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To:
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Morning Clips – Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Haley urging federal lawmakers to level new flood insurance rates

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131022/PC05/131029823/1010/haley-urging-federal-lawmakers-to-level-new-flood-insurance-rates>

Tyrone Richardson

Gov. Nikki Haley is urging federal lawmakers to allow subsidized flood insurance rates to be applied to sold homes, an effort to help stabilize the state's home sales market. Haley made the request in a recent letter addressed to members of South Carolina's federal delegation. The new rates are the result of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act of 2012, a law intended to reform the debt-laden National Flood Insurance Program. The federal program has mounting debts from major disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy.

Note: "We have heard accounts of real estate transactions falling through and property owners losing their homes because the new rates are unaffordable -- this is counter to the spirit of the [National Flood Insurance Program]," she wrote. "If the goal is to gradually move the market to a risk-based model, then I ask that you spur congressional action to apply the rate phase-in to all property owners."

Associated Press: Haley set to meet with state military commanders

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

Susanne M. Schafer

Gov. Nikki Haley is scheduled to meet with several commanders from South Carolina's largest military installations. The state's Military Base Task Force is slated to meet Wednesday in Columbia and hear from representatives of the South Carolina National Guard. Other speakers represent Joint Base Charleston, the Coast Guard in Charleston, Shaw Air Force Base, the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island and the Marine Corps Air Station in Beaufort. The military has been hit by the recent round of government furloughs, automatic budget cuts and the government shutdown. The task force says the U.S. military pumps about \$16 billion into South Carolina's economy and supports about 140,000 jobs.

Associated Press: Haley: I-73 key to Horry County development

http://www.theitem.com/news/ap_state_news/haley-i--key-to-horry-county-development/article_ea9029d7-af18-56ca-ad22-4cd48ac5aa90.html

Gov. Nikki Haley says Interstate 73 is a key to bringing new businesses and jobs to South Carolina's Grand Strand, and the federal government needs to fund it. The governor told a realtors' group Monday it's difficult to attract companies to an area without interstate access.

Note: "When I'm trying to recruit, the hardest part is, they want to know they can get their cargo in and out quickly. I-73 is hugely important for this area _ needs to happen," she told the Coastal Carolina Association of Realtors, followed by loud rounds of applause.

Note: "I've told the guys in Washington, let us know what we need to do. Let us know how we need to advocate. We'll help get that there," she said. "It's just a matter of, one, them having the money aside and then, two, them saying, 'OK. Let's go ahead and do it.'"

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Greenville News: Democratic poll finds support for Sheheen among independent voters

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131023/NEWS/310230015/Democratic-poll-finds-support-Sheheen-among-independent-voters>

Rudolph Bell

The Democratic Governors Association is excited about the South Carolina governor's race with internal poll results showing Democrat Vincent Sheheen with a big lead over Republican Gov. Nikki Haley among

independents, its spokesman says. Danny Kanner, DGA spokesman in Washington, however, wouldn't say whether his organization would contribute to Sheheen, who's trailing Haley so far in the contest for campaign cash. Sheheen, a state senator from Camden who ran unsuccessfully against Haley in 2010, had about one-third the campaign cash of Haley — \$1.1 million, compared with \$3.175 million — when the latest campaign finance disclosures came out earlier this month.

Note: Haley spokesman Rob Godfrey called the poll a “propaganda tool” designed to help Sheheen raise money. “It's not surprising that Washington Democrats would concoct a bogus, partisan ‘poll’ to try and shore up Vince Sheheen's failing campaign,” Godfrey said.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: A way back for the GOP

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131023/PC1002/131029789/1022/a-way-back-for-the-gop>
Editorial

The Republican Party is running low on public approval. But it's not lacking in advice — much of it unsolicited — on how to bounce back from its federal-shutdown and debt-ceiling fiascoes. Even President Barack Obama offered this suggestion to his political opposition last Thursday after Congress passed a compromise bill that broke those impasses 16 days after the shutdown began — and mere hours before the deadline to raise the debt limit: “You don't like a particular policy or a particular president, then argue for your position. Go out there and win an election.” Fair enough. Mr. Obama, after all, has won two presidential elections. And his party has won the popular vote in five of the last six presidential elections.

Island Packet: Winning by default hurts electoral process

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/10/22/2751411/winning-by-default-hurts-electoral.html>
Editorial

Beaufort County saved some money with no special election needed to fill empty seats on County Council and the school board. But we don't like to see key local offices won by default. That's no reflection on Steve Fobes and Bill Payne, who stepped up to run for Hilton Head Island's District 10 seats on County Council and school board, respectively. We thank them for making a significant community service commitment. The two positions were left vacant when Steve Baer resigned in July from his County Council seat and Mike Sanz resigned in August from his school board seat.

Aiken Standard: Inconsistent oversight damages nuclear power potential

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131023/AIK0201/131029848/1021/AIK0201/editorial-inconsistent-oversight-damages-nuclear-power-potential>
Editorial

Nuclear power could be considered among the best options for our energy future. It's a source that can lessen the country's reliance on carbon-based fuels such as coal and oil, creating a cleaner and more sustainable energy outlook. A recent analysis by the U.S. Government Accountability Office, however, paints a murky picture of how well the industry is regulated. According to the report, the agency that oversees the nation's nuclear power — the Nuclear Regulatory Commission — has established an inconsistent and subjective process for determining safety risks across the country. The review by the accountability office found significant disparities in the number of serious violations reported by the commission, particularly when comparing regions.

Greenville News: Focus on programming makes sense

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131023/OPINION/310230006/Editorial-Focus-programming-makes-sense>
Editorial

The University of South Carolina Upstate will continue to have a dynamic presence in Greenville and look for ways to expand its programming. What it won't have, at least in the near future, is a free-standing campus after moving in that direction for almost a decade. “We've had some fits and starts about growth — initiatives that got some play and started that didn't realize the potential that was expected of those initiatives,” USC Upstate Chancellor Thomas Moore said recently in a meeting with Greenville News editors and reporters. “Some of that has been from my perspective a focus on facilities prior to programming.” Whether it continues to be located at the University Center of Greenville or eventually moves to its own campus, USC Upstate will play an important role in Greenville and has the potential of being an even more important partner in this community.

The State: Missing Lee Bandy — Quayle Hunting And All

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=LwwY6BI9

Cindi Scoppe

I spent a week from hell in Myrtle Beach in 1988 thanks to Lee Bandy, who was vacationing nearby but still working the phones and producing salacious tips about a then-decade-old trip to Myrtle Beach by newly minted vice presidential nominee Dan Quayle. Nobody was going to ask Lee to do anything more than that on his vacation, so even though I needed to be in Columbia to put the finishing touches on a two-month-long investigation that was running that weekend about the infectious-waste incinerator in Hampton County, I got dispatched to the Grand Strand to do his leg work. It changed daily based on Lee's latest tips and included tracking down bartenders with names like Red and Rocky and driving out into the middle of nowhere to find John Jenrette, who was supposed to have details about alleged sexual liaisons.

South Carolina News:

Anderson Independent: Sen. Graham: Cut health-care subsidies for Congress

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/oct/22/sen-graham-cut-health-care-subsidies-for/>

Kirk Brown

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham posed for photos and shook the hands of several customers at a landmark restaurant in Anderson on Tuesday afternoon. Then he took Sandra Bagwell aside. Bagwell is the co-owner of Besto, which has been serving up burgers and shakes on North Main Street for more than 60 years. Graham asked her what is the biggest problem that government poses for the business. "They take so much and give so little back," she told the Republican senator from Seneca. "You feel like the weight is just crushing you and you are down on your knees." Graham nodded knowingly before outlining two of his latest legislative ideas for Bagwell.

Greenville News: Gowdy, Duncan share campaign funds

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131023/NEWS/310230021/Gowdy-Duncan-share-campaign-funds>

Mary Orndorff Troyan

The two congressmen from the Greenville area are sharing some of their campaign funds with conservative candidates in other states, new financial records show. Reps. Trey Gowdy and Jeff Duncan, both Republicans, together donated more than \$15,000 from their re-election accounts in the last three months to GOP candidates for the House and Senate, according to Federal Election Commission records. The donations indicate that they have confidence in their own 2014 re-elections, and that they're Republican team players. "That is the House collegialism, if you will, helping each other out," said Chip Felkel, a Republican political consultant in Greenville.

The State: Lee Bright endorsed for US Senate by SC representative, fellow Obamacare nullifier

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/10/22/3053774/sc-rep-chumley-endorses-lee-bright.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

Sen. Lee Bright's campaign for U.S. Senate announced an endorsement Tuesday from fellow Spartanburg Republican and two-term state Rep. Bill Chumley. Bright, a two-term state senator, is one of three announced Republican candidates opposing U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham in June's GOP primary. "He is a true conservative, a senator that's in touch with the people, and he's going to vote that way, and he's going to stand up for our family values," Chumley said of Bright in an endorsement video. Lawmakers criticized Chumley in March after he authorized use of the state plane to fly a conservative pundit from Washington, D.C., to Columbia to testify against the Affordable Care Act, also called Obamacare. The trip cost \$6,390.

Greenville News: Gang law changes sought after USC student shot, paralyzed

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131022/NEWS/310220064/Gang-law-changes-sought-after-USC-student-shot-paralyzed>

Zachary Treu

In the wake of the recent shooting and paralysis of 18-year-old USC student Martha Childress in Columbia, state Rep. Phyllis Henderson of House District 21 called today for reforming parts of the state code that deal with gang violence and repeat offenders. Henderson, speaking at the Greenville County Law Enforcement Center, said that she would push for changes to the state's gang laws and bonding laws upon her return to Columbia in January. She was backed by Sheriff Steve Loftis and several members of SLED, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division. Among the group's desired amendments to the state's current gang violence laws:

Associated Press: SC lawmaker pushes to reform gang violence laws

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

A state lawmaker is calling for reform to the code on gang violence and repeat offenders after a University of South Carolina student was shot. The Greenville News reports (<http://gmol.co/19ZqLWA>) state Rep. Phyllis Henderson of House District 21 said on Tuesday she would push for changes to the state's gang laws and bonding laws upon her return to Columbia in January. Among the changes considered is one that would update language in the South Carolina Criminal Gang Prevention Act regarding gang member recruitment. Currently, laws state that gang members cannot coerce someone into joining a gang through physical violence.

Anderson Independent: Clemson nabs \$3.5M federal workforce grant

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/oct/22/clemson-nabs-35m-federal-workforce-grant/>

Michael Eads

A Clemson University dean says the school will use a \$3.5 million federal grant to help tailor the engineers and manufacturing workers South Carolina needs to attract new companies and hold on to the ones already here. The Clemson University Center for Workforce Development will oversee a \$3,549,610 Make it in America Challenge grant to coordinate skills training between Upstate technical colleges and the private sector. The program is called Select SC: Improving Manufacturing Competitiveness in the Palmetto State. The emphasis will be on helping the technical colleges and programs like Work Link and ReadySC grow workers attuned to the robotics and clean manufacturing needs of companies at home and abroad.

Post and Courier: Medal of Honor winner speaks at The Citadel, says it's all about attitude

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131023/PC16/131029780/1006/medal-of-honor-winner-tells-cadets-it-x2019-s-all-about-attitude>

Dave Munday

A Medal of Honor winner speaking at The Citadel Tuesday was asked if he would do anything differently if he could relieve the day he lost his right hand to a grenade. Army 1st Sgt. Leroy Petry, who was wounded saving his Ranger buddies in Afghanistan in 2008, didn't hesitate. "Throw with my left hand," he said, holding up his prosthesis. Several hundred cadets listening to him in McAlister Field House laughed, and Petry laughed too. It's all about attitude, he said. President Barack Obama, who gave Petry the medal two years ago, noted that Petry could have retired with honors after his ordeal. Instead he re-enlisted. They won't let him back on the front lines, but he spends his time working with wounded Rangers at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington.

Local News:

Sun News: Georgetown port dredging moves closer to reality

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2013/10/22/3788700/georgetown-port-dredging-moves.html#storylink=cpy>

Steve Jones

Dredging the Georgetown port could take one step toward reality Wednesday if the U.S. House passes the Water Resources Reform and Development Act. Language was inserted in the bill by U.S. Rep. Tom Rice, R-Myrtle Beach, that would remove a bureaucratic benchmark that prevented the project from getting federal money. Rice is a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The bill that is expected to get to the House floor Wednesday sets aside a portion of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for work on ports with less than 1 million tons of shipping a year. Rice said that Georgetown used to surpass the benchmark, but its tonnage dropped below it during the closure of the Georgetown steel mill. Now that the mill has reopened, the tonnage has returned, but the port's channel has silted so that boats can't deliver cargo.

Aiken Standard: School Board members creating timeline for penny sales tax

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131023/AIK0101/131029777/1007/AIK0101/school-board-members-creating-timeline-for-penny-sales-tax>

Rob Novit

Aiken County Board of Education members intend to move forward on a timeline for a penny sales tax referendum that would be held in November 2014 – and a major hurdle in that path may not be insurmountable after all. The trustees are anxious to get more revenue for facility needs through a sales tax hike of one cent, which could raise \$18 million to \$20 million annually, but only through a referendum that would have no impact on property taxes. S.C. Sen. Tom Young, R-Aiken, described the situation as follows

in a phone interview: “Residents of several counties, including Lexington, Edgefield, Horry and Charleston, have the option to pay for school construction and maintenance needs with an optional sales tax versus a property tax increase. Aiken County taxpayers do not have that option under state law. We are exploring how state law can be amended to give our residents that option.”

Times and Democrat: Orangeburg County tax increasing after all

http://thetandd.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/orangeburg-county-tax-increasing-after-all/article_dda49c0c-3b96-11e3-a0a9-001a4bcf887a.html

Martha Rose Brown

Blaming state cuts and heavy rains, Orangeburg County Council unanimously approved a tax hike on Monday. Councilman Willie B. Owens said, “I equate taxes with services and if we want services then we’re going to have to pay some taxes.” “Usually when we increase the millage, we get a lot of naysayers complaining about it. Nobody wants their taxes increased, but when the county’s taxes increase, mine increase also,” Councilwoman Janie Cooper-Smith said. When County Council approved its 2013-14 budget in June, officials stated that they didn’t expect a tax increase to result. The county’s annual spending plan was approved unanimously. Council increased the tax rate by 2 mills.

Sun News: Police in Horry, Georgetown counties organize prescription drug drop off

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2013/10/22/3789033/police-in-horry-georgetown-counties.html#storylink=cpy>

Tonya Root

In an effort to combat prescription drug abuse and theft, police in Horry and Georgetown counties are partnering with federal officials to accept unwanted pills Saturday at several area locations. Some departments, such as Myrtle Beach and Horry County, won’t participate because they accept unwanted prescription drugs anytime, officials said. In 2011, Horry County police placed a permanent drop box outside its headquarters inside the M.L. Brown Building in Conway, Lt. Robert Kegler said. “We have the drug drop off box now and anyone can drop their expired or not needed prescription drugs off at any time at the M.L. Brown Building,” Kegler said.

Rock Hill Herald: Rock Hill center for domestic violence victims works to overcome financial troubles

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2013/10/22/5330095/rock-hill-center-for-domestic.html#storylink=cpy>

Anna Douglas

Planned domestic violence awareness month activities and fundraisers are helping the area’s only center for domestic violence and sexual assault victims rebound from financial troubles, its director says. Still, more community help is needed for Safe Passage of Rock Hill to continue offering its services without continued strain on its finances, Jada Charley said. Charley was hired as executive director for the nonprofit shelter and counseling center in the spring. Soon after, she learned of Safe Passage’s dire financial situation, she said. One possible solution Charley and Safe Passage’s board members have identified is selling the organization’s administrative and shelter buildings.

Associated Press: Columbia hosting small business health care forum

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/10/23/2751997/columbia-hosting-small-business.html#storylink=cpy>

Columbia is scheduled to offer small business owners a second chance to learn about changes to health care. On Wednesday, South Carolina’s capital city is set to host another Affordable Care Act Forums for Small Business Owners. The gathering is happening at the Earlewood Park Community Center. Small business owners with five or more employees can attend the free event. Panelists from organizations including BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina will be on hand to talk about ways small businesses can save money and how they’ll be impacted by the new law. An initial session was held last week.

Greenville News: City of Greenville seeks approval to design new public works complex

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131023/NEWS/310230014/City-Greenville-seeks-approval-design-new-public-works-complex>

Anna Lee

Picking up Greenville’s sprawling public works complex and moving it across town would be a costly operation — that much city officials knew. Preliminary figures now show the relocation could cost as much as \$25 million, though officials say it’s only a rough estimate and that the cost would have to go down before any dirt is moved. The city last summer purchased 33 acres on Fairforest Way to prepare for the move from its existing Hudson Street complex. Housed there are offices for public works, engineering and stormwater as well as a supply yard, fleet services and numerous other operations.

The State: Camden Wins Ruling On Use Of Tourist Taxes

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=VS6dW4s7

Dawn Hinshaw

A court ruling gives the city of Camden the latitude to use tourist taxes on a recreation center that benefits local residents, too. The long-awaited decision by Circuit Judge Alison Lee revolved around the issue of whether the planned construction of a \$6.2 million gym and wellness center – with space for a later pool, athletic fields and tennis courts – could be financed by using the city’s tax on restaurant meals. The Camden Committee for Responsible Government argued the downtown center, to be operated by the YMCA, was a boondoggle that wouldn’t attract tourists when there were other projects that would bring in visitors. Lee said state laws defining both “tourists” and “tourism-related” projects are plain.

National News:

Washington Post: Two key parts of online health insurance exchange will take longer to fix than expected

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/two-key-parts-of-online-health-insurance-exchange-will-take-longer-to-fix-than-expected/2013/10/22/bb635d64-3b40-11e3-b7ba-503fb5822c3e_story.html

Juliet Eilperin

The Obama administration acknowledged Tuesday that two key parts of its online health insurance marketplace will take longer than expected to fix, even as it brought back a former senior White House official to help diagnose and correct the Web site’s flaws. A senior health official said that the insurance exchange, HealthCare.gov, is still unable to perform one of its basic functions: making it easy for low-income Americans to enroll in Medicaid electronically. Days before the exchange opened three weeks ago, the administration said that feature was not ready but would be available by Nov. 1, at the latest. But in a phone call Tuesday with the nation’s state Medicaid directors, Marilyn Tavenner, director of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the agency overseeing the exchange, said that this part was still not working and did not predict when it would be ready, said Matt Salo, executive director of the National Association of Medicaid Directors.

CNN: Democratic senator asks Obama to delay Obamacare deadline

<http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2013/10/22/democratic-senator-asks-obama-to-delay-obamacare-deadline/>

Conor Finnegan

New Hampshire Sen. Jeanne Shaheen joins the growing ranks of Republicans asking the President to extend open enrollment under Obamacare. The only difference is that she is a Democrat. In an open letter to President Obama, Shaheen says because of the problems affecting HealthCare.gov, the administration should push back the deadline and lift the penalty for those who are uninsured. The law currently stipulates that enrollment in the Obamacare insurance exchanges ends March 31, 2014, and that those who are uninsured after that point will be fined by the Internal Revenue Service.

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