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To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Tuesday, April 8, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: Gov. Nikki Haley calls for House to tweak ethics bill

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/08/3374843/gov-nikki-haley-calls-for-house.html>

Andrew Shain

Gov. Nikki Haley sent a letter to all S.C. House members on Tuesday asking they support portions of ethics reform legislation that came from a task force headed by two former state attorneys general she appointed last year. A special House committee meet for the first time this afternoon.

Note: "Both the Senate and House have adopted some of the Commission's recommendations, for which I am grateful," she wrote. "However, the House now has a momentous opportunity to make H. 3945 stronger and give the people of South Carolina what they deserve — true and meaningful ethics reform."

Note: "Full transparency also must contain any income associated with government, including government contracts and any legal fees earned by a public official when the state is the opposing party," Haley wrote.

Rock Hill Herald: Years of war leave veterans facing unfamiliar challenge: the civilian workforce

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/04/08/5848312/years-of-war-leave-veterans-facing.html#storylink=cpy>

Jeff Wilkinson

In South Carolina, Gov. Nikki Haley has expanded to active-duty military an initiative launched by the S.C. National Guard that has cut unemployment among Guard members to 3.9 percent from 16 percent in 2011. Called Operation Palmetto Employment, the program coordinates all public and private efforts in the state to match veterans with employers.

Note: "It was the best way to create a one-stop service for veterans," Haley said. "But it also allows companies that appreciate veterans (a way) to employ them."

WLTX: Bill to Raise Money for SC Roads Hitting Roadblocks

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/local/2014/04/07/bill-road-sc-money/7440209/>

Robert Kittle

A bill aimed at generating more money for South Carolina's crumbling roads and bridges is running into procedural problems and running out of time at the Statehouse.

Note: One other major obstacle facing the bill is that Gov. Nikki Haley says she will veto any tax or fee increase. "What I want the legislature to do is instead of being so quick to raise fees and taxes, look at revenue streams we already have and move that over to infrastructure. They are there," she said Monday.

WIS: Legislative action on state roads? Don't expect much this year, say senators

<http://www.wistv.com/story/25195089/legislative-action-on-state-roads-dont-expect-much-this-year-say-senators>

PJ Randhawa

Time is running out for lawmakers trying to find a way to put more money into the state's roads and bridges. Unfortunately, many we spoke with say it likely won't happen this year. "This is a critical issue," said state Sen. Nikki Setzler (D-Columbia, Aiken). "It can't be left until next year and the money is not there to do it."

Note: Last year, Gov. Nikki Haley pledged \$1 billion over the next ten years for the state's roads.

The State: SC State University diverted \$6.5 million from program to cover deficits, report finds

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/08/3374946/inspector-general-sc-state-university.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

S.C. State University used \$6.5 million in state money from a program meant to aid poorer families to cover cash flow problems since 2007, an S.C. Inspector General report released on Tuesday. No fraud was found in the money diverted from the school's 1890 Research & Extension Program, the report said.

WTMA: First Family Hosts Easter Egg Hunt on Wednesday

[http://www.wtma.com/common/more.php?](http://www.wtma.com/common/more.php?m=58&ts=1396983009&article=A8A1CD4EBF3911E3B51EFEFDADE6840A&mode=2)

[m=58&ts=1396983009&article=A8A1CD4EBF3911E3B51EFEFDADE6840A&mode=2](http://www.wtma.com/common/more.php?m=58&ts=1396983009&article=A8A1CD4EBF3911E3B51EFEFDADE6840A&mode=2)

With Easter approaching, Gov. Nikki Haley and her family will host their annual Easter Egg Hunt this week. The governor's office has announced that the 2014 Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Wednesday from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Governor's Mansion Complex.

S.C. Political News:

Associated Press: Louisiana Gov. Jindal to speak to SC Republicans

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=uRIbp1Et

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal is coming to South Carolina to speak at the state Republican party's annual fundraising dinner. Jindal is the keynote speaker at the South Carolina Republican Party's Silver Elephant Dinner on June 6. The dinner will also honor World War II veterans on the 70th anniversary of the D-Day invasion of France by allied forces.

Legislative Session News:

Post and Courier: University of Charleston bill moves forward in S.C. House

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140408/PC1603/140409384/1177/university-of-charleston-bill-moves-forward-in-sc-house>

Jeremy Borden

A key S.C. House committee moved along a bill Tuesday that would create the Lowcountry's first comprehensive research university, as the panel embraced a compromise that would allow a newly-expanded University of Charleston to offer more post-graduate programs.

Greenville News: Senator warns of \$10B shortfall in funding retiree's health plan

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/04/08/senator-warns-b-shortfall-funding-retirees-health-plan/7471801/>

Tim Smith

Sen. Kevin Bryant of Anderson warned the Senate today of a \$10 billion "tsunami" shortfall in the funding of the state retirees health plan and suggesting the state begin diversifying investments. He said the trust fund for retirees health care, known as OPEB, is managed by the state treasurer's office but investments are restricted to high-grade bonds.

Associated Press: SC Senate passes bill allowing legal bridge games

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=7gi9S08d

Seanna Adcox

A bill that would allow retirees to legally play bridge passed the Senate unanimously Tuesday, two weeks after a senator threatened to challenge South Carolina's centuries-old antigambling laws in court. Under Sen. Tom Davis' bill, members of social clubs or groups could gather at someone's home or community clubhouse to play games with cards, dice or tiles.

Post and Courier: S.C. Senate approves bill allowing social card games

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140408/PC1603/140409409/1177/sc-senate-approves-bill-allowing-social-card-games>

Jeremy Borden

A measure prompted by a crackdown on social card games in Hilton Head passed the S.C. Senate on Tuesday, as a senator pushing the bill argued that the state's 1800s-era law needed to be brought into modern times.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: SC group suing over county election boards law

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=WmGJ6w0j

Meg Kinnard

A government watchdog group has filed a legal challenge to the constitutionality of the elections process South Carolina, a move one top lawmaker says could complicate this year's races if the issue isn't decided quickly. Last month, the South Carolina Public Interest Foundation filed a request that a judge declare

invalid a state law laying out how county-level elections boards are constructed.

Local News:

Sun News: Horry County plans raises for employees, no tax increases

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/04/08/4151769/horry-county-plans-raises-for.html?sp=/99/209/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Jason M. Rodriguez

Horry County Council will meet for its annual spring budget retreat later this week and will hear of no tax or millage increases, but will consider a proposal for a 2 percent cost of living increase for its employees.

County officials will outline the proposed \$138 million general fund budget for 2015 on Thursday and Friday. The county operates on a fiscal year, which begins July 1.

The State: Mayor withdraws request for \$2 million add-on to baseball loan

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/08/3374945/mayor-withdraws-request-for-2.html#storylink=cpy>

Clif LeBlanc

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin this morning pulled off City Council's agenda his own proposal to add \$2 million to a city loan package that is slated to pay for a new baseball stadium. Benjamin said Monday he was going to ask council to endorse in principle a \$31 million loan rather than a \$29 million one.

The State: Former Richland County jail guard to be sentenced for beating mentally ill homeless prisoner

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/08/3374682/federal-court-former-richland.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

Robin Smith, a former Alvin S. Glenn jail guard, is scheduled to to be sentenced Wednesday morning in federal court in Columbia. Last December, Smith pleaded guilty to a federal civil rights violation in the February 2013 brutal beating of a homeless Columbia man who had been classified as mentally ill, non-violent and was handcuffed.

National News:

New York Times: Obama Signs Measures to Help Close Gender Gap in Pay

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/09/us/politics/obama-signs-measures-to-help-close-gender-gap-in-pay.html?_r=1

Peter Baker

President Obama on Tuesday signed two executive measures intended to help close longstanding pay disparities between men and women as Democrats seek to capitalize on their gender-gap advantage at the ballot box in a midterm election year.

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