

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Thursday, September 25, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

WPDE: Balance between public, private needs holding up Georgetown fire recovery
http://www.carolinalive.com/news/story.aspx?id=1101362#.VCR_CPIdVHU

Joel Allen

One year after the devastating fire on Front Street in Georgetown, most of the businesses destroyed in the fire have reopened in other locations. But the 700 block of the street is still nothing more than weeds and fire debris.

Note: Governor Nikki Haley promised a million dollars to help Front Street rebuild.

Coastal Observer: Front Street fire: One year later, scars remain amidst the bustle
<http://www.coastalobserver.com/articles/2014/092514/5.html>

Jason Lesley

The flames were being driven by a stiff wind from the southeast, the worst possible weather scenario, Scoville said. With dawn the wind abated, and fire trucks and manpower arrived from Midway, Murrells Inlet-Garden City, Andrews and from as far away as Kingstree.

Note: Seven buildings were destroyed, and Gov. Nikki Haley called on South Carolina residents to contribute to a fund to assist the displaced when she surveyed the damage the day after the fire. Gifts surpassed \$210,000, and a group of volunteers disbursed the money directly to fire victims.

Sun News: Atlantic Beach officials encouraged after meeting with Gov. Haley about Bikefest
http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/09/25/4497335_atlantic-beach-officials-encouraged.html?sp=/99/134/&rh=1

Maya T. Prabhu

The mayor of Atlantic Beach said he was happy to have the opportunity Thursday to clear up some misunderstandings between town officials and Gov. Nikki Haley regarding the town's Bikefest during a private meeting.

Note: "It would really be nice if the city of Atlantic Beach would step up and say, 'You know what? We have a role to play in all this and we should step up and do something about this,'" she said Monday.

Associated Press: SC's newest third party launches ballot initiative
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=OSC1x0Jm

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina's newest political party says voters should be able to recall politicians who violate the public's trust, whether through illegal activity or embarrassing the state. American Party Chairman Jim Rex said Thursday it's time to give voters the option of recall elections to discipline politicians who won't police themselves.

Note: In 2012, former Lt. Gov. Ken Ard resigned and pleaded guilty to campaign-spending violations, while Gov. Nikki Haley was cleared by the House Ethics Committee of allegations she illegally lobbied for two employers while in the House. Since then, at least three current House members have been convicted of misdemeanors and three others face charges. Only felony convictions automatically remove someone from office.

Associated Press: Lexington hospital ordered to close heart units
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=oGZzSWMV

Lexington Medical Center has been ordered to shut down an open heart surgery unit and a catheterization lab it opened earlier this year when a long-standing state approval process was in limbo. The State newspaper reported (<http://bit.ly/1rvvvRz>) Administrative Judge Ralph King Anderson III ruled this week the hospital needed a state-issued certificate of need for the facilities.

Note: The state program was in limbo when Gov. Nikki Haley vetoed its funding. But the South Carolina Supreme Court ruled in April only the General Assembly could end the program.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley endorsed by NRA

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140925/PC1603/140929583/1177/gov-nikki-haley-endorsed-by-nra>
Schuyler Kropf

The National Rifle Association's political action committee endorsed Republican Gov. Nikki Haley for re-election Thursday. The NRA's Political Victory Fund gave Haley an A+ rating, the highest possible grade it has for issues critical to the Second Amendment, the group said. PAC leaders cited Haley's signature of an expanded carry law, among other issues.

Post and Courier: Vincent Sheheen releases latest campaign ad, hits Nikki Haley on ethics

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140925/PC1603/140929608/1177/vincent-sheheen-releases-latest-campaign-ad-hits-nikki-haley-on-ethics>

Cynthia Roldan

Democratic gubernatorial hopeful Vincent Sheheen has rolled out his fifth television ad this time calling out Gov. Nikki Haley on instances in which her campaign has had to reimburse the state for the use of state vehicles for campaign-related events.

Note: "Vince Sheheen's hypocrisy when it comes to ethics reform knows no bounds," said Chaney Adams, spokeswoman for Haley's campaign. "When he's not busy refusing to disclose how much money he has made representing criminals before judges he had a hand in appointing, he's voting against bipartisan ethics reform, making hundreds of thousands of dollars suing the state as a sitting legislator or reducing sentences for some of South Carolina most violent criminals. Vince has proven to South Carolina, time and time again, that he is nothing more than a walking talking conflict of interest."

The State: Vincent Sheheen releases ethics ad

http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/25/3703542_vincent-sheheen-releases-ethics.html?sp=/99/132/312/169/&rh=1

Cassie Cope

Democratic candidate for governor Vincent Sheheen released his fifth campaign TV ad Thursday - the first criticizing Republican Gov. Nikki Haley on ethics. Both Haley and Sheheen have made ethics a top issue.

Note: Haley's camp complained that Sheheen has his own ethics issues, including hearing cases before magistrates he and other lawmakers appointed and making money from suing the state. They also say he did not support some ethics reforms proposals.

Note: "Vince Sheheen's hypocrisy when it comes to ethics reform knows no bounds," Haley campaign spokeswoman Chaney Adams said. "Vince has proven to South Carolina, time and time again, that he is nothing more than a walking talking conflict of interest."

Post and Courier: Independent gubernatorial candidate Tom Ervin makes pitches in Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140925/PC1603/140929584/1177/independent-gubernatorial-candidate-tom-ervin-makes-pitches-in-charleston>

Schuyler Kropf

Ervin returned to Charleston Wednesday trying to drum up support for his outsider's bid, saying Haley and Democrat Vincent Sheheen are insiders who will provide more of the same in state government. Ervin did draw one notable endorsement: North Charleston City Councilman Ed Astle was at the lunch and said he is fully committed to supporting Ervin on Nov. 4.

Coastal Observer: Politics: Campaign ready to move beyond stem cells – almost

<http://www.coastalobserver.com/articles/2014/092514/3.html>

Charles Swenson

There are other issues in the race for S.C House District 108, and the candidates say they want to talk about them. But the Democratic challenger, Vida Miller, says Republican state Rep. Stephen Goldfinch first needs to explain the status of a federal charge that a company he once owned misbranded stem cells shipped from Charleston to Texas.

Note: Miller called Goldfinch's comments about the charge a "clear pattern of deception" in a letter this week to Gov. Nikki Haley. She asked Haley not to endorse Goldfinch during a campaign visit scheduled today at Pawleys Island.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

The Hill: Graham: Putin doesn't respect Obama's 'empty rhetoric'

<http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/senate/218872-graham-putin-doesnt-respect-obamas-empty-rhetoric>

Ramsey Cox

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) said Russian President Vladimir Putin doesn't respect President Obama. Graham's comments came after Obama delivered a speech to the United Nations. Obama said the United States stands with Ukraine and that other larger nations should as well.

South Carolina News:

The State: Lawyers seek gag order in case of Lexington County father accused of killing 5 children

[http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/25/3704095/lawyers-seek-gag-order-in-case.html?](http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/25/3704095/lawyers-seek-gag-order-in-case.html?sp=/99/205/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy)

[sp=/99/205/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy](http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/25/3704095/lawyers-seek-gag-order-in-case.html?sp=/99/205/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy)

Tim Flach

Lawyers for accused killer Timonthy Ray Jones Jr. asked for a gag order Thursday on pretrial statements by prosecutors, law enforcement officials and potential witnesses outside of court proceedings. That step is necessary to assure a fair trial for Jones, in what could be a potential death penalty case, public defenders Rob Madsen and Boyd Young said.

CNN: Video shows trooper shooting unarmed man, South Carolina police say

http://www.cnn.com/2014/09/25/justice/south-carolina-trooper-shooting/index.html?hpt=hp_t2

Jason Hanna, Martin Savidge

Authorities released dash-camera video Wednesday showing what they say is Sean Groubert, a decorated South Carolina Highway Patrol trooper, shooting Levar Jones, who was unarmed, in the parking lot of a gas station just outside Columbia on September 4.

Greenville News: S.C. regulator 'surprised' Duke hasn't removed coal ash yet

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/09/25/sc-regulator-surprised-duke-removed-coal-ash-yet/16208473/>

Tim Smith

A state utility regulator said this morning that he is surprised and disappointed that Duke Energy has yet to remove any coal ash from any of its South Carolina sites even though coal ash is being removed from utility basins in North Carolina.

Associated Press: Ex-SC State counsel sentenced to probation

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

A former chief of staff and general counsel at South Carolina State University has been sentenced for his role in a public corruption case at the historically black school. Acting U.S. Attorney Beth Drake says 51-year-old Edwin Givens was sentenced Thursday to six months of probation.

National News:

Associated Press: White House: Holder resigning as Attorney General

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_HOLDER_RESIGNATION?](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_HOLDER_RESIGNATION?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-09-25-11-10-34)

[SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-09-25-11-10-34](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_HOLDER_RESIGNATION?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-09-25-11-10-34)

Nedra Pickler, Jim Kuhnhenn

Eric Holder, who served as the public face of the Obama administration's legal fight against terrorism and weighed in on issues of racial fairness, is resigning after six years on the job. He is the nation's first black attorney general.

Associated Press: Applications for US unemployment rise 12K to 293K

<http://news.yahoo.com/applications-us-unemployment-rise-293k-123510196--finance.html>

Christopher Rugaber

The number of people seeking U.S. unemployment benefits increased last week after falling sharply two weeks ago. Despite the rise, the level of applications remains near pre-recession levels, a sign that hiring will likely remain healthy. Weekly unemployment benefit applications rose 12,000 to a seasonally adjusted 293,000, the Labor Department said Thursday.

Brian Symmes

Cell: (803) 673-9437

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304