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Subject: Morning Clips – Monday, July 14, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: National boost for Republicans helps Gov. Haley in South Carolina
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140714/PC1603/140719684>

Jeremy Borden

A rebounding economy and falling approval ratings for President Obama have bolstered Republican incumbent governors across the country, including South Carolina. Dollars have poured into groups focused on electing Republicans to statewide office. The Republican Governors Association is expected to outraise Democrats focused on electing those to statewide offices by two to one.

S.C. Political Roundup:

Associated Press: Ravenel presents signatures for US Senate ballot

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=3GviCwvf

Jeffrey Collins

Former South Carolina treasurer Thomas Ravenel is expected to turn in the 10,000 signatures he needs to run as an independent for U.S. Senate. Ravenel said he will present the signatures Monday morning at the state Election Commission in Columbia. Ravenel wants to be on the November ballot for the seat currently held by Republican U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Times and Democrat: S.C. DSS deserves credit for work with food stamps

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/s-c-dss-deserves-credit-for-work-with-food-stamps/article_69d60f9a-0972-11e4-b936-001a4bcf887a.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Food stamps; OUR OPINION: Federal government says state is national leader in ensuring those eligible get benefits and those not eligible do not. That said, all South Carolinians should be happy about recent news that the state Department of Social Services (under fire over child welfare and other matters) is doing its job in ensuring that those eligible for food stamps get the benefits and those not eligible do not.

Post and Courier: Closing the Export-Import Bank would hurt the economy

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140714/PC1002/140719717/1021&source=spreed>

Editorial

Hard-right Republicans have wrongly singled out the Export-Import Bank as a symbol of "corporate welfare" and unnecessary government that should be abolished. They are guilty of mistaking rhetoric for reality. The focus on outsized government is warranted, but in the case of the Ex-Im Bank it is misplaced.

Post and Courier: Fair and balanced voter ID

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140714/PC1002/140719715/1021&source=spreed>

Editorial

The right to vote is an essential element of self-government. But so is the right to have only legal votes count. Balanced election regulations should protect both. Unfortunately, though, voter identification laws passed in recent years have been divisively - and inaccurately - condemned as a means to "disenfranchise" minority participation in the democratic process.

The State (Guest Column): Scope attacks businesses for following law

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/13/3559717/rawl-scope-attacks-businesses.html>

Otis Rawl

Cindi Scoppe's July 9 column, "Hospitals not blameless for ignoring law," attacks businesses for following what they understood as the law. Over the past year, numerous businesses have made substantial investments in land, buildings and personnel based on the understanding that the certificate of need permitting program was suspended for the fiscal year because funding was vetoed by Gov. Nikki Haley and her veto was sustained by the House of Representatives.

Note: In her veto message, Gov. Haley wrote, "The Certificate of Need program is an intensely political one through which bureaucratic policymakers deny new healthcare providers from offering treatment. We should allow the market to work rather than politics."

Island Packet: Don't back down on sales tax decision

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/07/13/3209113/dont-back-down-on-sales-tax-decision.html?sp=/99/342/>
Editorial

Some local leaders are peeved about Beaufort County Council's decision to nix a proposal that would have asked voters whether to increase the sales tax by 1 percent to raise money for 21 projects.

Rock Hill Herald: Go after sources of polluted sea water

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/07/13/6137713/go-after-sources-of-polluted-sea.html?sp=/100/105/>
Editorial

Permanent signs warning of potential pollution of sea water along South Carolina beaches are a good idea. But they should be backed up with media advisories and other warnings when pollution rises to dangerous levels.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: House Speaker Bobby Harrell case moves back to court on AG Wilson issue

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140714/PC1603/140719777/1382&source=spreed>
Jeremy Borden

After a winding and contentious road, the case against House Speaker Bobby Harrell is essentially back where it started. Only this time, it largely could play out behind closed doors. Harrell, R-Charleston, was handed a defeat last week when the S.C. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that Attorney General Alan Wilson has the authority to move forward with a long-running ethics-related investigation into the speaker.

Greenville News: Resolution sought on child support system, inmate care

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2014/07/13/millions-rof-sc-dollars-ide-outcome-mediation/12610359/>

Tim Smith

Behind closed doors, lawyers are attempting to negotiate two of the state's thorniest and most controversial issues in talks that could lead to spending millions of tax dollars and impact services to thousands of people. Lawyers in the two mediations are trying to resolve years-long legal disputes.

The State: Growth adds teachers across Midlands

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/13/3562639/growth-adds-teachers-across-midlands.html>

Tim Flach

Steady growth is propelling Lexington 1 and Richland 2 to the head of the class among Midlands schools adding teachers. About three-fourths of the roughly 115 new hires in local classrooms this fall are in those two districts.

Island Packet: Some on school board question participation in Bluffton economic-development deal

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/07/13/3209886/some-school-board-members-question.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1>

Sarah Bowman

When the Beaufort County Board of Education voted in April to help purchase land at Buckwalter Place to entice companies to locate there, several board members said the school district should not get involved. About three months later and just weeks before a deal is expected to close, those doubts among the board still exist, and may be growing.

Rock Hill Herald: York Electric Cooperative is taking steps to understand the realities of solar power

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/07/13/6137704/york-electric-cooperative-is-taking.html#storylink=cpy>

Don Worthington

Over the past decade, York Electric Cooperative has been slowly moving into “green” or environmentally friendly energy. In 2004 it started offering members the option of buying green power, electricity generated from renewable resources such as methane gas, the sun or the wind.

Post and Courier: South Carolina's airports land new TSA director

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140713/PC05/140719928/1382&source=spreed>

Warren L. Wise

Now, he's the new TSA director for all airports in South Carolina except Hilton Head, which falls under the agency's Savannah jurisdiction. Based in Charleston, Corey, 60, takes over from Debbie Engel, who is still in the area but now works in TSA legal affairs.

Local News:

Associated Press: Columbia mayor's lawyer: Florida trip was personal

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

A lawyer for Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin is preparing documents to show the mayor's trip to Florida in 2010 was a personal business trip. But if the State Ethics Commission rules the trip was part of official government business, attorney Greg Harris told The (Columbia) State (<http://bit.ly/1qxauma>) that he will file an amended disclosure report calling it a gift immediately.

Post and Courier: New report assesses Charleston's hurricane damage risk

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140714/PC05/140719833/1382&source=spreed>

Tyrone Richardson

The Charleston region ranks in the top 15 U.S. metro regions prone to hurricane-driven storm surge damage, says a new report. Real estate information firm CoreLogic reports that Charleston was No. 13 with 108,045 properties that could have a total reconstruction value of \$27.8 billion.

Florence Morning News: Annexation, conveyance on Florence City Council's agenda

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_f6fcf9b0-0ad5-11e4-9483-0017a43b2370.html

Gavin Jackson

There are several items to watch for today at the monthly Florence City Council meeting Monday. Annexations continue to cover the council's agenda, as informational sessions by city staff members have continued to spread the word about the cost and benefit differences between living in the city versus the county.

Aiken Standard: State ruling will impact some high school credits

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140714/AIK0101/140719734/1004/state-ruling-will-impact-some-high-school-credits>

Rob Novit

At an Aiken County Board of Education meeting scheduled for Tuesday, the trustees will hear that many District eighth-graders can no longer earn an elective high school credit for “transitional” English and math. A ruling from the State Department of Education won't impact eighth-graders taking English I and Algebra I.

Post and Courier: Month of change offers lift for Charleston airport board

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140713/PC05/140719853/1382&source=spreed>

Warren L. Wise

The long-running dysfunctional situation at the Charleston County Aviation Authority may finally be settling down. Developments over the past month have changed the makeup of the 13-member board and kept the agency out of court.

Associated Press: Small SC town rallies for fired gay police chief

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ACwvlh1e

Jeffrey Collins

When openly gay police chief Crystal Moore was fired by a mayor who condemned her lifestyle as “questionable,” she feared her two decade career in law enforcement in this town was over. Then, this conservative, small town rebelled.

National News:

Associated Press: Governors group skirts 'radioactive' Common Core

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=IsM6TGMJ

Erik Schelzig, Steve Peoples

Reviled by staunch conservatives, the common education standards designed to improve schools and student competitiveness are being modified by some Republican governors, who are pushing back against what they call the federal government's intrusion into the classroom.

Note: Republican governors in Oklahoma and South Carolina, an early presidential primary state, have signed measures aimed at repealing the standards.

New York Times: Republicans Replay 2010 Strategy at State Level

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/13/us/gop-replays-2010-strategy-at-state-level.html?_r=0

Jonathan Martin, Nicholas Confessore

Republican candidates for governor around the country have built an unexpectedly strong position for election this fall, helped by an improving economy, disaffection with President Obama and a national fund-raising machine that is leagues ahead of the opposition.

Associated Press: Kerry, Top Iranian Diplomat to Hold In-Depth Talks

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/E/EU_IRAN_NUCLEAR_TALKS?](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/E/EU_IRAN_NUCLEAR_TALKS?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-07-14-03-41-35)

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Bradley Klapper, George Jahn

Secretary of State John Kerry will hold in-depth discussions Monday with Iran's top diplomat in a bid to advance faltering nuclear negotiations, with a deadline just days away for a comprehensive agreement.

New York Times: U.S. Sees Risks in Assisting a Compromised Iraqi Force

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/14/world/middleeast/us-sees-risks-in-assisting-a-compromised-iraqi-force.html?partner=rss&emc=rss&_r=0

Eric Schmitt, Michael R. Gordon

A classified military assessment of Iraq's security forces concludes that many units are so deeply infiltrated by either Sunni extremist informants or Shiite personnel backed by Iran that any Americans assigned to advise Baghdad's forces could face risks to their safety, according to United States officials.

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