

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 4/1/2014 7:14:58 AM
Subject: Morning Clips – Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Morning Clips – Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Governor Nikki Haley News:

Washington Times: Equality is elevating women's role in public life

Women's History Month is a time to recognize their achievement

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/mar/31/day-equality-elevating-womens-role-public-life/>

Sharon Day

For more than a century, women in the United States organized, protested and downright fought to achieve the right to vote. The legacy of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton is firmly woven into the fabric of our country and the history of the Republican Party, yet their efforts too often are treated as mere footnotes in American history.

Note: New Mexico's Gov. Susana Martinez, a Republican, was elected as the first Hispanic governor in the nation in 2010. Republican Gov. Nikki Haley of South Carolina, an Indian-American, who was also elected in 2010, is the nation's youngest governor.

Aiken Standard: Rep. Wilson fights for MOX in letter to DOE Secretary

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140401/AIK0101/140339883/1004/rep-wilson-fights-for-mox-in-letter-to-doe-secretary>

Derrek Asberry

U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., continued his support of the Savannah River Site's MOX facility on Monday in a letter signed by more than 20 congressman, including the entire South Carolina House delegation and members of the Georgia House.

Note: The decision has been met by several letters and statements to DOE from local, state and congressional advocates, including a lawsuit against the Energy Department issued by the state and signed by S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley.

Times and Democrat: Despite S.C. stance, health costs growing

http://thetandd.com/news/despite-s-c-stance-health-costs-growing/article_302a6b84-b953-11e3-9457-0019bb2963f4.html

Gene Zaleski

Health care reform is helping South Carolinians, but the state's decision not to expand Medicaid leaves those most in need without health insurance while costs continue to rise, according to local lawmakers. Gov. Nikki Haley and most of the state's Republican legislative leadership opposed the expansion, saying it was too costly in light of existing budget challenges.

Note: "As we've seen over the past six months, the president's health care plan is an unmitigated disaster and Gov. Haley, without qualifications, stands by her decision to reject it and its centerpiece: the expansion of an already broken Medicaid program," Mayer said in a prepared statement. "Obamacare is wrong for South Carolina and the governor will continue fighting against it while pushing for the state-based reforms that will actually improve the health of our citizens."

Post and Courier: Survey: S.C.'s black, Hispanic and white children lag behind national average

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140401/PC1610/140409992/1177/survey-scs-black-hispanic-and-white-children-lag-behind-national-average>

Robert Behre

Children of South Carolina's three largest racial and ethnic groups continue to rank below their national peers as far as health, education and poverty. That's according to a new Kids Count report, "Race for Results: Building a Path to Opportunity for All Children," released Tuesday by the nonprofit Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Note: Williams applauded Gov. Nikki Haley's \$65 million education initiative to expand 4-year-old kindergarten in some of the state's poorest counties, "(but) there is more that we can do to ensure the next

generation has equal opportunity, regardless of race or geography."

Index-Journal: D50 OKs \$60.95M budget

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/News/News/Article/D50-OKs--60-95M-budget/4/40/24640>

Kate Hruby

The board of trustees voted unanimously to approve the budget for school year 2014-15 as presented by David Loadholt, assistant superintendent for business. It was first reading of the budget, which still awaits the approval of Greenwood County Council, as well as being contingent on approval of the executive budget by the state Senate.

Note: One of the major differences between the upcoming year's budget and those of past years concerns Gov. Nikki Haley's K-12 Education Reform Initiative, which mandated a change in the funding formula.

Florence Morning News: Data shows SC children lag, particularly blacks, Hispanics

http://www.scnow.com/news/education/article_90c535f8-b923-11e3-bb1a-0017a43b2370.html

Ellen Meder

New data released Tuesday by the Annie E. Casey Foundation shows, once again, that South Carolina children lag behind the nation in overall well-being, and that children of color in the state fare even worse.

Note: She and Children's Trust CEO Sue Williams also said that Gov. Nikki Haley's \$65-million education initiative focusing on leveling the educational playing field in disadvantaged counties is an important step.

Times and Democrat (Video): Gov. Nikki Haley At BMW Expansion: South Carolina Is The BMW Capital Of The World

http://thetandd.com/gov-nikki-haley-at-bmw-expansion-south-carolina-is-the/youtube_b8b09dc4-b936-11e3-80fa-0019bb2963f4.html

Index-Journal: Concealed carry

Local restaurants, bars lack no-carry signs

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/News/News/Article/Concealed-carry/4/40/24642>

Matt Bruce

It's been seven weeks since state officials passed a gun bill allowing licensed concealed-weapon owners to carry guns into bars and restaurants that serve alcohol.

Note: Senate Bill 308, nicknamed the "restaurant carry bill," passed the General Assembly by a final vote of 90-18 earlier this year. The bill officially went into the books when Gov. Nikki Haley signed it into effect Feb. 11.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

The State: GOP governors take another shot at Democrat Sheheen

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/31/3360419/sc-politics-gop-governors-take.html#storylink=cpy>

The Republican Governors Association, an ally to Gov. Nikki Haley, released another ad Monday attacking state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, her Democratic opponent, for his support for the Affordable Care Act. A Camden attorney, Sheheen is the only Democrat running for governor in November's general election. Sheheen also ran in 2010, losing to Haley by 4.5 percentage points.

WLTX: Professor: Incumbent Challengers Not Uncommon

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/local/2014/03/31/professor-incumbent-challengers-not-uncommon/7131849/>

Jennifer Bellamy

Some of the state's top Republican office holders will face challengers in this summer's primary election, including Governor Nikki Haley. He says challengers are common when candidates are in their first terms, but taking on an incumbent is not easy.

Post and Courier: Haley GOP primary opponent starting state tour

<http://politics.postandcourier.com/2014/03/31/haley-gop-primary-opponent-starting-state-tour/>

Schuyler Kropf

Tom Ervin, who filed to run against Gov. Nikki Haley in the GOP primary on Saturday, is starting to tour the state promoting his candidacy. On Tuesday he'll be in Columbia at 10 a.m. for a press availability, and in Greenville at 2 p.m.

Florence Morning News: Table is set for 2014 elections for Florence County, statewide elections

http://www.scnw.com/news/politics/article_6fbc9396-b92e-11e3-9889-0017a43b2370.html

Gavin Jackson

Candidate filing closed Sunday with several last-minute challengers creating a few new races. Meanwhile, eight candidates will coast to re-election unopposed. Former assistant Florence County emergency management director Tommy Sullivan filed Saturday to run against District 1 Florence County Councilman Jason Springs for the Democratic nomination in the June 10 primary.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Family members battle in GOP primary for House District 37

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140331/ARTICLES/140339968/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Family-members-battle-in-GOP-primary-for-House-District-37>

Felicia Kitzmiller

The race for House District 37 is a family affair. Rep. Donna Hicks Wood, who is completing her first term in office, will be challenged in the June 10 Republican primary by her step-daughter Heather Wood. Hicks Wood is separated from her husband, political operative Kerry Wood, Heather Wood's father.

Opinion / Editorial News:

The State: House should try again on independent ethics investigations

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/31/3359967/editorial-house-should-try-again.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

HOUSE LEADERS' decision last week to send the Senate's omnibus ethics reform bill back to committee rather than amend it on the floor slows the process down but greatly enhances the chance that the Legislature might pass a bill worth passing.

Index-Journal: McConnell deserves chance to prove self

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/Opinion/Opinion/Article/McConnell-deserves-chance-to-prove-self/8/154/24652>

Editorial

It should come as no surprise that the selection of Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell as College of Charleston's next president has been met with protest. Students, faculty and others, including the NAACP, made their opposition known once McConnell's name was floated and as soon as he was named.

Post and Courier: Competition can pay off

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140401/PC1002/140409987/1021/competition-can-pay-off>

Editorial

Outside legal representation costs South Carolina school districts plenty - \$22 million since 2011, according to a Sunday article by reporter Brenda Rindge. That Post and Courier story looked at the expense to 81 school districts across the state, focusing on local districts and the costs of outsourcing legal services.

Legislative Session News:

Greenville News: Who gets to own sun's power is at stake in SC

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140401/NEWS/304010118/Who-gets-own-sun-s-power-stake-SC>

Nathaniel Cary

A bill that's been proposed in the state Senate would allow Duke Energy and other utilities in South Carolina to monopolize the sun's power and would stifle competition for rooftop solar, national solar business groups said Monday, though Duke Energy called the bill fair to all involved.

Times and Democrat: S.C. State: Board hopefuls want to boost enrollment, improve credibility

http://thetandd.com/news/s-c-state-board-hopefuls-want-to-boost-enrollment-improve/article_8697ddfe-b934-11e3-a082-0019bb2963f4.html

Martha Rose Brown

State lawmakers will elect new trustees to the South Carolina State University Board of Trustees on Wednesday. Three candidates are running for two seats on the board, while no one is seeking a third seat on the board. State lawmakers have approved Erika Abraham of Anderson as the sole candidate for Seat 3 on the board.

The State: All 5 on Richland's election board could be replaced

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/31/3360413/all-5-on-richlands-election-board.html?>

[sp=/99/205/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy](#)

Dawn Hinshaw

Richland County could end up with an all-new election board after Rep. James Smith determined Monday that the terms of the three remaining members had expired. One of Richland County's election board members, Herbert Sims, gave up his seat Wednesday. The board that oversees the voter office already had one vacancy.

Greenville News: Fair withdraws objection to state fossil bill

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140401/NEWS03/303310038/Fair-withdraws-objection-state-fossil-bill>

Ron Barnett

State Sen. Mike Fair said he withdrew his objection to a bill that would make the Columbian mammoth the official state fossil after he learned that a school child had put in so much work to urge legislators to adopt it. Fair has made news before for his view that evolution shouldn't be taught as scientific fact in public schools and supports his position in part by what advocates of the intelligent design concept say about the fossil record.

South Carolina News:

Anderson Independent: Report: black and Hispanic children not progressing as well as white children

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/mar/31/report-black-and-hispanic-children-not-as-well/?partner=RSS>

Sarah Freishtat

Children in South Carolina are not progressing as well as children in other states, according to a report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. That is especially true for children who are black or Hispanic, according to data from the organization, which focuses on the welfare of children nationally.

Greenville News: State expected to keep pace with nation

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140401/BUSINESS/304010116/State-expected-keep-pace-nation>

David Dykes

South Carolina will slightly underperform its regional neighbors but keep pace with the strengthening national recovery, TD Economics analysts said. Overall, growth in the state still will be robust, the analysts said in the forecast released Monday.

Associated Press: SC surge seeking health insurance runs into snags

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Ragf6Bxp

Seanna Adcox

With uninsured South Carolinians facing a deadline of midnight Monday for signing up for health care coverage, enrollment counselors reported a surge of people seeking their help. But more technical glitches with the federal website prevented people from accessing their options.

Post and Courier: Student opponents meet with Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell, the school's new president, in a closed meeting on the College of Charleston campus

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140331/PC16/140339866/1177/student-opponents-meet-with-lt-gov-glenn-mcconnell-the-schools-new-president-in-a-closed-meeting-on-the-college-of-charleston-campus>

Diane Knich

A group of students who met for the first time Monday with the College of Charleston's new president, Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell, found him cordial, inquisitive and receptive, said senior Adrian Barry. But that doesn't mean they're backing down from their opposition of the school's Board of Trustees and how it handled the search for a new president, or state legislators for exerting influence over the trustees.

The State: Columbia groups hustle to help last-minute insurance shoppers

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/31/3360430/columbia-groups-hustle-to-help.html#storylink=cpy>

Joey Holleman

With only six hours left in the six-month window to sign up for policies on the Health Insurance Marketplace, Carolyn Stroman came to the Richland Main Library to get some help Monday. She wasn't alone. About 150 people had been helped by navigators at the library by 6 p.m.

Greenville News: SC ranks 6th in nation for growth in women-owned businesses

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140401/BUSINESS/304010113/SC-ranks-6th-nation-growth-women-owned-businesses>

Angelia Davis

More South Carolina women are opting to be their own bosses. The number of women-owned firms in the state grew to 114,500 or 78.3 percent between 1997 and 2014, according to the fourth annual State of Women-Owned Businesses Report commissioned by American Express Open.

Anderson Independent: Fuel-price surge expected to continue

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/mar/31/fuel-price-surge-expected-to-continue/?partner=RSS>

Abe Hardesty

On April 1 of a decade ago, the average price of regular gasoline nationally stood at \$1.74. It was cheaper in the Upstate. Five years ago — April 1, 2009 — the national average stood at \$2.01, which seemed at the time to be a cruel April Fool's joke. The price spiked later that year at a then-alarming \$2 a gallon.

Local News:

Associated Press: Greenville's new hand-held cellphone ban starts

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=59Fu9e8s

South Carolina's toughest law on using cellphones while driving is now on the books in Greenville. The law takes effect Tuesday. It bans drivers from using any hand-held devices while a vehicle is in operation, including talking on a cellphone. The ban continues at stoplights.

Sun News: Voters could face referendum on schools

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/03/31/4135231/voters-could-face-referendum-on.html?sp=/99/209/&ihp=1>

Vicki Grooms

Voters could be asked in the fall how they want Horry County Schools to pay for new schools the district needs to keep up with student growth. The Horry County school board could decide to have a referendum on whether the district should borrow money, raise taxes by 4 mills to 14 mills, or both, in order to pay for all the schools they think are needed, board Chairman Joe DeFeo said Monday night.

Florence Morning News: US Highway 378 expansion project is under way near Lake City

http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article_3bf5fde6-b93c-11e3-9b0e-0017a43b2370.html

Gavin Jackson

Nearly seven years to the day money started being collected to fund the first penny sales tax projects in Florence, the second project is finally under way. State officials broke ground Monday on the first 8.1 miles of the 18.2 miles of road widening on U.S. Highway 378 from U.S. 52 to S.C. 41.

Anderson Independent: Finance panel questions Anderson County sheriff's plan to hire mechanic

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/mar/31/finance-panel-questions-anderson-county-sheriffs/?partner=RSS>

Nikie Mayo

Sparks flew Monday when a finance committee questioned Anderson County Sheriff John Skipper's plan to hire a mechanic for his patrol cars, and when the panel nearly withheld \$250,000 he had budgeted for repairs. Skipper said he felt as though he had to get his own repair plan, because the sheriff's office has been paying too much to the county's fleet-services division and to private mechanics.

Times and Democrat: City to consider \$23M contract for wastewater treatment plant upgrades

http://thetandd.com/news/city-to-consider-m-contract-for-wastewater-treatment-plant-upgrades/article_a6df6b74-b937-11e3-8692-0019bb2963f4.html

Martha Rose Brown

Orangeburg City Council will consider accepting the low bid of \$23 million from State Utility Contractors Inc., of Monroe, N.C., for improvements to the city's wastewater treatment plant during its meeting today. The council meets at 5:30 p.m. at Orangeburg City Hall, 933 Middleton St.

The State: Columbia weighs allowing more dogs, faster prosecution of animal abusers

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/31/3360416/columbia-weighs-allowing-more.html#storylink=cpy>

Clif LeBlanc

Columbia dog lovers would be allowed to have three pets, instead of two, per household if City Council goes

along with proposed changes in animal-control laws. Prepare for the racket or for a whole lot more love-licks, depending on which side of the pet debate you're on.

Rock Hill Herald: York County museum commission approves undisclosed settlement terms in lawsuit against Culture and Heritage Foundation

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/03/31/5824511/york-county-museum-commission.html?sp=/100/101/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Anna Douglas

Five York County museum commissioners voted unanimously Monday night to accept some parts of a settlement offer from the Culture and Heritage Foundation – a nonprofit organization the commission and the York County Council are suing. A final decision on whether to drop the suit and agree to a settlement rests with York County Council members. The council is expected to discuss the settlement offer and possibly vote on the issue Thursday night.

Island Packet: Beaufort County Council has list of capital improvements, no funding

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/03/31/3033497/beaufort-county-council-to-discuss.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Zach Murdock

Their renovation and to-do list is more than 80 projects long, but Beaufort County leaders don't know how all that work will be paid for. The cost could be more than \$27 million, and some county officials have recommended borrowing some or all of that money. However, that probably would entail a property-tax increase, which concerns some County Council members.

National News:

Five Thirty Eight: Midterm Turnout Isn't the Only Reason For Rosy Republican Outlook

<http://fivethirtyeight.com/datalab/midterm-turnout-isnt-the-only-reason-for-rosy-republican-outlook/>

Harry Enten

The electorate in midterm elections tends to be whiter and older than in presidential years. But — despite the focus of a lot of media coverage — that's not the only reason Republicans are favored to win the Senate and keep the House in November. The GOP has gained ground relative to 2012 among registered voters, not just likely voters.

CNN: Republicans hit a nerve when it comes to Obamacare

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/04/01/politics/obamacare-midterms/>

Leigh Ann Caldwell

Republicans are going all in, hoping that the payout is big. Like control of the Senate, big. Their big bet: Obamacare. The deadline to enroll in the Affordable Care Act for the year has come and gone. The Obama administration is touting the enrollment numbers as a successful first year, but Republicans think voter anger over the law is here to stay.

New York Times: Democrats Scramble to Stave Off Midterm Disaster

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/01/us/politics/democrats-scramble-to-stave-off-midterm-disaster.html?gwh=03AFE03B1373F4E98E5E4878B45D3A24&gwt=pay&_r=0

John Harwood

If it were only President Obama's flagging poll numbers, the problem for Democrats of how to mobilize core supporters to vote this fall would be bad enough. Midterm elections for an unpopular president's party are almost always bleak. But it is not only that. The very structure of the 21st-century national Democratic coalition makes its November turnout predicament bad, perhaps historically so.

Brian Symmes

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304

Cell: (803) 673-9437