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Subject: Morning Clips – Tuesday, March 18, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: New council to address prescription drug abuse, over-prescribing doctors in South Carolina

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140317/PC16/140319420/1006/new-council-to-address-prescription-drug-abuse-over-prescribing-doctors-in-south-carolina>

Lauren Sausser

Members of Gov. Nikki Haley's new prescription drug abuse task force acknowledge that other nearby states, including Georgia, Florida and Kentucky, have been tackling painkiller addiction more aggressively than South Carolina has done. Haley announced last week that her office organized the Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Council to combat the problem in this state.

Aiken Standard: Aiken School Board to look at governor's education plans

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140318/AIK0101/140319423/1004/aiken-school-board-to-look-at-governors-education-plans>

Rob Novit

The Aiken County Board of Education will learn more about S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley's proposed education initiatives from School District administrators at a Board meeting today. The meeting will be held at the District office, 1000 Brookhaven Drive, at 6 p.m. Haley's venture has taken a step forward with the S.C. House accepting her plans and their cost as part of the 2014-2015 budget.

Times and Democrat: Koyo investing \$10M in Orangeburg plant

http://thetandd.com/news/koyo-investing-m-in-orangeburg-plant/article_be210a22-ae47-11e3-9269-001a4bcf887a.html

Martha Rose Brown

Koyo Bearing North America's Orangeburg plant will get a \$10 million equipment overhaul over the next five years while maintaining its 500-member workforce, it was announced at the Orangeburg County Council meeting Monday night.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley stated, "We are excited to see growth in Orangeburg County and we celebrate with Koyo as they invest \$10 million in Orangeburg and help support the continued success of South Carolina's automotive industry."

Greenville News: State's labor forces shrinking

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140318/BUSINESS/303140047/State-s-labor-forces-shrinking-David-Dykes>

South Carolina is making progress putting people back to work, state officials said Monday, citing new figures that show the unemployment rate dropped in January for the eighth month in a row, dipping to 6.4 percent. Gov. Nikki Haley, speaking in Greenville, said the data underscores the success of her Republican administration's economic development efforts.

Note: "If you give a person a job, you take care of a family," Haley told a Greenville Chamber luncheon at the Salvation Army Ray & Joan Kroc Community Center.

The Item: As more jump into search for work, jobless rate rises

http://www.theitem.com/news/local_news/as-more-jump-into-search-for-work-jobless-rate-rises/article_e29007c4-8ba1-5949-906f-2370f7fd5c99.html

Braden Bunch

The Sumter County unemployment rate climbed a half-percentage point in January despite the area gaining more than 250 jobs during the month, the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce reported Monday. According to Gov. Nikki Haley's office, it also marked the first time since 2001 that the

South Carolina unemployment rate was below the national average for two straight months.

Note: "Today's news is a real testament to the hard-working people of South Carolina and another sign that we are continuing to move in the right direction," Haley said.

Aiken Standard: Council to consider final approval of storm recovery funds

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140318/AIK0101/140319440/0/SEARCH&slid=3>

Amy Banton

Aiken County Council will consider final approval to appropriate approximately \$2 million from the current budget's general fund to use for ice storm recovery efforts. The final reading and public hearing of this ordinance will take place today at Council's regular meeting.

Note: The White House approved Gov. Nikki Haley's request for federal disaster relief for 21 out of 46 counties on March 12.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Politico Morning Score: RGA Launches New Attack on Sheheen

<http://www.politico.com/morningscore/0314/morningscore13321.html>

Emily Schultheis

The Republican Governors Association is going up with its second ad against Democratic state Sen. Vincent Sheheen in South Carolina, this time hitting him over Obamacare. The ad features Gregg Hughes, a small business owner in Easley, S.C. Sheheen is running against GOP Gov. Nikki Haley, who he lost to in 2010. Watch: <http://goo.gl/2aib15>

The State: New RGA ad hits Sheheen on Affordable Care Act

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/18/3332869/election-2014-politico-new-rga.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

The Republican Governors Association is out with its second ad attacking state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, Politico's Morning Score reports. The Camden Democrat is Republican Gov. Nikki Haley's expected Democratic challenger in November. The contest will be a re-match for the two candidates. Haley beat Sheheen in the 2010 general election.

Florence Morning News: First Florence 1 superintendent candidate comes to town

http://www.snow.com/news/education/article_fe48490a-ae31-11e3-96a9-001a4bcf6878.html

Ellen Meder

Community members and educators got their first chance to grill one of the four Florence School District 1 superintendent search finalists Monday in several sessions throughout the day.

Note: She said that though she's unsure about the technicalities of funding, she is very interested in Gov. Nikki Haley's education plan that includes reading coaches, because her current district has already paid for and seen great results with reading interventionists.

Post and Courier: Sanford may go unopposed

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140317/PC1610/140319418/>

Schuyler Kropf

It looks as if Charleston Republican U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford is heading into election season without the threat of serious opposition. South Carolina Democrats say they have yet to secure a legitimate candidate, meaning Sanford, R-S.C., faces a potential free ride in defending his seat this year.

Times and Democrat: Clyburn announces he's running again

http://thetandd.com/news/clyburn-announces-he-s-running-again/article_1d24e9e2-ae27-11e3-94eb-0019bb2963f4.html

Congressman James E. Clyburn filed for his 12th term in the U.S. House of Representatives on Monday. Clyburn was first elected in 1992 and assumed office in January 1993. He currently serves as the assistant Democratic leader.

Associated Press: Candidates filing to run as a Democrat or Republican in SC elections

<http://www.therepublic.com/w/SC--Candidate-Filings>

Three candidates for state superintendent were among those filing for office through the South Carolina Election Commission on Monday, the first full day in the two-week period candidates have to submit paperwork and pay their fees. The race to be South Carolina's next schools chief is expected to be the most

crowded this year. On Monday, Molly Spearman and Don Jordan filed to run as Republicans.

The State: Zais and ex-SC GOP chairman fundraising for Meka Childs in race for SC ed chief
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/17/3332173/election-2014-zais-and-ex-sc-gop.html#storylink=cpy>
Jamie Self

Former S.C. GOP chairman Katon Dawson is co-hosting a fundraiser at his house Thursday for Meka Childs in the crowded race for the Republican nomination for state schools' chief. Other co-hosts are S.C. Superintendent of Education Mick Zais, who is not seeking re-election, and former S.C. Commerce Secretary Joe Taylor.

Florence Morning News: Pee Dee candidates begin filing for June primary
http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article_245ca0d2-ae3c-11e3-b33f-001a4bcf6878.html
Gavin Jackson

The first day of candidate filing for the June 10 primary brought several incumbent names and one newcomer. Republican lawyer Steven DeBerry IV, of Pamplico, filed paperwork to run for Florence County Councilman Russell Culberson's District 6 seat that Culberson said he won't be running for this year after more than 20 years representing the northeast part of the county as a Democrat.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Aiken Standard: Putting party switch into local perspective
<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140318/AIK02/140319432/1018/AIK02/column-putting-party-switch-into-local-perspective>

Gary Bunker

District 1 County Councilwoman Kathy Rawls' recent switch to the Republican Party is only the latest blow to the once-dominant local Democratic Party. As such, it typifies a trend that started 50 years ago and accelerated over the past 20.

Note: Rawls' switch therefore reinforces the trend: District 1 increasingly supports Republicans for higher office – most recently Nikki Haley and Romney.

Post and Courier: Keep court data secure
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140318/PC1002/140319412/1021/keep-vital-court-data-secure>
Editorial

Before legislators decide on next year's budget, they should remember 2012. That's when the S.C. Department of Revenue experienced one of the largest security breaches ever. And they should imagine what would happen with a security failure in the state's judicial system. It's certainly a significant factor in State Supreme Court Chief Justice Jean Toal's budget request.

The State: Judge should hear Harrell's effort to boot attorney general in open court
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/17/3332091/editorial-judge-should-hear-harrells.html#storylink=cpy>
Editorial

We realize that people fighting criminal charges, or even the possibility of criminal charges, will do anything to defend themselves. But accepting a top leadership position in our state government brings with it certain responsibilities.

Rock Hill Herald: State to ante up for school counselors
<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/03/17/5779051/state-to-ante-up-for-school-counselors.html#storylink=cpy>
Editorial

A proposal to budget \$1 million to hire 40 more mental health counselors to work in the state's schools is no panacea. But increasing the number of counselors is likely to help some children deal with problems that might otherwise derail their educational progress or compel them to commit violent acts.

Index-Journal: If not a gas tax hike, how to repair roads?
<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/Opinion/Today-s-Editorial/Article/If-not-a-gas-tax-hike--how-to-repair-roads-/8/75/24359>
Editorial

Gov. Nikki Haley made clear her opposition to increasing the gas tax, but perhaps she will change her mind — if not now, perhaps after the November election. She has seen a groundswell of support among Democrat and Republican lawmakers alike, and she would be hard-pressed not to ride the wake set by

them as well as by pro-business operatives such as the state Chamber of Commerce.

Post and Courier: Mockery of democracy, deterrence

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140318/PC1002/140319411/1021/mockery-of-democracy-deterrence>

Editorial

You have to hand it to Vladimir Putin. He certainly knows how to engineer a land grab. Twenty days ago mysterious unidentified armed men turned up in Crimea, took over the Crimean parliament building and border crossings and within a day had dropped the pretense that they were not Russian soldiers.

The State: Why SC Chamber opposes 'anti-commandeering'

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/18/3331693/why-sc-chamber-opposes-anti-commandeering.html>

Cindi Scoppe

As the Senate heads into Week Three of its Obamacare nullification/anti-commandeering debate, the anti-Obamacare S.C. Chamber of Commerce is maintaining its drumbeat of opposition to the state legislation. In its latest weekly eblast, the chamber once again reminds its subscribers of its vain attempts to block the implementation of the federal health law and sums up its opposition to the effort led by Sen. Tom Davis to derail it in our state.

The State: When is a book ban not a book ban?

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/17/3331691/when-is-a-book-ban-not-a-book.html#storylink=cpy>

Cindi Scoppe

Maybe when no books are actually ... banned? I come not to defend the House's decision to withhold money from two colleges for requiring students to read gay-themed books, but rather to defend linguistic integrity. And to promote a proper understanding of what "banning books" is — and is not.

Post and Courier (Guest Column): McConnell would be divisive

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140318/PC1002/140319409/1021/mcconnell-too-divisive>

Henry Darby

For African-Americans, flying the Confederate flag on sovereign grounds is an audacious affront. Lt. Gov. McConnell was a senior state senator before assuming his present position and was perhaps the strongest supporter of flying the flag on the Statehouse grounds. As president of the College of Charleston, how would he respond to African-American students and faculty when they see Confederate symbols displayed in the president's office?

MOX Facility News:

Aiken Standard: MOX enters cold stand-by

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140318/AIK0101/140319442/1004/mox-enters-cold-stand-by>

Derrek Asberry

Officials have confirmed that the proposed cold stand-by for the MOX facility under construction at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site is already underway. Placing the facility in cold stand-by basically means the National Nuclear Security Administration will not move forward with work on the Mixed Oxide Fuel, or MOX, site while officials examine other options.

The State: MOX plant's cost estimate at \$30 billion

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/17/3332464/mox-plants-cost-estimate-at-30.html#storylink=cpy>

Sammy Fretwell

Plans to shelve a plutonium fuel factory in South Carolina are being driven by what the federal government says are escalating costs of the project. The mixed oxide fuel plant would hit taxpayers with \$30 billion in construction, operating and other costs if the project gears up.

Note: Graham, U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson and U.S. Sen. Tim Scott also have written Gov. Nikki Haley, suggesting the state might sue to force completion of the 440,000-square-foot MOX plant.

Greenville News: Feds: SC MOX project not viable

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140318/NEWS03/303170028/Feds-SC-MOX-project-not-viable>

Eric Connor

The federal government is throttling an \$8 billion project in South Carolina to turn Cold War-era nuclear weapons material into commercial reactor fuel, citing ballooning costs that would reach \$30 billion by the time the project's job is done.

Legislative Session News:

Post and Courier: Harrell-Wilson hearing expected later this week

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140317/PC1610/140319424/1031/harrell-wilson-hearing-expected-later-this-week>

Schuyler Kropf

A hearing on House Speaker Bobby Harrell's request to have Attorney General Alan Wilson removed as prosecutor in his grand jury investigation is expected to take place later this week in Columbia. The time and place of the proceeding has not been formally released by court officials, but an attorney for the S.C. Press Association is expected to pursue efforts Tuesday to ensure the hearing be held in open court and with media access.

Post and Courier: SC students' cursive writing, math skills up for debate Tuesday

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140317/PC1603/140319419/1031/sc-students-cursive-writing-math-skills-up-for-debate-tuesday>

Cynthia Roldan

A House education panel is set to discuss several bills that could lead to contention among districts and parents of the Palmetto State. The House K-12 Education Subcommittee will discuss Back to Basics in Education Act of 2013, which would add cursive writing and the memorization of multiplication tables to the list of required subjects of instruction in South Carolina's public schools.

The State: SC lieutenant governor's office could go vacant

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/17/3332506/exclusive-sc-lieutenant-governors.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

The S.C. lieutenant governor's office could be vacant for a half year if Glenn McConnell starts work as College of Charleston's next president on July 1. Senate President Pro Tempore John Courson, next in line to become lieutenant governor, told The State that he would not take the office if school trustees choose McConnell from three finalists.

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: Health insurance enrollment doubles in SC

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140318/NEWS/303180015/Health-insurance-enrollment-doubles-SC>

Mary Orndorff Troyan

Enrollment in private health insurance plans through the HealthCare.gov marketplace has more than doubled in South Carolina since the start of the year, according to new federal data. In line with national patterns, only one-quarter of those enrollees are between 18 and 34, continuing concerns that there won't be enough younger, healthier people in the mix.

Associated Press: SC farmer on national panel on immigration reform

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=BFdMwap7

The head of one of South Carolina's major agricultural operations is in the nation's capital to discuss how labor shortages are affecting farming. Chalmers Carr, the president and CEO of Titan Farms in Ridge Spring joins growers from across the nation Tuesday at the National Press Club in Washington.

Local News:

The State: Midlands insurance buyers could qualify for new premium assistance program

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/17/3332527/midlands-insurance-buyers-could.html#storylink=cpy>

Joey Holleman

Some residents who have been reluctant to sign up for a policy on the Health Insurance Marketplace because of the price now might have reason to reconsider. The Cooperative Ministry on Monday announced an Insurance Premium Assistance Program that will pay up to \$599 of health insurance premiums during a year for some policyholders.

National News:

Wall Street Journal: Rising Economic Unease a Downside for Democrats

<http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2014/03/18/rising-economic-unease-a-downside-for-democrats/>

Gerald F. Seib

The easy political assumption is that whatever weakness President Barack Obama and his party are suffering right now is the direct result of the problems with the new health law—and there's certainly an element of that in Democrats' current problems.

Brian Symmes

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