenant governor. Gov. Nikki Haley had been pressuring Courson to replace Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell, who has said he will resign this week.

Legislative Session News:

Associated Press: Legislature approves budget compromise for 2014-15

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=cZxr0q1A

Seanna Adcox

The South Carolina Legislature's compromise on its budget plan for 2014-15 would expand full-day 4-year-old kindergarten, maintain aid to local governments and provide state workers a 2 percent pay raise.

Note: The Senate agreed 34-10, allowing the budget to go to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk before the legislative session ends Thursday.

The State: Senate and House passes budget deal with 2 percent pay raise for state employees, 4k

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/06/04/3486982/house-passes-budget-deal-with.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

State employees will get a 2 percent pay raise, money for local governments will be preserved and 4-year-old kindergarten will expand in a budget compromise that the House passed and the Senate agreed to on Wednesday.

Anderson Independent: S.C. House budget amendment sets aside more money for education, employee raises

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/jun/04/sc-house-budget-amendment-sets-aside-more-money-ed/?partner=RSS>

Kirk Brown

The South Carolina House of Representatives approved a budget amendment Wednesday that would provide state employees with a 2 percent pay raise next year. The measure that House members passed also increases state funding for education.

Note: Additionally, the budget includes \$180 million to fund Haley's education initiative. The money will be used to increase spending on educating impoverished students, hire reading coaches for each elementary school in the state and make technology improvements.

The State: Senate passes statewide ban on texting while driving

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/06/04/3487284/senate-passes-statewide-ban-on.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

Senators passed a statewide texting ban on Wednesday that would prohibit drivers from sending texts or e-mails. Exceptions would allow the use of a global-positioning system or messaging to get emergency help.

WIS: Texting and driving ban heads to Gov. Haley's desk

<http://www.wistv.com/story/25695508/texting-and-driving-ban-heads-to-gov-haleys-desk>

Will Whitson

A texting and driving ban is on its way to Governor Nikki Haley's desk. The texting ban was approved by the House and Senate with overwhelming support Wednesday.

Post and Courier: Legislature approves tax break for those who rent out their homes

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140604/PC16/140609666/1382&source=spreed>

David Slade

In a South Carolina tax change particularly benefitting people with homes at the beach, the Legislature has approved a bill allowing homes to be rented for up to 72 days yearly, while receiving the property tax benefits of an owner-occupied residence.

Associated Press: DSS hearings to go on despite Koller's resignation

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=GTtDNJE2

Jeffrey Collins

Members of a Senate panel investigating South Carolina's child welfare agency said Wednesday their work is not over, even though the agency's director has stepped down. The three senators reviewing the Department of Social Services will continue to meet the rest of the year and have a few hearings outside of Columbia, subcommittee chairman Sen. Tom Young, R-Aiken, said.

Post and Courier: Senate's DSS panel members promise to continue investigation

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140604/PC1603/140609674/1382&source=spreed>

Cynthia Roldan

Members from a Senate panel tasked with investigating the Department of Social Services met on Wednesday, but didn't have much to discuss since no agency staffers were scheduled to testify.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Politico: Lindsey Graham: President Obama expected cheers

<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/06/lindsey-graham-bowe-bergdahl-obama-bypass-process-guantanamo-fox-107412.html>

Kendall Breitman

Sen. Lindsey Graham says President Barack Obama "thought everybody would be cheering" the release of Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl. "He bypassed a process where the intelligence community gave input, where the Congress could have a say, because he wanted the result," the South Carolina Republican said Tuesday to FOX's "On the Record."

Post and Courier: Graham warns of call for impeachment if more prisoners are released without approval

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140604/PC1603/140609661/1382&source=spreed>

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham today warned that Republican lawmakers would call for President Barack Obama's impeachment if he releases any more prisoners from Guantanamo Bay without having first obtained congressional approval, according to a story posted at TheHill.com.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: InfiLaw license application pulled

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140604/PC16/140609652/1382&source=spreed>

Diane Knich

InfiLaw System has temporarily pulled its application for a license to operate the Charleston School of Law at the request of state Sen. John Courson, according to a news release from the company Wednesday. Courson also asked the state's Commission on Higher Education to postpone a vote on whether to grant to the license, it stated.

Local News:

Associated Press: Company brings more than 100 jobs to Marion County

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ayc4heES

A company that designs, produces and packages ready-to-serve foods is expanding its Marion County operations. Officials with the state Commerce Department said the \$3.4 million investment by SoPakCo is expected to bring more than 120 fulltime jobs to the company's facilities.

National News:

Associated Press: Now Application 'Inconsistencies' Vex Health Law

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/apnewsbreak-data-discrepancies-health-sign-ups-23992236>

Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar

A government document provided to The Associated Press indicates that at least 2 million people enrolled for taxpayer-subsidized private health insurance have data discrepancies in their applications that, if unresolved, could affect what they pay for coverage, or even their legal right to benefits.

The Hill: Reid blocks McConnell's bill on EPA rule

<http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/senate/208210-reid-blocks-mcconnells-bill-on-epa-rule>

Ramsey Cox

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) blocked Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) from passing his Coal Country Protection Act. McConnell asked unanimous consent to pass his bill, S. 2414, which would require the administration to meet bench marks before the Environmental Protection Agency implements a carbon reduction plan for power plants, but Reid objected.

Washington Free Beacon: CNN's John King: Obama's Poll Numbers 'Underwater'

<http://freebeacon.com/politics/cnns-john-king-obamas-poll-numbers-underwater/>

CNN's John King described Obama's current approval ratings as "underwater" and "stuck in a rut" on Tuesday, appearing on New Day. King called the president's approval rating the "north star of an election year", and pointed to CNN's latest poll which found his approval rating at 43% and his disapproval rating at 55%.

Brian Symmes

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