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To:
Date: 4/28/2014 7:58:52 AM
Subject: Morning Clips – Monday, April 28, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Sun News: Horry County Schools awaits details on state's new testing program

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/04/28/4188056/horry-county-schools-awaits-details.html#storylink=cpy>

Vicki Grooms

South Carolina's high school exit exam is going by the wayside, but Horry County Schools won't have details on the new testing plan for several weeks, officials said.

Note: A new law signed by Gov. Nikki Haley last week eliminates the requirement that students pass an exit exam to graduate and replaces the exam with two tests.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Washington Post: Women could be critical to key races, and both parties are going all out to get their votes

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/women-could-be-critical-to-key-races-and-both-parties-are-going-all-out-to-get-their-votes/2014/04/27/6062ff6e-ce1b-11e3-937f-d3026234b51c_story.html

Reid Wilson

In her first campaign ad for the U.S. Senate, Michigan Republican Terri Lynn Land minces no words:

"Congressman Gary Peters and his buddies want you to think I'm waging a war on women," she starts.

"Reaaaally? Think about that for a moment."

Note: And in one of the more notably negative ads this year, the Republican Governors Association slams South Carolina Democrat Vincent Sheheen, a trial lawyer who is taking on Gov. Nikki Haley, for defending "violent criminals who abused women." The ad goes on to say, "So next time Sheheen says he'll protect women from violent criminals, ask him, what about the ones who paid him?"

Washington Free Beacon: S.C. Democrat Candidate for Governor Brokered Plea Deals for Violent Criminals

<http://freebeacon.com/politics/s-c-democrat-candidate-for-governor-brokered-plea-deals-for-violent-criminals/>

Elizabeth Harrington

South Carolina Democratic gubernatorial candidate Vincent Sheheen defended dozens of violent criminals as a trial lawyer, negotiating plea deals down to probation for wife beaters, cop hitters, drug dealers, and child sex offenders.

Associated Press: Condoleezza Rice campaigns for Graham

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=oPHf41yF

Jeffrey Collins

Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is coming to South Carolina to campaign for U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham. Graham's campaign announced Monday that Rice will be in Greenville on May 19 for a lunch with the Republican senator. The campaign is selling tickets for \$10.

Greenville News: Graham foes find fodder in his votes for Obama nominees

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/04/28/graham-foes-find-fodder-votes-obama-nominees/8350277/>

Rudolph Bell

Graham has millions of dollars to broadcast his conservative bona fides, such as his 93 percent rating by the National Federation of Independent Business, a small business advocacy group that endorsed him during a press conference in Greenville on Monday.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Encouraging S.C. job numbers

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140428/PC1002/140429431/1021/encouraging-sc-job-numbers>
Editorial

South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 5.5 percent in March. One priority that shouldn't change, though, is the persisting - and evidently productive - effort to make South Carolina a state where the private sector can thrive, delivering jobs in the prosperity-building process.

Post and Courier: Technical colleges help aerospace jobs take off in S.C.

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140428/PC1002/140429429/1021/>

James C. Williamson

Technological developments in advanced manufacturing have created a situation where business and industry struggle to fill high-demand positions with highly skilled employees. Often referred to as a skills gap, this dilemma represents a very real challenge for employers.

Legislative Session News:

Post and Courier: University of Charleston bill faces deadline hurdle

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140427/PC1603/140429560/1031/university-of-charleston-bill-faces-deadline-hurdle>

Jeremy Borden

The sponsor of a bill that would establish the Lowcountry's first major comprehensive research university said it would be a "remarkable accomplishment" if the bill passed the S.C. House in time to be considered this year.

Associated Press: Proposed cuts over books face opposition in Senate

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

Andrew Coffman Smith

A House budget proposal to cut \$70,000 from two South Carolina universities for assigning gay-themed books to freshmen might not get much of a reception in the Senate. The debate could come up in Senate Finance Committee this week. But the subcommittee that writes the budget for public colleges didn't include the cuts in its recommendations.

Aiken Standard: Texting and driving bans move through legislature

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140428/AIK0102/140429441/texting-and-driving-bans-move-through-legislature>

Teddy Kulmala

The S.C. House and Senate have each recently passed their own bills that target texting while driving in some way; however, many local governing bodies have already taken the matter into their own hands, and one Aiken County councilman has said he wants to see the County take action.

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: Some question Duke's numbers for cost of cleanup

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/04/28/question-dukes-numbers-cost-cleanup/8350057/>

Eric Connor

The cost for Duke Energy to safely dispose of the toxic byproducts of nearly 100 years of burning coal along waterways in North Carolina could cost upwards of \$10 billion, the company says. The figure, cited by a company executive this week, raises questions in South Carolina.

Associated Press: Job market for college grads better but still weak

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140428/PC05/140429572/1177/job-market-for-college-grads-better-but-still-weak>

Paul Wiseman

With college commencement ceremonies nearing, the government is offering a modest dose of good news for graduating seniors: The job market is brightening for new grads - a bit. But finding work - especially a dream job - remains tough for those just graduating. Many are settling for jobs outside their fields of study or

for less pay than they'd expected or hoped for.

Local News:

Rock Hill Herald: York County designates state funds for road improvements

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/04/27/5906290/york-county-designates-state-funds.html?sp=/100/101/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Jie Jenny Zou

Residents in western York County rejected a total of more than \$740,000 worth of funds to apply asphalt to existing gravel roads, citing concerns about how paved roads might impact the character of the community, spur unlawful speeding and increase traffic.

Anderson Independent: Two local schools among top-ranked in state by U.S. News & World Report

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/apr/27/two-local-schools-among-top-ranked-in-state-by/?partner=RSS>

Sarah Freishtat

Two local high schools were ranked among the 10 best high schools in the state by U.S. News & World Report. T.L. Hanna High School in Anderson School District 5 was listed as fifth-best in the state, and D.W. Daniel High School in the Pickens County school district was ranked eighth in the news agency's 2014 ranking.

Sun News: Proposed Myrtle Beach budget includes \$125 fee for library subscription

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/04/27/4192516/proposed-myrtle-beach-budget-includes.html?sp=/99/209/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Maya T. Prabhu

Myrtle Beach residents could have to pay a membership fee to use the Chapin Memorial Library if the City Council approves recommendations made Sunday night by city staff at their annual budget retreat. City Council members did not make any decisions Sunday, and will discuss options throughout the remainder of the retreat

National News:

Washington Post: Why the Democrats' Turnout Problem Is Worst in North Carolina

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/29/upshot/why-the-democrats-turnout-problem-is-worst-in-north-carolina.html>

Nate Cohn

Senator Kay Hagan of North Carolina seems as if she should be part of the firewall in the Democrats' bid to retain the Senate, considering that incumbents tend to win re-election in states that are competitive in presidential elections.

New York Times: Why the Democrats' Turnout Problem Is Worst in North Carolina

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Associated Press: Senate GOP 'civil wars' lagging in NC, elsewhere

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=nkpFR9Sb

Charles Babington

The feisty personalities and anti-establishment fervor that fed tea party challenges in recent Republican U.S. Senate primaries are largely missing this year, a troubling sign for Democrats who want the GOP to nominate candidates with limited appeal.

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