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Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, December 3, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: Exclusive: Deepening crisis at SC State, critics doubt another loan is the answer
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/02/3849288/sc-state-facing-doubters-as-it.html>

Andrew Shain

S.C. State University cannot escape its financial troubles. South Carolina's only historically black public college could get word as early as Wednesday about a new \$12 million state loan that could help spur a turnaround. But the Orangeburg school is having to answer new questions about its ongoing deficit.

Note: A legislative panel that meets Wednesday could decide whether S.C. State gets another \$12 million loan. That loan was suggested by a committee of state college presidents appointed by lawmakers. If the loan wins approval Wednesday, the State Budget and Control Board, led by Gov. Nikki Haley, could discuss the loan at its Monday meeting.

Florence Morning News: New Speaker Jay Lucas calls for a 'new brighter day'

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_479b6b46-7a83-11e4-9b3e-1b8f8d7ab8ea.html

Gavin Jackson

In 16 years, Jay Lucas went from winning his S.C. House of Representatives seat by 33 votes to being unanimously elected as the Speaker of the House of Representatives, calling for a "new brighter day in the House." Lucas sees his ascension from his four-year post as speaker pro tempore to Speaker as the right time to get needed ethics reforms through the House.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley's office applauded the election of Lucas. Lucas counts Haley as a friend along with Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh K. Leatherman Sr., R-Florence. These are two critical relationships that will be needed to coordinate efforts on legislative issues.

Note: "Governor Haley offers her sincerest congratulations to Speaker Lucas, someone she has considered a friend since their time in the House together," Haley spokesman Doug Mayer said. "The governor looks forward to continuing their strong working relationship going forward into this upcoming legislative session."

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Aiken Standard: Social Services reforms are desperately needed

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141203/AIK02/141209873/1018/AIK02>

Editorial

Systematic problems at the state's Department of Social Services have been a festering sore for months at the Statehouse. It's vital those problems, which involve gross mismanagement by agency officials, are alleviated in the future. Accomplishing that will require an overhaul of the agency, which has thankfully been recommended by members of a Senate panel who have been investigating those problems.

Post and Courier: Right call for District 114

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141203/PC1002/141209855/1021/>

Editorial

In the S.C. House District 114 race, Democrat Mary Tinkler took on Speaker Bobby Harrell, one of the most powerful politicians in South Carolina. And, surprise, she ended up winning - though only after Rep. Harrell, a Republican, resigned his seat before the election when pleading guilty to improperly spending campaign funds.

Post and Courier: Let council members speak

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141203/PC1002/141209858/1021>

Editorial

Anyone who expects democracy to be a courteous process that runs efficiently might want to attend a public

meeting when feelings are running high. A school board, aviation authority, architecture review board or city council will do just fine.

Post and Courier: Charleston lawmaker says let criminals pay for police body cameras

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141203/PC16/141209872/1177/charleston-lawmaker-says-let-criminals-pay-for-police-body-cameras>

Brian Hicks

For once, South Carolina actually may be ahead of the curve. Today, Charleston Sen. Marlon Kimpson and Sen. Gerald Malloy will pre-file legislation requiring all law enforcement officers in the state to wear body cameras that would record their interactions with citizens and suspects.

Rock Hill Herald: Safety must be priority for Chester County

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/12/02/6584623/safety-must-be-priority-for-chester.html?sp=/100/105/>
Editorial

Chester County really doesn't have a choice. If its sheriff's office has too few deputies to ensure the safety of the public and fellow officers, the county needs to hire more deputies. Acknowledging that need isn't so easy, as the verbal melee at Monday's County Council meeting illustrated.

Rep. Jay Lucas Elected Speaker of the House:

Associated Press: SC House committees to pick their leaders

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1cn7tnHW

South Carolina House committees will pick their leaders as the chamber's organizational session continues. Newly elected Speaker Jay Lucas will dole out more committee assignments Wednesday. Committees will then meet to choose their chairmen. That includes filling a vacancy on the House Education Committee.

The State: New leader, new rules for SC House

http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/02/3848154_darlington-republican-jay-lucas.html?rh=1

Cassie Cope

The S.C. House of Representatives elected state Rep. Jay Lucas, R-Darlington, as its speaker Tuesday. The House also changed its rules to establish a committee to oversee agencies that report to the governor, limit the speaker's terms and ban state representatives from having leadership political action committees, which contribute money to other members' campaigns.

Associated Press: SC House elects Rep. Jay Lucas as speaker

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=H2T2cG7e

Seanna Adcox

State Rep. Jay Lucas, elected to replace disgraced former Speaker Bobby Harrell as the House's presiding officer, pledged Tuesday to lead in a way that encourages all members to speak up as they work together to change the public's perception of the chamber. Without mentioning Harrell by name, Lucas said the "events that transpired 83 days ago rocked the very foundation" of the South Carolina House and tested people's faith in government.

Post and Courier: Rep. Jay Lucas' ascent to speaker marks end for Lowcountry's dominance

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141202/PC1603/141209897/1177>

Jeremy Borden

Rep. Jay Lucas's unlikely ascent to the top leadership post in the S.C. House on Tuesday marked an ungraceful end to the Lowcountry's reign over South Carolina's levers of power. Lucas was elected speaker of the House without objection at the biennial organizational session.

Florence Morning News: New Speaker Jay Lucas calls for a 'new brighter day'

http://www.snow.com/news/local/article_479b6b46-7a83-11e4-9b3e-1b8f8d7ab8ea.html

Gavin Jackson

In 16 years, Jay Lucas went from winning his S.C. House of Representatives seat by 33 votes to being unanimously elected as the Speaker of the House of Representatives, calling for a "new brighter day in the House. "The events that transpired 83 days ago rocked the very foundation of this body," the Republican from Hartsville said Tuesday.

Florence Morning News: Pee Dee legislators react to election of Jay Lucas as Speaker of the House

http://www.snow.com/news/local/article_be7ddc9e-7a83-11e4-b331-ef6713f97a6b.html

Gavin Jackson

Members of the Florence County Delegation and fellow Pee Dee legislators weighed in Tuesday on the election of Rep. Jay Lucas, R-Hartsville, as Speaker of the House.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Sun News: Hembree to pre-file bill to 'fix broken towns' in South Carolina that may impact Atlantic Beach

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/12/02/4643991/hembree-to-pre-file-bill-to-fix.html?sp=/99/209/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Jason Rodriguez

Sen. Greg Hembree said he will pre-file a bill Wednesday for next session that would subject some towns in South Carolina to an audit of its services that are supposed to be provided and the taxes it charges its residents. Notably along the Grand Strand, the bill could impact Atlantic Beach, which has had its wave of administration changes, court battles and more.

Post and Courier: South Carolina senators to pre-file legislation requiring officers to wear body cameras

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141202/PC16/141209862/1177>

Melissa Boughton

Two state senators plan to pre-file legislation Wednesday requiring all law enforcement officers in South Carolina to wear body cameras that will record contact with individuals in performance of their official duties. Senators Gerald Malloy, D-Hartsville, and Marlon Kimpson, D-Charleston, have been working on a bill for several weeks and announced their plans, along with a copy of the bill.

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: S.C. House moves forward - with West Ashley's Mary Tinkler

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141203/PC1603/141209848/1177/palmetto-sunrise-sc-house-moves-forward-with-west-ashleys-mary-tinkler>

Jeremy Borden

The S.C. House's organizational session Tuesday felt like the first day of adult first grade: members figuring out where to sit, old acquaintances meeting new, confusion over what should happen next. For Mary Tinkler, that must have felt especially true.

Rock Hill Herald: York Rep. Pope elected S.C. House speaker pro tem

http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/12/02/6585214_york-rep-pope-elected-sc-house.html?&rh=1

Bristow Marchant

State Rep. Tommy Pope made history Tuesday when his S.C. House colleagues made him the highest ranking legislator to ever serve from York County. Pope, a York Republican, was elected as the new speaker pro tempore of the S.C. House of Representatives at the same time Pope's predecessor Jay Lucas, R-Hartsville, was elected the body's new speaker.

Associated Press: Hearing scheduled for ex-state Sen. Robert Ford

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kg2JS3kN

Meg Kinnard

Former Sen. Robert Ford is scheduled to appear in court on eight charges that include misconduct in office, forgery and ethics violations. State prosecutors say a hearing is scheduled for Wednesday in Columbia for the Charleston Democrat. Last month, Attorney General Alan Wilson said Ford had been indicted on misconduct in office, forgery and six Ethics Act violations.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Aiken Standard: Scott makes history as he is sworn in to U.S. Senate

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141203/AIK0101/141209921/1121>

Derrek Asberry

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott said his swearing-in ceremony, which made him the first black senator from the South since Reconstruction, is a sign of progress for the state of South Carolina and the nation.

Note: The Republican senator was officially sworn in Tuesday morning at the U.S. Capitol. Scott, a North Charleston native, was appointed to the U.S. Senate in January 2013 after Gov. Nikki Haley named him to fill the seat vacated when Jim DeMint resigned.

Greenville News: South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott makes history

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/12/02/south-carolina-tim-scott-makes-history-first-african-american-senator-deep-south-since-reconstruction/19784717/>

Mary Troyan

Sen. Tim Scott, the first African-American elected to the Senate from the Deep South since Reconstruction, took the oath of office Tuesday, surrounded by his South Carolina Republican colleagues. Vice President Joe Biden first administered the official oath on the Senate floor, then the ceremony was re-created in the Old Senate Chamber.

South Carolina News:

Times and Democrat: State panel to consider \$12M loan for SCSU

http://thetandd.com/news/state-panel-to-consider-m-loan-for-scsu/article_4d9e9acc-7aa1-11e4-8401-c7f1009ca026.html

The state's Joint Bond Review Committee will consider today whether South Carolina State University should receive a \$12 million loan. The committee will review the budgetary plan recommended by the Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee set up by lawmakers to help guide the university out of its financial crisis.

Sun News: Bikefest task force working to secure, accommodate hundreds of officers coming to Grand Strand in May

http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/12/02/4644242_bikefest-task-force-working-to.html?sp=/99/209/&rh=1#storylink=cpy

Maya T. Prabhu

At least 130 additional state law enforcement officers will come to the Grand Strand to help gain control of Memorial Day weekend, and local leaders are working out the details of training and lodging for them. The S.C. Law Enforcement Division is doubling the number of officers it will send to the Grand Strand and S.C. Highway Patrol will be sending an additional 50 officers, up to 206 from 156.

Aiken Standard: Exit poll shows most moderate Republicans favored sales tax referendum

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141203/AIK0101/141209836/1004/exit-poll-shows-most-moderate-republicans-favored-sales-tax-referendum>

Rob Novit

The support of Aiken County voters who identify themselves as moderate Republicans or as leaning toward that party played a key role in the successful sales tax referendum last month. The information came from an exit poll during the Nov. 4 general election coordinated by Dr. Bob Botsch, a USC Aiken political science professor.

Associated Press: 28 to become US citizens in Lowcountry ceremony

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=QvOy0cDv

Nearly 30 people are becoming U.S. citizens during a naturalization ceremony in the Francis Marion National Forest northeast of Charleston. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is holding the ceremony for 28 people at the Sewee Visitor & Environmental Center in Awendaw on Wednesday.

Local News:

Anderson Independent: Two developments, over 450 jobs expected for Oconee County

http://www.independentmail.com/news/two-developments-over-450-jobs-expected-for-oconee-county_43483501

Ray Chandler

Two developments on Oconee County's horizon are expected to bring estimated investments of \$380 million and potentially more than 450 jobs. The largest project was identified Tuesday by a source connected with the county as a Michelin North America plant headed for Golden Corner Commerce Park, off S.C. 59, near Fair Play.

Post and Courier: Dorchester County boosts its donation to Charleston industry-recruiting agency

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141202/PC05/141209865/1177>

Warren L. Wise

The council decided to donate an additional \$36,323 to the Charleston Regional Development Alliance, bringing its total contribution for the year to \$86,676, half of what the county gave the alliance during the

past fiscal year, according to Dorchester County Council Chairman Bill Hearn.

Florence Morning News: Early childhood program in FSD1 showing progress

http://www.scnow.com/news/education/article_12775614-7a83-11e4-93f0-4bc18855b21c.html

Melissa Rollins

S.C. Sen. Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, visited Alfred Rush Academy in Quinby on Tuesday to hear about the progress of the school readiness program started by Florence School District 1 and the School Foundation. Leatherman said that he was pleased to see how much the program has grown in its first year.

Island Packet: Bennett sworn in as Hilton Head Island's new mayor

http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/12/02/3464695_new-hilton-head-mayor-will-be.html?sp=/99/100/&rh=1

Mayor David Bennett, his hand on a family Bible, took the oath of office Tuesday as a new era in Hilton Head Island government officially began -- one in which long-time political hands were replaced by relative newcomers.

Rock Hill Herald: Confrontation between sheriff, council has Chester County buzzing

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/12/02/6585202/confrontation-between-sheriff.html>

Andrew Dys

Chester County Sheriff Alex Underwood waved his hands toward the deputies assembled behind him. They had received death threats from gangs, and Underwood spoke point-blank to the Chester County Council. "You don't wear that badge and that gun," the sheriff said as the over-capacity crowd egged him on Monday night

National News:

Associated Press: GOP seeks year-end plan on funding, immigration

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/02/3848673/gop-seeks-year-end-plan-on-funding.html>

David Espo, Erica Werner

Year-end holidays beckoning, House Republicans struggled Tuesday to coalesce behind a plan that avoids a government shutdown next week and simultaneously challenges President Barack Obama's decision to spare millions of immigrants from deportation.

Wall Street Journal: Landrieu Struggles in Senate Run-off

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/political-diary-landrieu-struggles-in-senate-run-off-1417545699>

Allysia Finley

Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu's defeat in the upcoming run-off election with GOP Rep. Bill Cassidy was effectively sealed when her Democratic colleagues withheld their votes last month to pass her Keystone pipeline bill. In Monday night's debate, she uttered her last gasp.

Washington Post: New defense secretary would inherit old tensions

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/new-defense-secretary-would-inherit-old-tensions/2014/12/02/b2fd922e-7a42-11e4-84d4-7c896b90abdc_story.html

Greg Jaffe

President Obama may have picked a new defense secretary, but an older and thornier problem remains: The commander in chief, who publicly committed to ending America's two wars, must find ways to inspire the men and women he continues to send into battle.

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