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To:
Date: 3/12/2014 5:22:31 PM
Subject: Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, March 12, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Gov. Haley thanks House for education budget

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

Seanna Adcox

Gov. Nikki Haley thanked House leaders Wednesday for a budget plan she says takes a historic step in providing a good education to all South Carolina students. Haley's praise came shortly after the House sent its \$7 billion spending plan for state taxes to the Senate. Its additional \$181 million for K-12 schools expands on an education plan she unveiled in January after a series of meetings last year with teachers, administrators, legislators and business leaders.

Note: "I am absolutely thrilled," Haley said. "This House said we are no longer going to educate ... a student based on where they live. We are now going to start to educate children based on the fact they deserve a good education and that is our future workforce."

Note: "I hope the teachers see this as a huge sign of support for them in we want to strengthen everything they're trying to do to be that connector between parents and the children," said Haley, a native of rural Bamberg.

The State: Obama declares disaster in SC, 21 counties get aid

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/12/3321100/politics-obama-declares-disaster.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

President Barack Obama signed off on South Carolina major disaster declaration request Wednesday and ordered federal aid in 21 counties hit hardest by a winter storm last month. The storm caused an estimated \$435 million in damage -- \$360 million to the timber industry, \$55 million to government agencies and utilities and \$20 million in insured losses.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley made the aid request after the second devastating winter storm to hit South Carolina in two week.

Associated Press: Obama signs SC federal disaster declaration

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Jken3tnT

The White House has approved South Carolina's request for federal disaster relief after last month's storm that caused more than \$430 million in damage. The White House announced Wednesday that President Obama signed the declaration. Gov. Nikki Haley made the request for 21 of the state's 46 counties last week.

The State: Resolution would speed state agency takeover of school for at-risk kids

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/12/3320982/state-house-resolution-would-speed.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

The S.C. House introduced a resolution Wednesday to have the state Department of Juvenile Justice assume control over the John de la Howe School for at-risk teens before the summer.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley has backed the juvenile justice department's increased role in the school that enrolls about 70 students from statewide.

The State: Protesters, SC Democrats fight bill blocking Obamacare

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/03/12/2996494/protesters-sc-democrats-fight.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

State and local government employees would be instructed to give up their "bias" toward the Affordable Care Act if a bill banning use of state resources to assist the federal program becomes law, a state senator said Tuesday.

Note: Mayer said, Haley "will continue to support any effort that legally works to offset (Obamacare's) clear negative consequences on our state and citizens."

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Post and Courier: Likely S.C. gubernatorial candidate Sheheen announces agenda on women's issues
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140312/PC1603/140319776/1177/likely-sc-gubernatorial-candidate-sheheen-announces-agenda-on-womens-issues>

Jeremy Borden

State Sen. Vincent Sheheen, D-Camden, is focusing on women's issues this month in an effort that includes events around the state and specific policy initiatives as the likely Democratic gubernatorial candidate ramps up his campaign.

Note: "As a woman, a wife, and a mother, the governor understands that the best way to raise up the women of South Carolina is to raise up all of South Carolina," Godfrey said in an email. "That's why she's tremendously proud of the fact that we're below the national unemployment average for first time since 2001, that more South Carolinians are working today than at any point in our history, and why she won't stop until every person in South Carolina -- man, woman and child - has the opportunity they deserve."

The State: Vincent Sheheen asks for study of female state worker pay

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/12/3321173/election-2014-vincent-sheheen.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

State Sen. Vincent Sheheen, the presumed Democratic candidate for governor, asked the state treasurer on Wednesday to conduct a study to see if female state employees are paid less for the same work. Equal pay for female workers was one of the issues Sheheen's campaign rolled out Wednesday as part of his "Women's Agenda."

Legislative Session News:

Post and Courier: S.C. House gives key approval to \$7B spending plan

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140311/PC1610/140319849/1031/sc-house-gives-key-approval-to-7b-spending-plan>

Cynthia Roldan

Democrats took another run at several contentious issues during Tuesday's round of votes on the state budget, including fully funding per student costs and the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. Republicans say K-12 public schools are a big winner in the House budget plan, but Democrats say the plan still doesn't meet the state's obligation to education.

Associated Press: Toal seeking millions to safeguard SC court info

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

Meg Kinnard

The head of South Carolina's judicial system told a Senate panel Wednesday that she needs more money to safeguard digital information for courts around the state. Appearing before a Senate Finance subcommittee, Chief Justice Jean Toal said that it would take about \$5.5 million to set up a site at Clemson University that could serve as a backup for digital court records now stored in Columbia.

The State: Anti-Common Core proposal headed to Senate floor

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/12/3321185/state-house-two-anti-common-core.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

A proposal originally intended to repeal Common Core education standards in South Carolina classrooms is headed to the full Senate after being stripped of that key provision. Removing the state from the testing consortium would address concerns that the new test -- not yet finalized -- is part of the federal government's attempt to control education at the local level

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

USA Today: Senators lament declining public interest in Afghan War

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/nation/2014/03/12/levin-wicker-graham-senate-armed-services/6333099/>

Jim Michaels

It was left to Sen. Lindsey Graham to state the obvious. "The room is almost empty," said Graham, R-S.C., glancing at the empty press and audience seats in the hearing room. "I remember when all these rows were full with people ... everybody was hanging on every word about Afghanistan." Indeed, hearings on

Afghanistan and Iraq were once raucous affairs, the rooms were often packed with observers and protesters and the debate was closely watched by the press and public.

South Carolina News:

The State: SC Supreme Court: Suit against USC, Gamecock Club should be heard

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/12/3321153/sc-supreme-court-sends-gamecock.html#storylink=cpy>

Chris Winston

A lawsuit filed by Gamecock Club members asked to pay thousands more to keep their basketball tickets is heading back to court. In a unanimous ruling filed Wednesday, the S.C. Supreme Court ruled that Richland County Circuit Court Judge Alison Lee erred in granting a summary judgement in favor of the University of South Carolina and the Gamecock Club.

Local News:

The State: Candidate who withdraws from Columbia police chief search criticizes city leadership

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/12/3320981/one-of-police-chief-candidates.html#storylink=cpy>

Clif LeBlanc, Noelle Phillips

The retired director of public safety in Spartanburg on Wednesday criticized the city's leadership as he withdrew from Columbia's police chief search, narrowing the field of finalists. Tony Fisher wrote a one-paragraph letter dated March 12 to city manager Teresa Wilson in which he said, "After much consideration, I withdraw my name as a candidate for the chief of police for the city of Columbia."

Aiken Standard: New program will help veterans 'suit up' for job search

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140312/AIK0101/140319778/1007/AIK0101/new-program-will-help-veterans-suit-up-for-job-search>

DeDe Biles

The Aiken Warrior Project and Goodwill Industries of Middle Georgia and the CSRA are teaming up to make sure that student military veterans will look spiffy while they are looking for work. The two organizations officially launched their Suit Up for Veterans initiative on Wednesday.

Sun News: Trustee's report blames Myrtle Beach-based Direct Air's founders for nearly \$30.4 million in missing escrow funds

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/03/12/4089240/trustees-report-blames-myrtle.html#storylink=cpy>

David Wren

Myrtle Beach-based Direct Air's founders took more than \$30 million from the charter air carrier's escrow account through a series of fraudulent and improper bank transactions, according to a bankruptcy trustee's report, but it appears all of the money went to pay the financially struggling carrier's bills.

National News:

Associated Press: Senate panel advances tough sanctions on Russia

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_CONGRESS_UKRAINE?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-03-12-12-02-44

Bradley Klapper

A Senate panel on Wednesday advanced what could become some of the most significant U.S. sanctions on Russia since the end of the Cold War in a bid to pressure President Vladimir Putin to pull Russian troops out of Crimea.

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