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Subject: Morning Clips - Friday, September 20, 2013

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Tampa Bay Times: S.C. beats Florida when it comes to health coverage

<http://www.tampabay.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-health-coverage-sabotage/2142791>

Editorial

This is a tale of two Southern states with conservative Republican governors who oppose the Affordable Care Act. Florida and South Carolina have rejected federal money to expand Medicaid to cover more uninsured residents. They have refused to set up health care marketplaces and left the job to the federal government. Yet one state quietly finds ways to make health care reform work so its residents get coverage while the other tries to sabotage it.

Note: South Carolina officials are preparing for the coming changes to health insurance even as Gov. Nikki Haley opposes health care reform. They intend to encourage people to get coverage. Even without Medicaid expansion, the state has about 170,000 people eligible for Medicaid in the state who are not enrolled.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Greenville News (Update): Accusations fly over GOP worker's Sheheen complaints

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130919/NEWS/309190054/Accusations-fly-over-GOP-worker-s-Sheheen-complaints>

Tim Smith

Next year's race for governor is already getting dirty. Democratic gubernatorial hopeful Vincent Sheheen on Thursday alleged that a GOP worker filed three "frivolous and nuisance" ethics complaints against him that have been dismissed by the State Ethics Commission. Republicans fired back at Sheheen, accusing him of hypocrisy, saying Democrats also filed ethics complaints against Haley that were dismissed.

Note: "This campaign is about issues and unfortunately Vince Sheheen is on the wrong side of the issues," he said. "He has consistently opposed the same ethics reform he was praising this morning."

Note: "And only a trial lawyer like Vince Sheheen would be arrogant enough to think he can play by a different set of rules than everyone else," Godfrey said. "No one heard Vince Sheheen complain once when the chairman of his party wasted countless hours and countless taxpayer dollars in filing dismissed complaint after dismissed complaint against the governor."

Associated Press: Sheheen: Ethics dismisses claims by GOP

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=sz4Cn9rl

State Sen. Vincent Sheheen accuses state Republicans of wasting taxpayer money by making frivolous ethics allegations that have been thrown out. The Democrat running for governor said Thursday the state Ethics Commission dismissed three complaints filed by the state GOP. He says the claims suggest desperation. GOP Chairman Matt Moore called Sheheen's news conference a stunt. A rematch is expected next year between Sheheen and Gov. Nikki Haley.

The State (Update): Sheheen: Ethics dismisses claims by GOP

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/09/19/2989546/sheheen-accuses-gop-of-desperate.html>

Jamie Self

State Sen. Vincent Sheheen on Thursday called ethics complaints filed against him – and later dismissed – "desperate accusations" meant to distract voters from Gov. Nikki Haley's own ethics record. Democrat Sheheen said three ethics complaints were filed against him with the S.C. Ethics Commission by a paid worker of the S.C. Republican Party.

Note: Rob Godfrey, Haley's campaign spokesman, also criticized Sheheen, a trial lawyer, for "lectur(ing) us on wasteful spending after personally profiting from suing the state and calling for Obamacare expansion in South Carolina."

Note: Godfrey also said Sheheen did not object when then-S.C. Democratic Party chairman Dick Harpootlian, a Columbia attorney, “wasted countless hours and countless taxpayer dollars” representing John Rainey, a Republican operative, in an ethics complaint against Haley. Rainey accused Haley of illegally lobbying and using her position while a Lexington state legislator for personal gain.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Aiken Standard: River summit should dissolve legal issues

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20130920/AIK0201/130929996/1018/AIK02/editorial-river-summit-should-dissolve-legal-issues>

Editorial

Too often issues between states are settled in the courtroom. Legal disputes between Georgia and South Carolina, for instance, have bubbled over at times recently with plans to deepen the shipping channel to the Port of Savannah. But an agreement signed Wednesday between the two states should help to reduce contention when it comes to the Savannah River, a vital resource for both areas. At the event, the states decided to develop a partnership that will hopefully settle disputes over issues such as drought, contamination and how much water each state gets to use.

Note: As S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley stated about the collaboration, “We don’t need to wait until there’s a crisis to deal with.”

The State: TransformSC Breaking The Mold In Education And In Politics

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=sPCI9o0d

Cindi Scoppe

Supporters say the reason to get excited about TransformSC is the grassroots support it has generated since it was launched in May as a way to, well, to transform our state, by transforming the way children are taught. And certainly, grassroots engagement is going to be essential if this is to become anything more than just the latest in a never-ending string of smart education initiatives - nearly all of which have gone nowhere. But honestly, the reason to get excited, and hopeful, about TransformSC is the list of organizations that have signed on: the S.C. Chamber of Commerce, S.C. Association of School Administrators, S.C. School Boards Association, S.C. Education Oversight Committee, the S.C. Teachers Association and the Palmetto Teachers Association, along with state Education Superintendent Mick Zais and an impressive group of individual businesses.

Post and Courier: No time for DHEC to clam up

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130920/PC1002/130929984/1021/no-time-for-dhec-to-clam-up>

Editorial

You’d think that, given the recent DHEC controversy concerning a tuberculosis scare in Greenwood County, the agency would want to clear the air and keep it clear. The public has made it known that it wants more information more quickly. And director Catherine Templeton has made an extra effort to let the public know just what happened and why. So it’s curious that on Monday DHEC staff put up signs making it more difficult for the public to get information. They advised people not to approach DHEC board members at their seats in the board room. It has been the practice that people could talk with board members during breaks in the meeting or after it ended.

Post and Courier: Passing the fiscal buck — again

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130920/PC1002/130929983/1021/passing-the-fiscal-buck-x2014-again>

Editorial

How America should respond to Syria’s use of chemical weapons dominated the political debate for weeks. But the Beltway spotlight has now shifted from that foreign-policy crisis to a pair of related fiscal-policy dilemmas. Unless Congress passes a budget resolution that President Barack Obama will sign before the fiscal year ends on Oct. 1, some agencies of our national government will start shutting down. And unless Congress raises the debt ceiling by a few weeks later, the federal government will start defaulting on its financial obligations. Unlike the Syrian issue, where widespread bipartisan opposition emerged to President Obama’s idea of using U.S. military force, the fiscal debate is divided more clearly along party lines.

Florence Morning News: Juggling smart growth will be vital to city’s future

http://www.snow.com/opinion/editorials/article_a55c83c6-2176-11e3-8a39-0019bb30f31a.html

Editorial

It took many years for Florence's downtown area to fall into a state of abject disrepair. It took almost as long to figure out what to do with it. Many wondered if anything useful could ever sprout from those unhallowed grounds. But it has. It's still going to take awhile before that trend can be fully reversed, yet the pieces falling into place are transforming what has been an eyesore for so long into a thriving, cultural city center. The latest is the announcement of the location for Francis Marion University's health sciences center. The dilapidated Trust building, which the city had been searching to find an investor for, will be grazed to make way for the school's latest contribution to the downtown puzzle.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: SCDOT: Rains did \$5.6M damage to 132 state roads

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=DyEVHe9o

State transportation officials say a summer of record-setting rains caused \$5.6 million in damage to 132 roads across South Carolina. Officials said Thursday that seven roads remain closed, but they are mostly lightly-traveled mountain routes. Department of Transportation spokesman Pete Poore says the state only has \$2.2 million set aside for emergency road maintenance, so the rest of the bill will have to come from money set aside for general maintenance. More than \$4 million of damage was done in 11 Upstate counties.

Associated Press: Joint Base Charleston remembers POWs, MIAs

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Z4T11tCi

Members of all military branches are coming together at Joint Base Charleston to help honor those who were prisoners of war or are still missing in action. Base spokesman Staff. Sgt. William O'Brien says a 24-hour vigil run will include some 200 members of the Air Force, Navy, Army, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. Department of Defense civilian employees and their families are also taking part, as groups run in 30-minute increments. Former POW and retired Air Force Lt. Col. Tom Hanton is scheduled to speak at a noon lunch on Friday. He is being joined by 17 former POWs and their spouses.

Associated Press: Attorney general holds rally with ex-NRA president

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/09/20/2694055/attorney-general-holds-rally-with.html#storylink=cpy>

South Carolina's top prosecutor is celebrating the Second Amendment with a former president of the National Rifle Association. Alan Wilson's campaign is holding a rally Friday with former NRA president David Keene. Keene has been active with the NRA for decades, starting as a board member before being elected the group's president in 2011. James Porter took over as president in May. The Republican Wilson is up for re-election next year. Friday's rally is at the Palmetto State Armory in Columbia.

Associated Press: SC VA Columbia opens hospice care center extension

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=MH9BXPfG

The Dorn Veterans Administration Medical Center in Columbia is scheduled to open a new section of its hospice center. VA spokesman Kevin McIver says Friday morning's ribbon cutting ceremony is meant to offer a look at the expanded location that provides a special location for veteran's end-of-life care. The expansion area is dubbed a "Warriors' Walk," where doctors, nurses and health care professionals provide palliative care that seeks to ease patients' pain as they enter the final stage of life.

Florence morning news: State Supreme Court will hear penny tax suit in October

http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article_631a39c6-2190-11e3-b33b-0019bb30f31a.html

Lindsay S. Buchanan

The S.C. Supreme Court has expedited the hearing schedule and will hear arguments Oct. 1 from the S.C. Attorney General's Office and Florence County over the county's ability to hold a Capital Project Sales Tax referendum. The court decided Thursday to deny the attorney general's request for an injunction against the referendum, which means for now the vote is scheduled to happen. But that could change depending the outcome of the October hearing. The state and the S.C. Department of Revenue filed a suit earlier this month, stating the county's November referendum vote to extend the penny tax for an additional seven years was illegal. Florence County officials say the referendum is legally sound.

Post and Courier: Federal marine fishery regulator delays decision on adding to off-limits areas offshore

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130918/PC16/130919287/1006/regulatory-group-delays-decision-on-off-limits-fishing-areas-offshore-wants-more-data>

Bo Petersen

They call it the ledge, the brink of the Continental Shelf offshore. The bottom drops away, at some points in

chasms for hundreds of feet. Upwelling occurs here, currents pushing against the scarp and bringing up nutrients that feed the little fish that feed the bigger fish. So the fish-swarmed ledge is a big-time fishing ground, particularly those chasms. The most sought-after spots have names like the Georgetown Hole and the Edisto Bank. These are the places that federal regulators are considering adding to areas that are already off-limits to bottom fishing for popular dinner-plate catches such as snapper and grouper.

Associated Press: Model Project: SC arts center has full size model

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20130919/AIK0105/130919355/1015/AIK0105/model-project-sc-arts-center-has-full-size-model>

Bruce Smith

You might call Charleston's new \$142 million performing arts center a model project. The Gaillard Center, the most expensive municipal project in Charleston's almost 350-year history, is slowly taking shape on the edge of the historic district. And now, in a corner of the construction site, there is a full-size, two-story model of part of the building facade. The mock-up, shown to reporters on Thursday, is made of the same beige Indiana limestone, gray Quebec granite and Vermont slate being used in the building itself.

Local News:

The State: Columbia must wait a day for strong-mayor petition results

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/09/19/2989828/columbia-must-wait-a-day-for-strong.html#storylink=cpy>

Richland County election officials told City Hall late Thursday that results of a strong-mayor petition have been delayed until Friday. About 4:15 p.m., someone from the county Elections & Voter Registration office called assistant city manager Missy Gentry to say a final count of thousands of signatures on a three-week-long petition drive was incomplete. City leaders had been awaiting the important news of whether the petition had the sufficient 11,063 signatures of eligible voters to require a referendum on a strong-mayor form of government.

The Item: The \$79M question: How would you use renewed penny tax?

http://www.theitem.com/news/local_news/the-m-question-how-would-you-use-renewed-penny-tax/article_c43df2d8-ec9e-525b-8b33-916b1c1681f7.html

Bristow Marchant

If you had \$79 million to spend on improving your community, where would you like it to go?

In the coming months, Sumter County may be asking you that question. County council is seeking input from the public as it formulates a new list of projects to fund with a renewed penny sales tax. Suggestions from selected members of the public will be narrowed down to a list of feasible projects, then presented to voters for approval at the 2014 election. Members of council's ad hoc committee on the penny tax held their first meeting Wednesday to discuss how to identify stakeholders in the process of drawing up that list and how to get them involved moving forward.

Aiken Standard: Group discusses state issues at grassroots meeting

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20130920/AIK0101/130929991/1007/AIK0101/group-discusses-state-issues-at-grassroots-meeting>

Derrek Asberry

Business representatives and state legislative officials discussed state infrastructure at Thursday's Savannah River Region Grassroots Meeting. "The Department of Transportation told us that the state is looking at a \$29 billion funding shortfall over the next 20 years," said Katie Schanz, from the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce. "So we're working to find sustainable, recurring funding solutions for our roads and bridges across the state." Held at the North Augusta Municipal Center, several in attendance suggested small increases on gas taxes, which would still leave South Carolina paying a lower gas tax than bordering states.

Post and Courier: New partnership aims to better prepare Charleston County K-12 students for STEM post-secondary education, jobs

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130919/PC16/130919209/1389/new-partnership-aims-to-better-prepare-charleston-county-k-12-students-for-stem-post-secondary-education-jobs>

Diette Courrage Casey

A new, extensive collaboration focused on Charleston County schools hopes to be a national model for preparing students from kindergarten through college for STEM-related jobs. The potentially multi-million dollar effort involves high-profile partners from across the country. More than 20 officials representing those

groups met this week in Charleston to hammer out specifics on what they would contribute. "This is phenomenal," said Janet Simmons, president/CEO of a cyber-security company based in Maryland, who participated in the meetings. "You could see it all coming together."

Greenville News: Greenville School District says Second Amendment description in textbook inaccurate
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130919/NEWS/309190077/Greenville-School-District-says-Second-Amendment-description-textbook-inaccurate>

Ron Barnett

The Greenville County School District is alerting its teachers who use a U.S. history textbook called "The Americans" that a description of the Second Amendment it gives is inaccurate, a district spokesman said today. The high school text "states that citizens have the right to bear arms as members of a militia of citizen-soldiers," spokesman Oby Lyles said. "This is not accurate." According to the Library of Congress website, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2008 that "the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution confers an individual right to possess a firearm for traditionally lawful purposes such as self-defense."

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Medical students help those without healthcare access

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20130919/ARTICLES/309191031/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Medical-students-help-those-without-healthcare-access>

Dustin Wyatt

Part of the mission of the Edward Via College of Osteopathic medicine is to reach those who lack access to health care. On a recent Wednesday, students of the medical school's Carolina Campus were doing just that. Even though they had a pathology test the next day, four students set their studies aside for a few hours to volunteer for a free health clinic at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church — a clinic that is offered to the community on the first Wednesday of each month.

Florence Morning News: Moore says partnerships key for communities

http://www.snow.com/news/business/article_17c1d8c8-2193-11e3-8d9b-0019bb30f31a.html

Gavin Jackson

Former banker Darla Moore gave a thorough look at the efforts she and others in Lake City are spearheading to fundamentally rebuild the community into a sustainable economy during the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce annual member luncheon Thursday. In the off-the-cuff keynote address that Moore said she whipped up Thursday morning while her hair was drying, she gave details on the economic foundations of her hometown, her "gut feeling" on ArtFields, county unity, using partnerships to fix problems, the need to radically reform education and realizing change had to start locally.

The Item: Constitution Week event reminds citizens of document's importance

http://www.theitem.com/news/local_news/constitution-week-event-reminds-citizens-of-document-s-importance/article_981419e1-5707-5ab0-b94c-6404024095fa.html?_dc=374499494209.8856

Randy Burns

At 4 p.m. Tuesday, the two bells of Bethlehem United Methodist Church rang 113 times representing 226 gongs to mark the anniversary of the drafting of the U.S. Constitution. Sponsored by the Henry Durant chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, a special ceremony featuring members of the Lee Central High School JROTC and the choir was held outside the church before the ringing of the bells. Frances Drayton, a DAR member and one of the organizers of the event, said the ceremony served as a kickoff to a weeklong observance of Constitution Week in Lee County public and private schools.

Island Packet: Jasper council, school board duel in court over tax power

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/09/19/2693388/jasper-council-school-board-duel.html#storylink=cpy>

Sarah Bowman

After a hearing Thursday, the Jasper County Board of Education and County Council are a step closer to a ruling on who has authority to determine the school district's budget. The board sued on July 15 to restore funding after the council cut property taxes for schools by about \$444,000 in June. The board says council overstepped its bounds and does not have the power to change the budget. Council disagrees. Attorneys for both sides argued their cases in front of Circuit Court Judge Carmen Mullen on Thursday in the Beaufort County Courthouse, citing many of the same laws and statutes but offering different interpretations.

Sun News: Horry County vows to make changes to fire awareness after Carolina Forest association prompt

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2013/09/19/3720171/horry-county-vows-to-make-changes.html#storylink=cpy>

Jason Rodriguez

The Carolina Forest Civic Association came to Horry County last month to suggest some changes in fire safety education and response in the wake of the Windsor Green condominium fire earlier this year, and the county listened. Paul Whitten, assistant county administrator for public safety, told the public safety committee Thursday that the county has already begun speaking with members of the association and wheels are in motion to make changes.

Times and Democrat: Workshop teaches students how to cope with bullies, prevent bullying
http://thetandd.com/news/local/education/workshop-teaches-students-how-to-cope-with-bullies-prevent-bullying/article_2ba3ad9a-2197-11e3-968b-001a4bcf887a.html

Larry Jordan

Students in the Sandy Run K-8 School were advised during a bullying prevention workshop Sept. 13 to “walk away and tell an adult” if they should become the target of a bully. Paulette S. Evans, a teacher from Manning who developed the interactive bullying prevention program for elementary and middle school students, facilitated the workshop in which students resolved that, “We won’t be bullied.” Evans said the program is intended to help students in identifying a bully as well as show them the motivation of a bully and ways to deal with a bully.

National News:

The Hill: House poised to pass spending bill defunding ObamaCare

<http://thehill.com/homenews/house/323517-house-poised-to-pass-spending-bill-defunding-obamacare>

Russell Berman

The House on Friday is poised to approve a stopgap spending bill that strips out funding for President Obama’s signature healthcare law. The continuing resolution, pushed by Republican leaders at the behest of conservatives, will serve as the first volley in a 10-day battle that will determine whether much of the federal government shuts down on Oct. 1. It cleared a test vote in the House on Thursday, 230-192, setting up a final vote for Friday. Once approved by the House, the measure will move to the Senate, where Democratic leaders have vowed to restore funding to ObamaCare and could try to increase spending levels to soften the blow of sequestration.

Associated Press: House votes to cut \$4B a year from food stamps

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/09/19/2691903/house-to-vote-on-cutting-back.html#storylink=cpy>

Mary Clare Jalonick

The House has voted to cut nearly \$4 billion a year from food stamps, a 5 percent reduction to the nation's main feeding program used by more than 1 in 7 Americans. The 217-210 vote was a win for conservatives after Democrats united in opposition and some GOP moderates said the cut was too high. Fifteen Republicans voted against the measure. The bill's savings would be achieved by allowing states to put broad new work requirements in place for many food stamp recipients and to test applicants for drugs. The bill also would end government waivers that have allowed able-bodied adults without dependents to receive food stamps indefinitely.

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