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Subject: Morning Clips – Tuesday, November 18, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Greenville News: House leaders eyeing road system reforms before funding

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/11/18/house-leaders-eyeing-road-system-reforms-funding/19210685/>

Tim Smith

House leaders are looking at ideas to fix the state's crumbling infrastructure by turning many state roads over to local control, swapping the gas tax for a sales tax on fuel, and asking voters to decide in 2016 whether to add a penny sales tax for transportation needs.

Note: Simrill said he wants to hear from everyone with a stake in the outcome, including Gov. Nikki Haley, who has said she plans to address lawmakers about her ideas in January.

Note: Haley has not given any clues to her plans since being re-elected this month but has signaled again she will oppose any gas tax increase.

Note: Simrill said he believes Haley wants the governor to be able to appoint not only the secretary but also commissioners, with the consent of lawmakers, making it a true cabinet agency.

Travel Biz Monitor: Governor of South Carolina conducts maiden destination promotion meet in India

<http://www.travelbizmonitor.com/governor-of-south-carolina-conducts-maiden-destination-promotion-meet-in-india-25838>

Akansha Pandey

Interacting with the media in New Delhi yesterday, Nikki Haley, Governor, State of South Carolina, USA, said that South Carolina, situated in the South Eastern part of the country, is the friendliest state and topmost vacation spot in the USA.

Note: "I want people to come and have an experience of a lifetime in South Carolina. The vibrant culture, rich heritage and breathtaking natural beauty make our state 'just right'. I urge all Indian travelers to come and savor South Carolina, which exudes ease of travel, living and doing business," she added.

WLTX: Governor Nikki Haley's Trip to India

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/local/midlands/2014/11/18/governor-nikki-haleys-trip-to-india/19209603/>

Roshanda Pratt

Governor Nikki Haley is heading to Mumbai, India as part of a 10 day business trip aimed at bringing Indian companies to South Carolina. Governor Haley met with leaders in commerce and tourism. She is expected to attend more than 40 of the delegation's 90 scheduled meetings and events.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Aiken Standard: Survival of MOX still rests with lawmakers

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141118/AIK0201/141119477/1018/AIK02/editorial-survival-of-mox-still-rests-with-lawmakers>

Editorial

The recent extension given to construction for Savannah River Site's Mixed Oxide Fuel program, or MOX, is a plus, but keeping it alive still falls to federal lawmakers. The program, which would recycle weapons-grade plutonium, certainly hasn't been void of controversy. However, it remains perhaps the most viable option to fulfilling an agreement between South Carolina and the federal government, as well as a long-term international pact concerning the disposal of such waste.

Index Journal: Ethics reform, yes, but term limits too?

<http://www.indexjournal.com/opinion/editorial/Ethics-reform--yes--but-term-limits-too->

Editorial

Ethics reform at the state government level needs to be a priority item among lawmakers going forward, and it certainly warrants bipartisan support because, Heaven knows, it's a bipartisan problem. No one among Republicans or Democrats needs to point an accusatory finger across the aisle. Ethical backsliding has no political party affiliation.

Times and Democrat: Obama would join GOP presidents in immigration action
http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/obama-would-join-gop-presidents-in-immigration-action/article_33d8ce54-6eae-11e4-8ec0-875c70b513cf.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Immigration. OUR OPINION: Republicans should avoid hard-line stands in moving toward controlling agenda. Senate Democratic leaders are telling President Barack Obama they strongly support his plans to take executive action to overhaul the nation's immigration system.

Post and Courier: Shutdown is not an option
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141118/PC1002/141119394>

Editorial

The federal government is due to run out of money on Dec. 11. And no matter how justifiably angry Republican lawmakers may be about President Barack Obama's threat to grant executive amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants, it would be a big mistake for this lame duck session to strike back by refusing to extend federal funding until next year, when a new Congress will take over.

Post and Courier: Don't play games with CRDA
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141118/PC1002/141119393>

Editorial

The area's main economic recruiter had good reason to believe it had reached an agreement with the counties it serves - Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester - but the specifics of that agreement have apparently become a moving target, at least with Charleston County officials.

S.C. General Assembly News:

The State: SC House panel OKs 'sunshine' proposals
http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/17/3818334_sc-house-panel-oks-sunshine-proposals.html?rh=1

Jamie Self

Members of the House Ethics and Freedom of Information Act Study Committee Monday OK'd a proposal to give public bodies and agencies between 30 and 35 calendar days to make public records available from the day they agree to fulfill a request, depending on how old the documents requested are.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Gay marriages should start Thursday without court intervention, attorneys argue
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141117/PC16/141119437>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

Attorneys for a same-sex Charleston couple have asked a federal court to reject South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson's request to keep them from getting married on Thursday when a temporary stay expires. In a historic advance for gay rights in South Carolina, U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel ruled last week that the state's same-sex marriage ban is unconstitutional.

The State: AG Wilson, same-sex Charleston couple on legal collision course in 4th Circuit - headed to U.S. Supreme Court?

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/17/3817887/ag-wilson-same-sex-charleston.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

Lawyers for Colleen Condon and Ann Bleckley, in a motion filed just before midnight Sunday, argue gay marriages should be allowed to proceed in South Carolina, because the state is unlikely to win its appeal to block them, and the state has not shown it would suffer harm if such marriages take place.

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: S.C. awaits gay marriage decision
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141118/PC1603/141119392/1177/palmetto-sunrise-sc-awaits-gay-marriage-decision>

Jeremy Borden

The federal appeal's court in Richmond is expected to rule at any time - possibly today - on whether gay marriages can proceed in South Carolina. The legal heart of the case is whether the court agrees with Attorney General Alan Wilson that the state will suffer if the state's constitutional amendment banning gay marriage is overturned.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Toray lands big contract extension from Boeing

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20141117/ARTICLES/141119622/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Toray-lands-big-contract-extension-from-Boeing>

Trevor Anderson

It doesn't have a building yet, but Toray Industries' \$1 billion carbon fiber plant planned for Spartanburg County has already increased production. Toray, a Japan-based innovation company, announced Monday it has agreed to be the supplier of carbon fiber for the wings of Boeing Co.'s 777X passenger jet.

Times and Democrat: Firm would bring 350 new jobs

http://thetandd.com/business/firm-would-bring-new-jobs/article_15d61ba4-6edc-11e4-a8ca-bf9447821655.html

Martha Rose Brown

Talks are underway between Orangeburg County and an industry that is looking to invest \$115 million and create 350 new jobs. During the Orangeburg County Council meeting Monday night, council approved a resolution authorizing a fee-in-lieu-of-taxes and incentive agreement with a company identified for the time being as "Project Rose."

Post and Courier: Charleston County issues new demands in industry-recruiting squabble

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141117/PC05/141119399>

Warren L. Wise

Demanding more control, Charleston County on Monday threw a new wrinkle in a proposed agreement to iron out differences with the region's main industry recruiter. In a letter to the Charleston Regional Development Alliance, Charleston County Council Chairman Teddie Pryor said, "Three critical roles and responsibilities have not been resolved to the county's satisfaction."

Local News:

The State: Candlelight vigil held for slain USC student

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/17/3819044/candlelight-vigil-held-for-slain.html?sp=/99/205/&ihp=1>

Harrison Cahill

Several University of South Carolina students turned out Monday at the Horseshoe for a candlelight vigil to remember Diamoney Greene, the USC student found shot to death last week at her Copper Beech apartment.

Florence Morning News: Florence City Council approves incentives for downtown project

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_debfccaa-6ec2-11e4-a7e4-6f95ee59b2c9.html

Gavin Jackson

More details emerged on a forthcoming, \$3.5 million economic development project titled Project Cowgirl, which will locate in downtown in the Rainwater building, according to a resolution passed by City Council on Monday. The council approved \$425,000 in incentives for Med-Enroll, a company that helps other companies manage healthcare costs.

Anderson Independent: Upstate man beaten by police in critical condition

http://www.independentmail.com/news/upstate-man-beaten-by-police-in-critical-condition_21037667

Mike Ellis

An Upstate man remains in critical condition after being beaten by Honea Path police officers during a Friday traffic stop when he allegedly drew a knife. Brian "B.J." Hatcher, 34, was about to be arrested for charges including failure to stop for blue lights and driving under a suspended license when officers saw he had a knife, said Chief David King of the Honea Path Police Department.

Island Packet: Runoff Tuesday pits Laughlin against Bennett for Hilton Head mayor

http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/11/17/3437089_runoff-tuesday-pits-laughlin-against.html?sp=/99/100/&rh=1

Dan Burley

Hilton Head Island residents will decide Tuesday who will serve as mayor for the next four years. Incumbent Drew Laughlin and challenger David Bennett meet in a runoff to serve on the seven-member, nonpartisan Town Council. Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. Voters must present photo identification at the polls.

Island Packet: Hundreds of new homes proposed for Beaufort market

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/11/17/3437634/hundreds-of-new-homes-proposed.html?sp=/99/257/266/>

Erin Moody

The Beaufort-area home-construction market could be headed for an upswing, as developers have announced plans or filed applications for 850 or more new residences in the coming years. And Realtors and business leaders believe buyers will be ready to snatch them up.

Rock Hill Herald: Council approves renovation of York County Courthouse

http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/11/17/6538515_council-approves-renovation-of.html?rh=1

Bristow Marchant

The future of the York County Courthouse is now certain. Those attending Monday's meeting of the York County Council burst into applause when members voted unanimously to move forward with renovations rather than seek to move the courthouse to another location. Now the question is how.

Aiken Standard: Clyburn Center welcomes first patients Monday

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141118/AIK0101/141119448/1004/clyburn-center-welcomes-first-patients-monday>

DeDe Biles

When the William Clyburn Center for Primary Care opened Monday morning on Aiken's Northside, the man it was named for was there to greet the first patients. "I'm very proud of this, but there are a lot of other people who made it possible," said S.C. Rep. William "Bill" Clyburn, D-Aiken. "It's really a blessing for the community because there are so many people here who need good health care."

Sun News: Horry County Schools Superintendent Cindy Elsberry resigns

http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/11/17/4613194_horry-county-schools-superintendent.html?sp=/99/209/&rh=1

Claire Byun

Horry County Schools Superintendent Dr. Cindy Elsberry resigned her position Monday night after serving the district since 2008. It was unclear late Monday why she resigned. Board Chairman Joe DeFeo announced her resignation Monday during a Board of Education special meeting.

National News:

Washington Post: Obama's potential immigration plan could enter uncharted territory

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/obamas-potential-immigration-plan-could-enter-uncharted-territory/2014/11/17/3e5be738-6dde-11e4-ad12-3734c461eab6_story.html

Karen Tumulty, Katie Zezima

President Obama's expected action lifting the threat of deportation from millions of undocumented immigrants, which could come as early as this week, will expand the authority of the executive branch into murky, uncharted territory. The path is built on the long-accepted principle, going at least as far back as the 1970s, that any administration should have wide discretion over how it deals with those who are in this country illegally.

Reuters: White House reviewing policy toward U.S. hostages held by militants

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/18/us-mideastcrisis-usa-hostages-idUSKCN0J207W20141118>

President Barack Obama has ordered a comprehensive review of U.S. policy governing efforts to free Americans being held by militant groups overseas, the White House said on Monday. In recent months, Islamic State militants have beheaded three Americans, including Peter Kassig, an aid worker and former U.S. Army Ranger, whose death was announced in a video released by the group on Sunday.

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