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Subject: Morning Clips – Thursday, July 24, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Poll: Many voters disapprove of S.C. Legislature

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140723/PC1603/140729692/1031&source=speed>

Jeremy Borden

South Carolina's legislative session this year was rife with controversy and a lack of progress on key issues, likely contributing to voters' general disapproval of the Legislature as a whole, according to experts and a new Palmetto Politics poll.

Note: The legislative session had a few successes, mostly in funding for education. Gov. Nikki Haley asked for and received additional dollars in the state budget for rural poverty-stricken schools, a third grade "Read to Succeed" initiative passed and additional funding for 4-year-old kindergarten also gained support.

Associated Press: Gov. Christie: Colorado winnable for GOP

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

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie called Colorado's governor's race winnable for Republicans and pledged Wednesday to visit the state often to support GOP gubernatorial contender Bob Beauprez.

Note: One of them is a discussion with Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, Florida Gov. Rick Scott and Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback.

Berkeley Independent: New DNR chair confirmed

<http://www.berkeleyind.com/article/20140723/BI01/140729857/1071/BI>

The South Carolina Senate recently confirmed a new chairman to the S.C. Natural Resources Board, the policy-making body of the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Gov. Nikki Haley appointed Mr. D. Glenn McFadden as the new board chairman representing the Fifth Congressional District.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

WCIV: Poll: General Assembly's approval at 22%, voters split on state's direction

<http://www.abcnews4.com/story/26094460/poll-general-assemblys-approval-at-22-voters-split-on-states-direction>

Four of 10 registered voters say the state's current direction is the wrong one, while 4 in 10 others say the opposite is true. That's according to the most recent ABC News 4/Post and Courier poll released Tuesday and conducted by Voter Survey Service. The poll shows voters are evenly split on whether the state is headed in the right direction.

Note: The age split seen in Tuesday's polling data that had registered voters under the age of 55 favoring state Sen. Vincent Sheheen and those 55 and older favoring Gov. Nikki Haley played out the same way when discussing the direction of the state.

Florence Morning News: Sheheen in Pee Dee, touting plan to rebuild roads and bridges

http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article_505373e6-1287-11e4-a6dc-0017a43b2370.html

Traci Bridges

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Vincent Sheheen on Wednesday was in the Pee Dee, one day after announcing a plan he believes will help South Carolina repair and rebuild its roads. According to Sheheen, his plan sets a responsible course of action to improve safety and efficiency of the state's infrastructure immediately and for the long term.

Post and Courier: Ravenel candidacy raises federal equal time questions for TV stations

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140723/PC1603/140729701/1031&source=speed>

Robert Behre

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham said running for Senate "isn't a reality television show," but that doesn't mean it's devoid of drama and intrigue. One of Graham's opponents, Thomas Ravenel, stars in the reality TV show "Southern Charm," and at least one other reality TV hopeful is running for Congress in New York.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Greenville News: Ex-Im Bank helps state's economy

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2014/07/23/editorial-ex-bank-helps-states-economy/13055123/>

Editorial

If there is any state in the nation whose congressional delegation should universally support reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank, it is South Carolina. This state relies heavily on international trade, and can point to major employers that have relied on the Ex-Im Bank, as it is known, to bring high-paying jobs here that help support a growing manufacturing economy.

Note: In a letter to congressional leaders, Haley, Graham and Scott recently wrote, "Ex-Im is a vital export finance tool to the businesses of our state at no cost to American taxpayers," according to The News.

Index-Journal: Campaigns are taking to roads -- and bridges

<http://indexjournal.com/Content/Opinion/Opinion/Article/Campaigns-are-taking-to-roads----and-bridges/8/154/26704>

Editorial

Gov. Nikki Haley had to see it coming. And Tom Ervin probably won't be far behind in giving more details of his own plan. What about? Plans to fix our state's roads and bridges, that's what. Haley's Democratic opponent, state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, on Tuesday released some of the details his plan.

Aiken Standard: Quality teacher plan not an automatic fix

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140724/AIK02/140729702/1018/AIK02/editorial-quality-teacher-plan-not-an-automatic-fix>

Editorial

A new federal program aimed at ensuring high-quality teachers are in classrooms certainly appears positive, but it's not a magic fix that will drastically improve our education system.

Note: S.C. Republican Gov. Nikki Haley's stance on increasing pay comes with a caveat, although she appears open to the idea. She has vetoed pay raises repeatedly in budgets over the last few years because the funds were non-recurring, according to her spokesman Doug Mayer.

Florence Morning News: Refusal to budge on low gas tax a big mistake

http://www.scnow.com/opinion/article_61e6ba5e-12b0-11e4-83eb-001a4bcf6878.html

Editorial

Ah, the luxuries of being an incumbent. You have your battle-tested army of aides. There's ready attention from the media. A cadre of special-interest groups, lawyers, lobbyists and others are willing to contribute the most powerful political asset of all: money.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley's announcement that she'll make an announcement on roads come January — two months after the November election — felt to us like the governor was placing a golden carrot in front of the horse.

Post and Courier: A bigger bang for school bucks

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140724/PC1002/140729679/1021&source=spreed>

Editorial

An increasing number of parents who shop around before choosing a school for their children are opting for charter schools because they like the academic environment. But they might not be aware that those same schools also are giving the public a bigger bang for their buck than traditional schools.

Post and Courier: Clyburn's winning lesson

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140724/PC1002/140729680/1021&source=spreed>

Editorial

James Clyburn has won all 11 of his races to represent South Carolina's 6th Congressional District. Along the way, he's risen to the powerful position of No. 3 Democrat in the U.S. House. But that doesn't mean the S.C. State graduate, who turned 74 Monday, doesn't know what it's like to lose.

DSS Hearing News:

Greenville News: DSS: 202 more caseworkers needed

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2014/07/23/dss-says-needs-workers-manage-cases/13046455/>
Tim Smith

The state's child welfare agency — accused this year of failing to adequately protect abused and neglected children — says it needs 202 more caseworkers and supervisors if lawmakers want the ratio of caseworkers to children to be lowered to "ideal" limits.

Post and Courier: DSS Deputy: Agency needs 202 additional workers to reach ideal caseload numbers

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140723/PC1603/140729721/1031&source=spreed>

Cynthia Roldan

The Deputy Director of the Department of Social Services told a Senate panel on Wednesday the agency needs an additional 202 staffers to meet ideal caseload numbers for workers. Jessica Hanak-Coulter, DSS deputy director of human services, testified before the Senate's DSS Oversight Subcommittee, as did a parent of six adopted children and the president-elect of the South Carolina chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

The State: DSS: State needs 200 more child-welfare workers

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/07/23/3579389/dss-state-needs-200-more-child.html>

Jamie Self

The state's child welfare agency should hire 202 new caseworkers — about a 25 percent increase — to reduce caseloads that Social Services leaders, lawmakers and child welfare advocates say are too high to ensure children's safety.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Post and Courier: Clyburn announces State Medicaid Expansion Caucus

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140723/PC1610/140729698/1382&source=spreed>

Dave Munday

U.S. Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., has teamed up with two other Congressmen to push for their states to accept Medicaid expansion. Clyburn announced the creation of the new State Medicaid Expansion Caucus with Democratic cochairmen Reps. Hank Johnson of Georgia and G.K. Butterfield of North Carolina Wednesday morning in Washington, D.C.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Health insurers owe South Carolina customers above-average refunds

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140724/PC16/140729693/1031&source=spreed>

Lauren Sausser

Thousands of South Carolinians may soon see checks in their mailboxes because health insurance companies spent too much money on "profits and red tape" last year, according to federal data released Thursday.

Florence Morning News: DSS to offer wide recruitment opportunity

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_d0b6e5f6-12bc-11e4-bcc7-001a4bcf6878.html

Shamira McCray

Region IV of the South Carolina Department of Social Services will hold "Step-Right Up to Adoption," a wide recruitment event, this weekend. The event is scheduled for 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday at SiMT, 1951 Pisgah Road in Florence.

Local News:

Rock Hill Herald: Textile company could bring nearly 250 jobs to Chester Co.

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/07/23/6168377/company-could-bring-nearly-250.html?sp=/100/101/&ihp=1>

Don Worthington

A textile-related business that could invest \$18 million and employ 248 workers may be coming to Fort Lawn. At one time, Springs Industries operated three plants from the eastern Chester County town on S.C.

9, minutes from the Catawba River.

Greenville News: Sealed Air gave 2 reasons it picked Charlotte

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2014/07/23/sealed-air-relocate-greenville-duncan-jobs/13045343/>

David Dykes, Rudolph Bell

Sealed Air Corp. considered putting a new headquarters in Greenville, and spending \$58 million on a new office building along Interstate 85, before announcing Wednesday that it had picked Charlotte instead, Greenville County officials said.

National News:

Associated Press: This Time, Obama Fundraising Is A Bit Of 'Scandal'

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/obama-fundraises-dems-demands-gop-cooperation>

Fact met fiction Wednesday in one of those Hollywood ways: The real-life president of the United States complains about "phony scandals" in the presence of the producer and the star of a hit TV drama about indignity and dishonor among Washington's political elite.

New York Times: Kerry Claims Progress Toward Gaza Truce, but Hamas Leader Is Defiant

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/24/world/middleeast/israel-gaza-strip-casualties.html?ref=todayspaper&_r=0

Michael R. Gordon, Rick Gladstone

During a whirlwind round of diplomacy on Wednesday, Secretary of State John Kerry asserted that progress had been made on forging a cease-fire to halt the bitter fighting in Gaza between Israeli forces and Palestinian militants there led by Hamas.

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