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To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Monday, March 10, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

WBTW: Governor Haley proclaims March as Red Cross Month

<http://www.wbtw.com/story/24933374/governor-haley-proclaims-march-as-red-cross-month>

South Carolina's Governor proclaimed March as Red Cross Month in South Carolina Friday, recognizing the daily efforts of the American Red Cross providing disaster assistance or life-saving blood. Meeting with Red Cross volunteers and staff at the capitol Friday, Gov. Nikki Haley thanked them for the work done by the Red Cross. This year's theme is "Not All Heroes Wear Capes" and honors the Red Cross volunteers who donate blood, platelets, their time and resources to support the Red Cross.

Note: "Whether it's the Front Street fires in Georgetown or the recent winter storms, the Red Cross is always there," Gov. Haley said.

Legislative Session News:

The State: State could withhold \$1 million from each college until Constitution taught, pornographic material banned

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/10/3317310/state-house-state-could-withhold.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

A House budget amendment would have the state set aside \$1 million from each public college until they agree to teach the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights and ban the use of pornographic content in classes and requiring students to take a class that include the use of a nude model.

Associated Press: SC House to debate \$7B spending plan

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=IZ5ZaTLc

Seanna Adcox

The South Carolina House is starting to debate a \$7 billion spending plan for state taxes. The House is convening a day earlier than usual this week, with floor debate beginning Monday afternoon. The total state budget for the fiscal year starting July 1 would be \$24 billion, up from \$22.5 billion this year.

S.C. Political News:

Aiken Standard: Gov. Candidate Sheheen to speak at Democratic Party dinner

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140310/AIK0101/140319985/1004/gov-candidate-sheheen-to-speak-at-democratic-party-dinner>

Maayan Schechter

Democratic candidate for Governor Vincent Sheheen will be the Aiken County Democratic Party's keynote speaker Thursday, March 20. As part of the eighth annual Dorn-Derrick Dinner, Sheheen will speak at 7 p. m. at the Aiken Electrical Cooperative, located at 2790 Wagener Road.

Post and Courier: Mace opens Senate campaign headquarters

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140310/PC1610/140319960/1177/mace-opens-senate-campaign-headquarters>

Schuyler Kropf

Republican U.S. Senate candidate Nancy Mace opened her state campaign headquarters Monday by accusing GOP incumbent Lindsey Graham of being too liberal to represent South Carolina. "The only way we're going to change Washington is if we change who we send to Washington," Mace said. "And that's why I'm in this race."

Post and Courier: Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell responds to NAACP criticism over College of Charleston

presidency

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140310/PC16/140319982/1177/lt-gov-glenn-mcconnell-responds-to-naacp-criticism-over-college-of-charleston-presidency>

Diane Knich

Leaders of the national, state and local branches of the NAACP say that if Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell is hired as the next president of the College of Charleston, they will circulate a photograph of him dressed in a Confederate general uniform flanked on either side by two black people who appear to be dressed as slaves.

Associated Press: NAACP opposes McConnell for college president

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4quudYEH

Civil rights leaders say they oppose Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell, a Civil War re-enactor, for president of the College of Charleston. State and local leaders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People held a news conference Monday on the school's campus. Some people held posters of McConnell dressed in Confederate garb. One of the signs said "No Thanks."

WBTW: Jimmy Richardson announced candidacy for solicitor

<http://www.wbtw.com/story/24932659/jimmy-richardson-announced-candidacy-for-solicitor>

Julie Roy

Solicitor Jimmy A. Richardson, II made it official Monday and announced his candidacy Monday for Solicitor for 15th Judicial Circuit. He was appointed Solicitor by Governor Nikki Haley in December, 2012. This happened because Greg Hembree, was elected to the State Senate, replacing longtime North Myrtle Beach District 28 Senator Dick Elliot (D).

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Health insurance enrollment continues to climb in South Carolina

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140310/PC16/140319951/1006/about-37000-in-sc-have-signed-up-for-health-insurance>

Lauren Sausser

About 10,000 South Carolinians purchased a private insurance policy through the federal health insurance marketplace last month, driving total enrollment since Oct. 1 to nearly 37,000, according to the S.C. Department of Insurance. This includes only new customers who have actually paid their first month's premium.

Anderson Independent: Gas prices continue rise; S.C. prices lowest

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/mar/10/gas-prices-continue-rise-sc-prices-lowest/?partner=RSS>

Abe Hardesty

Gasoline prices continued a typical springtime ascent last week, as the price for a gallon of regular gas in the Upstate rose to \$3.14 and the national average rose to \$3.48. Monday was the 32nd day in a row that the national average, now 19 cents higher than a month ago, has risen. Upstate prices are 13 cents a gallon higher than a month ago.

Local News:

Florence Morning News: Officials examine cause of fatal plane crash

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_234cd10e-a7d8-11e3-8157-0017a43b2370.html

Bob Sloan

Law enforcement officials and investigators with the Federal Aviation Administration as well as the National Transportation Safety Board continued to sift through what remained of the wreckage of a single-engine plane on Sunday, hoping to piece together what caused it to crash in a residential neighborhood outside Hartsville Saturday evening.

National News:

CNBC: Feds probe Maryland's disastrous Obamacare marketplace

<http://www.cnbc.com/id/101481072>

Dan Mangan

Maryland's badly botched Obamacare exchange is being investigated by a federal watchdog in connection with its use of federal funds to build that marketplace, a congressman from the state said Monday. HHS' investigation specifically of Maryland's exchange came at the behest of U.S. Rep. Andy Harris, R-Md., an Affordable Care Act opponent and anesthesiologist.

Reuters: U.S. administration pulls back on Medicare drug benefit proposals

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/03/10/us-usa-healthcare-medicare-idUSBREA2706420140310>

The Obama administration on Monday pulled back from possible changes to the popular Medicare Part D prescription drug program, saying it would not finalize proposals that have spawned fierce opposition from a broad coalition of interests. Marilyn Tavenner, administrator of the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), said in a letter to members of Congress that her agency had decided not to move forward at present.

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