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To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, March 19, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Times and Democrat: Birdsong Corporation opens a new facility in Darlington County
http://thetandd.com/business/birdsong-corporation-opens-a-new-facility-in-darlington-county/article_f658abbc-af9f-11e3-9494-001a4bcf887a.html

Birdsong Corp. a Virginia-based company that processes peanuts for marketing and distribution worldwide, will locate a new facility in Darlington County. The \$47.3 million investment is expected to create 55 new jobs over a five-year period.

Note: "Announcing 55 new jobs coming to Darlington County is great news for the state and the local community. We applaud Birdsong Peanuts for their investment of \$47.3 million and for the major role they play in the continued growth of our state's agribusiness sector." - Gov. Nikki Haley

DSS Hearing News:

WIS: Coroners, former agency heads testify in DSS hearings
<http://www.wistv.com/story/25020010/coroners-former-agency-heads-testify-in-dss-hearings>

PJ Randhawa

Since they began their investigation last year, senators on the Department of Social Services Oversight Committee have heard passionate testimony from parents and child advocates all saying the agency is grossly mishandling child welfare cases.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley's spokesman, Doug Mayer, released a statement about these allegations. "There is nothing more important than the welfare of our children and under Director Koller's watch child deaths have decreased 25 percent, adoptions have increased 11 percent, and we have successfully moved over 20,000 people from welfare to work. Governor Haley has and will continue to support her efforts to protect and better the lives of South Carolina families and children," said Mayer.

Post and Courier: Senator calls for new leadership at DSS in wake of testimony from child welfare officials
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140319/PC1610/140319291/1177/update-senator-calls-for-new-leadership-at-dss-in-wake-of-testimony-from-child-welfare-officials>

Cynthia Roldan

Sen. Joel Lourie made a call for new leadership at the Department of Social Services Wednesday as he showed increasing frustration with testimony he's hearing from child welfare officials during an oversight panel meeting.

The State: Vincent Sheheen, Joel Lourie call for DSS chief to step down
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/19/3335268/state-house-senator-calls-for.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

State Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Richland, called for the chief of the Department of Social Services to step down Wednesday after hearing testimony alleging fear and intimidation at the state agency and concerns from coroners overseeing child-death investigations.

S.C. Political News:

The State: Henry McMaster likely to run for lieutenant governor
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/19/3335491/henry-mcmaster-plans-to-run-for.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Former S.C. Attorney General Henry McMaster likely to run for lieutenant governor, his political consultant said Wednesday. This would be the Columbia Republican's second run for the state's No. 2 office. He lost the 1990 lieutenant governor's race to Democrat Nick Theodore. McMaster, 66, last ran for office in an

unsuccessful Republican bid for governor in 2010.

Post and Courier: GOP lieutenant governor field expected to add McMaster

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140319/PC16/140319268/1177/gop-lieutenant-governor-field-expected-to-add-mcmaster>

Schuyler Kropf

The Republican race for lieutenant governor took an expansive twist Wednesday when Mike Campbell, son of former governor Carroll Campbell, filed to run. Former Attorney General Henry McMaster also intends to enter the race, his consultant said.

Associated Press: Son of Gov. Campbell files for lieutenant governor

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=P8Ei0KKU

Seanna Adcox

Mike Campbell has told The Associated Press he is again seeking South Carolina's No. 2 spot, saying he wants to continue the effort he started eight years ago. The younger son of the late Gov. Carroll Campbell was filing Wednesday for the Republican nomination for lieutenant governor. The 45-year-old father of two lost a 2006 primary runoff - his first run for political office - by just 2.5 percentage points to then-Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer.

The State: Mike Campbell running for lieutenant governor

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/19/3334400/election-2014-mike-campbell-running.html>

Andrew Shain

Mike Campbell, son of the late Republican Gov. Carroll Campbell, will run again for lieutenant governor. Campbell, 45, plans to file for the office Wednesday. Charleston developer Pat McKinney is the only other Republican who has filed so far.

Associated Press: US Sen. Graham files to run for re-election

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

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham has filled out the paperwork and written the \$10,440 check to run for office again. Graham stopped by the South Carolina Election Commission on Wednesday to officially start his campaign for a third term.

Associated Press: Eckstrom: Dismiss 2012 RNC ethics allegations

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=bSlqEpl1

Meg Kinnard

State law allowed South Carolina's top accountant to use campaign money to accompany his girlfriend to the 2012 Republican National Convention in Tampa, an attorney for Comptroller General Richard Eckstrom argued before the state Ethics Commission on Wednesday, asking the panel to dismiss pending ethics charges.

Post and Courier: Charleston Democratic convention is Saturday

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140319/PC16/140319274/1177/charleston-democrat-convention-is-saturday>

Schuyler Kropf

Charleston Democrats will hold their county convention on Saturday, during which West Ashley resident Brady Quirk-Garvan is expected to be elected the next party chairman. Quirk-Garvan, 27, is the only announced candidate so far to succeed Richard Hricik, who is stepping down as party leader at the end of his term, which coincides with this meeting.

Legislative Session News:

Post and Courier: S.C. House passes 20-week abortion ban

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140319/PC1603/140319270/1177/sc-house-passes-20-week-abortion-ban>

Jeremy Borden

The S.C. House passed a bill Wednesday that bans abortion after 19 weeks, a measure which critics say would open up the state to legal challenges that could cost South Carolina millions and interfere with a doctor's decision to make a medically appropriate decision.

Associated Press: SC House approves banning abortion beyond 19 weeks

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

Seanna Adcox

The House has approved a bill banning abortion in South Carolina beyond 19 weeks of pregnancy. The bill approved 84-29 on Wednesday is one of several anti-abortion measures being debated this year. Another perfunctory vote will send it to the Senate.

Post and Courier: Riley urges legislators to proceed with 'University of Charleston' merger

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140319/PC1603/140319294/1177/riley-urges-legislators-to-proceed-with-university-of-charleston-merger>

Jeremy Borden

The creation of a major comprehensive research university in Charleston would drive economic development and leave a lasting legacy for lawmakers who help create such a place, Charleston Mayor Joe Riley told an S.C. House panel tasked with studying a potential merger between the College of Charleston and Medical University of South Carolina.

The State: Joe Riley: Charleston falling behind without a research university

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/19/3335083/joe-riley-charleston-falling-behind.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Charleston Mayor Joe Riley told a special S.C. House panel on Wednesday that his world-class city will fall behind without a major research university. Riley said Charleston is not competing with Columbia and Greenville, rather the large university hubs of Boston, Raleigh-Durham and Austin, Texas.

Greenville News: Senate committee to debate solar bill today

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140319/NEWS03/303190039/Senate-committee-debate-solar-bill-today>

Nathaniel Cary

South Carolina's Senate judiciary subcommittee is set to debate a reformulated solar bill when it meets today at 11 a.m. The bill — crafted as a collaboration between utility interests and pro-solar groups — has been expected for months, interested parties have said.

WIS: State Education superintendent asks for more school bus money

<http://www.wistv.com/story/25019655/state-education-superintendent-asks-for-more-school-bus-money>

Jeremy Turnage

State Education superintendent Mick Zais is asking lawmakers for more money to buy school buses. Zais testified before the Senate Finance Education subcommittee this morning. Old school buses were the focus of a WIS Investigation last year. We found 2/3rds of the state's fleet are over 15 years old.

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: BMW looking at Upstate expansion; US market has 'great potential'

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140319/BUSINESS/303190040/BMW-considering-expanding-Upstate-plant>

Woody White

BMW chairman Norbert Reithofer said today the company is considering expanding production capacity at its Greer assembly plant. The company said last week it plans to make a "significant economic and product announcement" at its Greer assembly plant on March 28.

Post and Courier: FAA and Boeing: 787 Dreamliner meets 'high level of safety'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140319/PC05/140319269/1177/faa-and-boeing-787-dreamliner-meets-high-level-of-safety>

Warren L. Wise

Despite a spate of problems, a yearlong review of the much-troubled 787 Dreamliner by the FAA and Boeing shows the jet meets a "high level of safety," the federal agency and the company reported Wednesday.

Post and Courier: State Ports Authority could sell former terminal to town of Port Royal

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140319/PC05/140319303/1177/state-ports-authority-could-sell-former-terminal-to-town-of-port-royal>

Tyrone Richardson

The State Ports Authority is reviewing a proposal to sell its former Beaufort County terminal to the town where the long-vacant facility resides. Board chairman Bill Stern announced today that SPA is strongly considering plans to sell the 369-acre former terminal to Port Royal.

Greenville News: Food costs rise, other prices stable

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140319/BUSINESS/303190022/Food-costs-rise-other-prices-stable>

David Dykes

The consumer price index increased 0.1 percent in February, a rate economists said showed little change in the cost of living despite a big rise in the cost of food. The Labor Department said prices have risen just 1.1 percent in the last 12 months. The government reported an increase in the food index accounted for more than half of the increase in February.

The State: Hilton Head's Batson, mother of former U.S. Sen. Jim DeMint, has died

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/03/19/3010274/hilton-heads-batson-mother-of.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

The mother of former U.S. Sen. Jim DeMint, Hilton Head Island resident Betty Rawlings Batson, passed away on March 10.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Charleston area gets more than \$4 million this year to repair public housing

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140319/PC16/140319290/1006/>

David Slade

Nearly \$1.8 billion in federal funding for public housing improvements was announced Wednesday by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, including just over \$4 million locally out of nearly \$20.6 million for housing authorities in South Carolina. The money will not create additional public housing; it is annual funding for capital improvements, such as new roofs and plumbing.

National News:

Associated Press: Warning Russia, Biden Says US Will Defend Allies

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/W/WEST_RESPONSE_RUSSIA?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-03-19-12-16-29

Josh Lederman

Issuing an outright warning to Moscow, Vice President Joe Biden declared Wednesday the United States will respond to any aggression against its NATO allies, as Russia's neighbors looked warily to the escalating crisis in nearby Ukraine.

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